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BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
DECEMBER 7, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on December 7, 2007 at Crenshaw High School Campus Library, 5010 11th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90043

I. Roll Call

The Conservancy was called and the following voting members were present: Allan Boodnick, Kenneth Bentley, Russ Guiney, Mary Ann Greene, Supervisor Yvonne Burke, Robert Jones, Bobbie Parks, Ron Schafer, and Marta Zaragoza. Reginald Jones-Sawyer arrived after roll. Absent: Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor, Bryan Cash, Ruth Coleman, and Mike Chrisman.

The following non voting members were present: Bill LaPointe. Absent: Sara Amir, Joe Edmiston, Mary Small and Paul Mount.

The following staff members were present: David McNeill and Gloria Dangerfield.

Representing the State Attorney General office was Rosana Miramontes.

II. Color Guard

Crenshaw High School's ROTC led the color guard and administered the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was given to honor Pearl Harbor Day and the current war in Iraq. The Chair extended his thanks to Crenshaw High School's principal, Sheila Sanders, and to Bill Vanderberg.

III. Approval of Minutes of Meeting (November)

The Chair called for the motion to approve November's meeting minutes. Motion was made by Member Zaragoza; motion seconded and carries.

IV. Fire Preparedness Overview for the Baldwin Hills Parklands and Surrounding Communities –Los Angeles County Fire Department

Chief Reggie Lee and Battalion Chief Scott Smith gave an informative presentation on fire preparedness and other services of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Maria Grycan of their department of their department spoke about their Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program.

V. Consideration of a Resolution Delegating Authority to the Executive Officer to Execute Joint Resolutions to Fund Projects for up to \$5,000 From the Authority Account (S8C / 27950) Pursuant to the MOU with the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority - David McNeill, Executive Officer

The resolution would grant use of funds generated from revenue of the property acquired through a joint agreement with the BHRCA to be used for acquisition management and incidental expenses consistent with the MOU. Motion made by Member Boodnick to approve resolution 07-18. Member Zaragoza wanted assurance from the Executive Officer that the expenditures would be in compliance with the Department of Finance audits. The Chair called for approval of the motion made by Member Boodnick; motion seconded and carries.

VI.. Election of Conservancy Officers pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 32558 - Kenneth Bentley, Nominations Committee Chairman

Chair Bentley reviewed the committee's nomination of Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke for Chair and Robert Jones for Vice Chair for the upcoming year. Motion made by Member Boodnick to unanimously approve the nominations by acclamation; motion seconded and carries.

VII. Executive Officer Report – David McNeill

Mr. McNeill gave his report on the following:

- Annual engagement letter from the State Audit's Office

- Project updates:

- Stocker Corridor,
- MRCA Grant
- Northeast Trees
- Eastern Gateway
- Trail Improvement Grant
- Perimeter Wayfinding and La Cienega improvements
- Plant Removal
- Eastern Ridgeline Development

He also reported that he would be participating as a panelist at the upcoming Los Angeles County Park Summit.

VIII. Board Member Announcements

Member Guiney announced that the sixth Los Angeles County Park Summit would be held January 9th at the L.A. Arboretum and the idea of the summit is to bring all park agency providers together to share ideas, mutual concerns, and an agenda item for the year that they could all work on.

Member Jones thanked Member Bentley for his support and leadership and fundraising efforts. He thanked Member Schafer for his public service and asked the board to consider giving Member Schafer a special certificate of recognition.

Member Zaragoza asked everyone to remember those in need during the holiday season by donating to various organizations.

Member Jones-Sawyer thanked the Chair Bentley for his hard work during his term.

Rosana Miramontes (Deputy Attorney General) reported she spoke with Tom Faughnan regarding a revised draft of the Eastern Ridgeline grant. He informed her that his revisions were completed and were now in the hands of Bob Cartwright. She left a message for Mr. Cartwright and is still awaiting a return call and understands that Gail Krippner has been in contact with them, who was told that the revisions would be ready by end of business today.

Member Greene thanked the Chair for his excellent leadership, Member Schafer for his dedicated service as Vice Chair and State Parks Superintendent, and David McNeill for his successful efforts to implement the vision of the park and forward motion of the board. She reported that Culver City will be having their Martin Luther King two-day celebration, January 20 & 21, 2008.

Member Parks reported that the lighting of the Christmas tree was held last Monday and on Saturday, December 15, they will be giving away toys from the Vision Theatre in Leimert Park and will also have snow in the park for the kids.

The Chair reported that he attended the tennis event hosted by Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation last month and that it was a tremendous event. He then thanked Gene Boykins for helping put together the upcoming holiday party/fundraiser on December 15.

IX. Public Comments

Bill Vanderberg, Crenshaw High School Dean of Students and member of the Sierra Club Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, first encouraged the board to hold more evening meetings. He then reported that the task force is responsible for the majority of the hiking trails built in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and for many of the trails in the Santa Monica Mountains. They've just finished the last hiking trail in Kenneth Hahn. Ron Webster (Sierra Club) and his crew have finished extending the City View trail. The task force is also actively revitalizing the community garden at Crenshaw High. In addition, he's also the Faculty Advisor for Crenshaw High School's Eco Club (sponsored by the Sierra Club). Students in the club go camping, hiking, and participate in community service.

Estee Sepulveda, from Assembly Member Karen Bass's office, extended an invitation to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Board and staff to attend their year-end celebration on Sunday, to be held December 16, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Culver City's Veteran Memorial Complex.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair called for the motion to adjourn. Motion made by Member Boodnick, seconded and carries. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Approved:

Kenneth W. Bentley
Chair