

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
DECEMBER 13, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was assembled on December 13 2013, at 10:15 a.m. and was held inside the Community Room at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056

II. Roll Call

Roll was taken and the following members were present: Julie Alvis, Allan Boodnick, Lloyd Dixon, Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Karen Finn, Hayden Sohm, Robert Jones (arrived after roll) Chair Allan Kingston, Vice Chair Starlett Quarles, Craig Sap, Sara Amir, Jason Marshall, and Marina Voskanian.

Members absent were Yolanda Gorman*, Patricia O'Toole*, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Joan Cardellino, Joseph Edmiston*, and Patrick Reynolds*.

Staff present was David McNeill, Gail Krippner, and Gloria Dangerfield.

(* = advance notification of absence)

III. Approval of Minutes (November) G. Allan Kingston, Chair

The Chair called for the motion to approve. Member Boodnick made the motion and motion seconded. The Chair called for the vote. All ayes, motion carries.

IV. Presentation and Update on 2013-14 BHC Bond Funded Local Assistance Projects in the Baldwin Hills Parklands – David McNeill, Executive Officer

Mr. McNeill gave a PowerPoint presentation of the local funded projects. The presentation covered projects from January to current that included nine projects; three that are relatively new, three in the middle of existence, and three that were completed. He stated the Baldwin Hills Master Plan is the key document which drives all of the Conservancy's mission and projects:

- Inter-modal transportation to coordinate public transportation to the parklands.
- Acquisition of open spaces mission to extend parklands; historically have expanded by 33%.
- Linkage and access study. The Jefferson Streetscape and Access Improvement project has been an overwhelming success. Project was awarded the 2013 Best Award by APWA.
- Park to Playa Trail Ramp at Ballona Creek. The project is associated with the bridge widening at Higuera and will get pedestrians off Higuera and onto the ramp down to Ballona Creek, which will be able to have closer access to the Scenic Overlook than Duquesne.
- Eastern Ridgeline. The segment was just completed. The fifteen acre site has multiple improvements; exercise equipment, a one mile running trail, landscaping, benches, waste receptacles, and directional signage. Baldwin Hills Conservancy contributed \$2.9 million dollars and the County of Los Angeles contributed \$100,000.
- Norman O. Houston Park. The City of Los Angeles received \$1.8 million dollars from the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and received \$700,000 in Quimby funds to match. Project features include restrooms, landscaping, a new parking lot area, solar lighting, trail connections, as well as ADA access improvements.

Presentation and Update on 2013-14 Bond Funded Local Assistance Projects (cont'd)

- Stocker Corridor Segment grant with MRCA. Baldwin Hills Conservancy awarded planning and development funds to MRCA in the amount of \$900,000. Upgrades will be applied to the interim trail to make it consistent with Park to Playa including access improvements at the corner trail head as well as a link to Ingold Park. The County of Los Angeles will be doing upgrades at the five-points intersections to meet ADA compliance
- Milton Street. This investment includes several improvements and will take pedestrians off the bike path and onto a side area where they can stop and learn about native habitat. A green street feature is being permitted through the City. The project will also simplify connectivity between the school across the street.
- Baldwin Hills Restoration Project. Work was wrapped up and closed out of the grant is complete. Project work was pretty amazing in terms of outreach, education programs, training for park staff and youth dealing with native plants and weed management.
- Stoneview Nature Center. Baldwin Hills Conservancy contributed \$5 million dollars and \$5.2 million dollars was contributed by the County of Los Angeles through BHRCA. This will create multipurpose rooms, offices, interpretive gardens, parking, trail, restrooms, observation decks, native landscaping and other amenities.
- Biota Update. This is the most recent project. The Conservancy is working with USC and will split costs with BHRCA for the flora and fauna survey study, technical reports and mapping. The biggest part will be the geo-spatial portal where info can be uploaded on the web and available to the public.

V. Election of Board Officers Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 32558

Mr. McNeill stated Vice Chair Starlett Quarles would rotate to the seat as Chair. The Chair called for a motion to nominate Member Quarles. Member Boodnick made the motion and the motion was seconded. The Chair called for roll to approve the nomination. Member Alvis – aye, Member Boodnick – aye, Member Dixon – aye, Member Dupont-Walker – aye, Member Finn – aye, Member Sohm – aye, Member Kingston – aye, Member Jones – aye, and Member Sap – aye. Motion carries.

The Chair stated Vice Chair nominations would be held next. Nominees are Sara Amir and Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker. The Chair called for the motion. Member Boodnick made the motion to approve the nominees. Motion seconded. Before calling for the vote, the Chair asked for any other nominations. Hearing none, the Chair asked for roll to be taken for the vote. Member Dupont-Walker, asked to be declined from consideration for Vice Chair. Roll was taken to nominate Sara Amir as Vice Chair; Member Alvis – aye, Member Boodnick – aye, Member Dixon – aye, Member Dupont-Walker – aye, Member Finn – aye, Member Sohm – aye, Member Jones – aye, Member Kingston – aye, Member Quarles – aye, and Member Sap – aye. Motion carries.

VI. Ad Hoc Committee Reports – Committee Chairs

Board Development – Dr. Allan Boodnick, Chair

Marketing & Special Events – Jackie Dupont-Walker, Chair

Board Development

Member Boodnick reported that this item stems from last year's lack of quorum, including filling vacancies. From their committee effort he learned there was some confusion between one's responsibility and obligations as a board member, what the board members' role is, and how to go about performing their roles. He went over suggestion from his report:

- Pre-screen and recruit potential candidates
- Identify legislator(s) who will sponsor change in the statute
- Identify other issues to strengthen board productivity

Marketing and Special Events

Member Dupont-Walker reported the event was being led by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and the Executive Director, David McNeill. She had the responsibility of coordinating with all of the stakeholders of the venture. The program gives the opportunity to showcase the renaissance of the area that suffered a devastating event in 1963. They are pleased that the vision has been captured by the media. Gail Anderson (Channel 5) has been conducting interviews all morning at the top of the hill. She has become

convinced of the important and very exciting work that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy board has done and feels that they have not told their story about the Conservancy, as people are unclear what the Conservancy is. She stated that David McNeill is faithful in this movement and comes with a strong history that many people working with the other groups do not have. She acknowledged that the County of Los Angeles has taken a special leadership role with Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas providing the funds to underwrite the event. The program will recognize the survivors, the renaissance team, and first responders. They will have a moment of silence to remember the five who lost their lives. She encourages everyone to come out and bring others to the event. At 2:30 p.m., Baldwin Hills Conservancy new Chair, Starlett Quarles, will speak and the program will end with a moment of silence at 3:38 p.m.; the time the dam broke.

VII Discussion and Possible Action on the Proposed 2014 Meeting Schedule

Mr. McNeill stated that there was one modification to the meeting schedule; January 17 meeting date will be moved to January 24.

VIII. Public Comment

Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance president, commented that while looking at the impressive presentation Mr. McNeill made earlier, his organization has been part of the effort for a long time; part of the advisory committee for the original one big park plan, part of the advisory committee for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, part of the process for the Milton Street Park, and most recently, enjoyed participating with the Baldwin Hills restoration program. When he goes along Ballona Creek, below the Scenic Overlook or above the steps of the Scenic Overlook, he sees a stretch of the creek that is crying out for some improvement and restoration. He's looking forward next year to resuming conversations on working together to restore this area. His organization is looking forward to the dam celebration event and they will have a table there. In their April newsletter, there's an extensive article on the Baldwin Hills and the Park-to-Playa planning and also the dam break. A link to the helicopter coverage at the time of the disaster can be accessed through their website: www.ballonacreek.org.

IX. Executive Officer Report – BHC Staff Representatives

Project Status Update

Fiscal Update

Legislative Update

Mr. McNeil stated the project updates were pretty much covered in Item IV, outside of the Department of Toxic Substances Control; which we still have an agreement with them for soil management.

Fiscal Update – Attachment II (Environmental License Plate Fund, Prop 40 and Prop 84 Support). In his last update he informed the board that the regular support budget is moving along fine. Prop 84 position hiring is in a stalemate; offer made for the open position was not accepted. He cannot hold the offer any longer. Prop 40 Funds Capital Outlay, as well as Prop 84 Funds Capital Outlay, has a total balance of eighteen million nine-hundred dollars. The balance fluctuates up and down as disencumbered projects finish, as well as new projects being underwritten.

X. Board Announcements or Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Member Jones offered good cheer throughout the coming year, well wishes for everyone's families and friends, continue to prosper under the guidance of the great being; Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Member Boodnick wished everyone Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Member Dixon wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. He's looking forward to tomorrow's even, which should be a great.

Member Quarles wished everyone Happy Holidays and looks forward to tomorrow's event.

Board Announcements and Agenda Items for Future Meetings (Cont'd)

Member Sohm said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, through Karly Katona, has indicated they want to do a makeover of the interior of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, focusing on the presentation of Hahn's collection as well as the accouterments associated with the building; i.e. furniture, etc. If any board members have suggestions, work through David McNeill, who can relay them to Member Sohm.

Member Amir wished everyone Happy Holidays and is looking forward to working with everyone next year, especially with Member Quarles.

Member Voskanian wanted to recognize all the good work of David McNeill and his staff and the great job in all their accomplishment and Happy Holidays to all.

Member Alvis wished everyone Happy Holidays.

The Chair thanked everyone for being here and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

XI. Adjournment

There being no more business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Approved:

Starlett Quarles
Chairman

Date: