

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
JANUARY 9, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

I. Roll Call

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on January 9, 2004, at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

The Conservancy roll was called, and the following voting members were present: Ta-Lecia Arbor, Allan Boodnick, Tim Gallagher, Mary Ann Greene, Ted Jackson, Robert Jones, Reginald Jones-Sawyer, and Marta Zaragoza. Kenneth Bentley, Supervisor Yvonne Burke, and Bobbie Parks arrived after roll was taken. Absent: Ruth Coleman, Mike Chrisman, and Fred Klass.

The following non-voting members were present: Sara Amir, Paul Mount, and Don Rogers. Joe Edmiston arrived roll was taken. Absent: Greg Broughton.

The following staff members were present: David McNeill, Jeff Harlan, Gloria Dangerfield.

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was John Saurenman.

The Chair announced that the order of the agenda would be changed, beginning with the Executive Officer Report followed by the Deputy Attorney General Report.

II. Executive Officer Report – David McNeill

Mr. McNeill gave his written report. He also announced that Al Austin has left his position as District Representative for Senator Kevin Murray and introduced his replacement, Lisa Dixon.

III. Deputy Attorney General Report – John Saurenman

Mr. Saurenman apprised the board of the Attorney General's formal opinion on the confidentiality of disclosing closed session information. Mr. Saurenman also informed the board that they and the executive staff are required to participate in the ethics orientation training every two years. An interactive ethics course is available on the Attorney General's website and he will be e-mailing it along with the Certification of Ethics Training to all the board members next week. He also stated that he has received the 2003-2004 Form 700, which he will be distributing by e-mail to all board members; final submission of the forms to the FPPC, is due the beginning of April.

IV. Public Comment – Agenda Items

Michele Freeman asked to speak and that she read her neighbors' written comments as well. The Chair stated the written comments from neighbors would be submitted to the Conservancy's Executive Director for incorporation into the meeting minutes. (Written comments received from Charlene Garcia, William Maxwell, Lee Brennan, Adrienne Maxwell, William S. Maxwell, III, and Ms. Freeman, are attached as part of the meeting minutes). Ms. Freeman spoke on the concerns she and other residents of Hetzler Road and Tompkins Way that they feel will occur with the widening of Hetzler Road. She also raised questions on economic and safety issues and requested to see documentation from California State Parks, which shows their full rights and ownership of Hetzler Road.

Carol Gross, Culver City Councilmember, spoke on behalf of residents of Hetzler Road, Blair Hills and surrounding areas adjoining the park, the issues of traffic, access, and parking. Culver City feels these issues need to first be addressed before creating the park. Also, protection of those neighborhoods needs to be in place before creation of the park. Councilmember Gross stated that the Ballona Creek Special Focus Study has been received and filed by Culver and that they will be bringing some General Plan amendments. She also raised the question about the agreement reached by the City of Culver City, the County of Los Angeles, and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy working together to have a study done on where to put a golf course, which she feels has not been addressed.

V. Consideration of a resolution approving the draft report to the legislature on the potential environmental and recreational uses of Ballona Creek pursuant to Public Resources Code 32556 Subdivision (e).

Mr. McNeill gave a video presentation from a grant study conducted by Loyola Marymount University pursuant to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's statutory mandate. The video showed an inventory of opportunities along Ballona Creek, which could perhaps lead to future investment on projects on the Creek. Mr. McNeill stated that there were to be no action taken today on the Ballona Creek draft report, due to procedural issues, once it is completed to the Conservancy's satisfaction, it will be submitted to the Governor's office for approval, at which point it will become public document. Following the video, Member Zaragoza stated that in the December 4, 2003 meeting, she requested Mr. David Rockwell be given equal time as Mr. Gurnee to make a presentation on behalf of residents in certain neighborhoods, and that the next meeting be an evening meeting. Member Zaragoza asked if February's meeting could be held in the evening to ensure public input. The Chair acknowledged her request. Member Greene asked Mr. McNeill when was the deadline for input to the Ballona Creek draft report. Mr. McNeill responded he could wait another three – four weeks for board comments. Member Edmiston commented on how well the video was put together and stated how important the visual was, as it demonstrates graphically what can be done.

VI. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Member Mount (Acquisition Ad Hoc Committee) reported that in their last meeting, they discussed the final acquisition study report prepared by State Lands Commission and spent time reviewing the report. The results will be presented in closed session. Member Mount stated a fifth item is to be Committee's recommendations, which were passed out to the board, "Adjust strategies if necessary as new information is available or as negotiations require."

The Chair closed the regular session at 11:08 a.m. to go into the closed session meeting to discuss the acquisition strategies report.

The Chair called the regular meeting back to order at 12:22 p.m. and announced that in closed session, a collective decision was made to approve the Acquisition Ad Hoc Committee's report for acquisition and work proposed with the Baldwin Hills Appraisal and Engineering Study.

VII. Consideration of a resolution adopting the BHC acquisition work program proposed in the Baldwin Hills Appraisal and Engineering Study (possible closed session item pursuant to Gov. Code, Sections 6254(h) and 54956.8.

Motion made to approve resolution with recommendations made from the Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Motion carried.

VIII. Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant to State Lands Commission from Proposition 40 for implementation of the BHC acquisition work program including procedures for disbursement of grant funds.

Mr. McNeill went over the importance of the resolution, stating that the grant amount would not exceed \$250,000, disbursed on an as-needed basis and/or in lump sums, allowing flexibility to move forward. A motion was made to approve the resolution. Member Edmiston recommended advancing the funds in a lump sum, which State Lands Commission could draw upon. Member Mount concurred. After more discussion, Mr. McNeill stated that funds could be encumbered. Member Edmiston recommended that the motion be made to include authorization for the Executive Officer to structure of the actual grant agreement to maximize availability of funds, notwithstanding any future contingencies. The Chair called for a motion to approve resolution to add additional language recommended by Member Edmiston. Motion carried.

XI. Approval of Minutes (December)

Motion made to approve meeting minutes. Motion carried.

X. Receive and File Correspondence

Mr. McNeill stated multiple letters regarding grant opportunities were included in the board members' package. The Chair informed Mr. McNeill to include comments from Hetzler Road residents in the minutes.

XII. Board Member Comments

Member Edmiston complimented Mr. McNeill on the work he's done with State Lands Commission. Member Greene commended Paul Mount and the other committee members on the work that the Acquisition Committee has done. She also expressed her (and other residents of Blair Hills) concerns on perimeter and access issues and the other issues raised by Michelle Freeman. She stated they are all supportive of the park, but feels it is important to continue discussions and communication with the neighborhoods about these issues. Member Greene requested the following: 1) Community Advisory Committee meetings be renewed; 2) have the status of the mutual aid pact between Culver City Police Department and State Parks addressed; and 3) address the status of the number of parking spaces (Jefferson property). The Chair stated that her comments would be taken into advisement and will add to conversations with State Parks, the community, and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

Prior to adjournment, Member Zaragoza brought to the Chair's attention, that she requested as part of her earlier comments with Agenda VI and in her reference to the minutes in Agenda Item XI, that February's meeting be held in the evening. The Chair responded that she would check into it to see if it would be possible.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Approved:

Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor
Chair