

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

6133 Bristol Parkway, Suite 301

Culver City, CA 90230

Phone: (310) 641-3497

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
March 8, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

I. Roll Call

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

The Conservancy roll was called, and the following voting members were present: Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor, Kenneth, Bentley, Clare Bronowski, Mike Smith, Mary Ann Greene, and Steve Treanor. Absent: Annette Porini, Mary Nichols, and Al Vera.

The following non-voting members were present: Don Rogers and Sara Amir. Neal Fishman, Joe Edmiston, and Paul Mount, II, arrived after roll was taken.

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was John Saurenman.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Tut Hayes made a point of order that public comments on all agenda items are to be collected and done at one time; either during and after the time of discussion.

The Chair thanked Mr. Hayes and asked board members for their comments.

Member Bronowski stated she preferred that public comments follow the staff report, in order to concentrate on one item at a time. She suggested for today, people who have comments should be called on after the staff report.

Members Smith, Rogers, and Amir, all concurred.

The Chair stated that all would be taken under advisement and given the concerns that have been raised, the board will probably move forward with this particular recommendation.

III. Approval of Minutes

.

Motion made by Member Bronowski to approve minutes, seconded, all ayes.

IV. Chair Report – Mary Ann Greene

The Chair further announced that a letter of congratulation was sent to Speaker Herb Wesson for becoming the 65th speaker of the California State Assembly and reported the Baldwin Hills Conservancy is grateful to the voters for passing Prop 40. The Chair stated it is important to have a comprehensive plan in place and a vision of how the area can be transformed into a world-class park.

The Chair asked Department of Parks for a report on the status of the Vista Pacifica property, detailing plans for development. The Chair suggested that the agencies (state and county) when making their reports, if they could put their information together prior to the meetings, so their reports can be included in the members' packages.

The Chair thanked David McNeill and Gloria Dangerfield for their quick response to the board's many requests.

V. Receive and File All Correspondence

Mr. McNeill reported the only correspondence received was the letter from the City of Culver City's administrative office, which the members received a copy in their package.

VI. Deputy Attorney General's Report – John Saurenman, Deputy Attorney General

On February 19, the public period on the conflict code for the conservancy ended. Their office received no public comment on the proposed conflict code and they are now discussing it with the Office of Administrative Law, what final steps need to be taken before the board can adopt the code in final form. With regard to the letter dealing specifically with CEQA obligations for this board when it approves the master plan, a draft is being circulated in-house (in his office) and it's in his supervisor's hand. Mr. Saurenman stated he would make every effort to have it out prior to the next meeting.

VII. Executive Director Report - David McNeill

a) Budget Update

Mr. McNeill echoed the board's excitement of the \$40 million dollars allocated to the Conservancy under the bond act. Department of Finance advises that the funds will likely be appropriated over a five-year period.

b. Project Updates

The Department of General Services (DGS) is appraising all five parcels of the Stocker Corridor at the same time. He met with the appraiser on Tuesday and the appraisals could be completed next week. Once approved, will begin working with State Parks to make formal offers to the owners.

Mr. McNeill has met with Excel West for website revisions, they will now be working on re-vamping and updating it, making sure the minutes are posted, as well as the resolutions.

On Earth Day, Mr. McNeill has received feedback from several agencies and noted that Member Amir has made a booth available from EPA. Also, Lori Bennett, Park Superintendent, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, has put in significant effort for this event. Friends of Baldwin Hills will do registration and will sponsor a farmer's market and juice booth. Performers will include a youth choir, steel drummers, drill teams, and music M.C.

Member Amir stated she has contacted different departments within the California EPA and they are very excited about getting their booth available.

On another note, Mr. McNeill announced that KPCC Radio's Larry Mantle show contacted him and will do an interview on Prop 40 at 1:00 p.m. Board members are welcome to listen in.

Mr. Hayes made a comment at this time stating he spoke with a gentleman at the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's office that where the meeting is held is accessible to disabled persons. He stated the laws are such that public places must be accommodating and doesn't impose any economic expense on the public or be inaccessible to the public.

The Chair stated that they would take it under advisement and will make an effort to work this out. The Chair also commented that if anyone has issues on any agenda item, to bring it forth at that time, to avoid going back over agenda items already concluded.

VIII. Consent Calendar

a. Consideration of Resolution Recommending Timeline Extension

Motion made to approve resolution 01-13, Motion carried.

b. Approval of Proclamation

The Chair stated this item would be held over.

IX. California Department of Parks and Recreation Report

a. Dog Park

David Hauptman, Culver City Councilman, stated he's in favor of the dog park and they've gotten a petition of over 500 signatures and members of the Friends of Culver City dog park. Mr. Hauptman stated this is not a Culver City issue, but, whenever the dog park is built, it will be utilized by everyone from different areas. Mr. Hauptman also offered to donate his trade show booth to the conservancy or park, to use for the Earth Day event and other events.

Member Treanor stated that former director, Rusty Areias, who served on this board, won the office he ran for and won't be returning to serve on the conservancy's board. The new interim director is Ruth Coleman. Member Treanor will continue to represent the director in his capacity on the conservancy board.

Member Treanor reported on the progress they are making planning the Vista Pacifica and properties owned by the state. DPR is looking to finalize some agreements to have a consultant to work on the Vista Pacifica property for two particular phases; one phase is the interim public usage. The second phase is the site specific planning that will be consistent with the general

plan and hope to have it accepted by their commission sometime this summer, possibly by June.

They are also going forward on issues relating to locating and enhancing the office location for staff on-site and housing; they are in discussions with various community groups and agencies, and now have funding to locate a residence on park grounds, in the Vista Pacifica area, to have staff living there and being part of the community. They are very excited about the high school students from Crenshaw High possibility, the greenhouse, and bringing young people up helping them with the actual restoration of the park.

DPR staff have looked very seriously at the dog park issues and there are some concerns relating to location; issues of oncoming traffic, competing usage, and accessing the property, which in the interim, all tend to conflict. A dog park will be a popular venue, and as so needs to make sure that it doesn't attract people where it may be a hazard to them.

Member Bronowski commented on the interim and long term planning, which can't take place until after the general plan has been amended. Wanted explanation on how the interim plan would be done and if there would be an opportunity for the Conservancy to have the planning process come here so they can provide input.

Member Treanor stated they would be happy to share that, and went on to say that when they get into the planning and actual funding for development, it will take time, maybe several years to get something on the ground. They want to be able to make these lands available sooner and establish those usages that do not create a long-term impact on the property and minimal in its investment, such as, parking area, trail, perhaps interpretive signage, and basic fencing to create safety barriers.

Member Bronowski stated she and the Chair have discussed how to make the agenda more effective, and not to put burden on the state nor the county, but, if you know in advance you're going to have substantive report on certain topics, please let them know what topic you're speaking on, so it can be put on the agenda for comments.

Member Smith concurred with her observations in regards to state parks report, but not have written comments on everything they are going to provide.

X. County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

Jim Parks stated he and Member Smith attended the National Parks and Recreation Society meeting last week in Washington and stopped by Congresswoman Diane Watson's office (who was very instrumental in securing the funding for the park we currently have) and met with her staff, who was very supportive of following through with her past efforts and are hoping for federal funding for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

Member Smith added their intent were as optimistic presenters of Prop 40, looking for the other side of funding, land and water conservation support and any other opportunities.

The Chair stated the contact and liaison with Congresswoman Watson's office is very important.

Lori Bennett spoke on the issue raised earlier on the lake pumps, stating they are working fine, and have experienced no problems. They are monitoring everything very closely. On Earth Day, in the afternoon, they will have lots of wonderful activities for children and morning sessions, will have opportunities for everyone to assist in the park cleanup project. In regards to

the non-native plant removal project, you can notice the difference, thanks to the California Conservation Corps for the help they've given.

XI . Board Member Comments

Member Fishman (Coastal Conservancy) they also received funding from Prop 40, which will allow them to continue working on Ballona Creek in connection to the park. They will go to their board next week to work with the parks department to help with some of the administrative issues relating to the funding of Vista Pacifica.

Member Arbor thanked and acknowledged some new attendees and stated the conservancy encourages everyone to attend. She also asked the park superintendent if the building was handicapped accessible.

Member Treanor touched base on the breakdown of voters for Prop 40 listed in L.A. Times; 20% of the voters were in Los Angeles County; 70% of them supported it.

XII . Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Jim Laam (Ballona Creek Renaissance) they are working with the City of Culver City on a project they have funded by the Coastal Conservancy, to do a Ballona Creek focus special study, assessing the opportunities. The City of Culver City will soon be issuing RFP's for consultants to work on that process. They have been working also with Culver City's Public Works Department on a project funded by California State Parks, Coastal Conservancy, MTA and related transportation funds, the City of Culver City, and others, to replace the pedestrian bridge that's downstream and also related landscaping on either side of the creek. As the co-chair of Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force, other co-chairs are County of Los Angeles dept. of public works watershed management division and Santa Monica bay restoration project, they too have an RFP close to going out soon to get a consultant team on-board to work with them and look at the whole watershed, moving towards more interaction among agencies and groups to be more effective.

XIII . Closed Session:

Public meeting was adjourned for the closed session to discuss property acquisition.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Approved:

Mary Ann Greene
Chairperson