

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
DECEMBER 1, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 10:05 a.m., on December 1, 2006, at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

I. Roll Call

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

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

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

Representing the State Attorney General office was Rosana Miramontes.

Following roll, Member Schafer introduced Kathy Avina, the new Superintendent for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting (October)

A motion was made and seconded to approve October meeting minutes. Motion passes.

At this time, the Chair announced that Agenda Item III would be held and heard later and will go to Item IV.

III. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing Baldwin Hills Conservancy and Los Angeles County Parks Staff to Create and Advertise a Bid Package for Development of the Eastern Ridgeline Facilities

Jim Smith, County Parks gave an update on the project and reported they've been on schedule for the construction documents; with only one real issue (sewer) that set them back a little and they are working on resolving it. Other than that, they are on schedule and almost ready to go to bid. Motion made by Member Arbor to approve Resolution 06-13. Motion seconded and passes.

IV. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a Proposed Work Plan for Collaborative Prioritization and Funding – Ballona Creek

Mr. McNeill went over the basis for the resolution's proposal that would use the remaining funds from a grant with Environment Now that was authorized in 2002, to put together a work plan to identify projects that are consensus driven. Jim Lamm (Ballona Creek Renaissance President and Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force Co-Chair) stated the greenway committee has been actively doing reconnaissance along the creek and he looks forward to the opportunity to work further with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director for the City of Culver City, asked if there be some thought given to maybe include an environmental review and from the standpoint of Culver City, they would look forward to being involved in these discussions. Motion made by Member Zaragoza to approve Resolution 06-14. Motion seconded and passes.

V. Discussion and Further Recommendation for the Scenic Overlook Construction

Member Schafer introduced Karma Graham, Interpretive Specialist for California State Parks, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the interpretive center plans and design. Following the presentation, Mr. McNeill stated that the presentation was given to have everyone on the same page for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and address the issue of the assembly motion made by Supervisor Burke in September's meeting, when it was requested that Conservancy staff meeting with members from California State Parks, Los Angeles County Parks, and Culver City Historical Society to discuss the contents. The real work will be securing funding for some of the elements; they have, however, identified some funding sources and grant opportunity proposal that they are currently working on.

VII. Vice Chair Election

Member Boodnick reported that the Nominations Ad Hoc Committee had met and discussed the persons eligible for recommendation as Vice Chair. The committee nominated Member Ron Schafer, who accepted. Member Zaragoza asked if the floor was still open for Vice Chair nominations and nominated Member Robert Jones. Member Jones yielded to Member Schafer. Member Boodnick made the motion to elect Member Schafer. The motion was seconded and passes.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Member Mount stated he would give the report of the Acquisition Ad Hoc Committee in closed session. There were no other reports.

IX. Executive Officer Report

Mr. McNeill gave his report. Members expressed concern over the proposed bridge connecting the Stocker Corridor Trail in terms of jurisdiction, ownership of the bridge, and ensuring that the correct people with a say in it is notified. On an item not pertaining to Mr. McNeill's report, Member Boodnick asked for status of the discussion for Assemblymember Karen Bass' loss. Mr. McNeill stated he has had discussions with Member Guiney (County Parks Director).

Executive Officer's report (cont'd)

Member Guiney reported that Los Angeles County Parks has a memorial tree program where a tree can be contributed in someone's memory. The Chair suggested also checking with the City of Los Angeles' One Million Trees project to see if the offered the same program. It was suggested an ad hoc committee for the Karen Bass Memorial be established. The Chair appointed Member Jones as Chair of the committee.

X. Attorney General Report

Ms. Miramontes had nothing to report.

XI. Board Announcements

Member Bentley announced that he had attended a breakfast that honored Supervisor Yvonne Burke on her work throughout her career. He also congratulated Member Schafer on his election as Vice Chair.

Member Zaragoza thanked staff for attending the East Culver City evening meeting on November 15; she wants to work aggressively to prevent any contractors from telling residents they do not care about the residents for any project that the Conservancy should undertake; in future absence of the Chair or Vice Chair, address issue on how to resolve it

Member Parks invited everyone to attend a free toy giveaway in Leimert Park on Saturday, December 16. Anyone wanting to donate toys can bring them to any one of Councilmember Bernard Parks' district offices.

Member Greene thanked State Parks for the meeting on November 15 and commended Sean Woods of California State Parks for his attentiveness towards residents' issues.

Member Jones wanted everyone to not forget the less fortunate during the holiday season.

Member Arbor also wished everyone happy holidays.

Member Burke stated Kenneth Hahn Park's Walking Group donates toys to children of incarcerated parents.

At 12:00 p.m., the Chair announced meeting would go into closed session and expressed thanks to Senator Kevin Murray for the certificates he gave members and staff.

At 12:10 p.m., the meeting returned to public session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Approved:

Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair