

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
JANUARY 11, 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 January 11, 2002, 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, Annette Porini, Steve Treanor, Albert Vera (Interim Chair), and Carrie Chassin (designee for Mary Nichols). Absent: Rusty Areias, Mary Nichols, and Mary Ann Greene.

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

The Chair stated that when it's his time to speak, as some members have complained about the procedure, he would explain public comments; the way the city runs meetings. The Chair explained for any item on the agenda, the speaker may fill out a card and at the proper time, the Chair will call upon them to speak. Items not on the agenda, the speaker will fill out a card and will be called upon at the end of the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by the Chair to approve minutes, seconded, all ayes.

IV. Interim Chair Report - Albert Vera

The Chair spoke again about complaints on his procedure for running the meeting. The Chair responded it's the mayor and agency chair and it's any other mayor and agency chair of the City of Culver City and other cities, you fill out a card on items that are agendized at the time you call the items, that's when you call the speaker first, as the people are here to comment on that

particular item. If the Chair calls it at the beginning of the meeting, it means that most of you, whoever is complaining, has already made up your mind how to vote and to avoid that question, the speaker comes first, you listen to their feelings, then the item is called to discuss. If the State does it differently, the Chair asked to be informed. The Chair added there are times when someone has to leave early and may ask if they can speak before the items comes up; it is the Chair's privilege to call that item first.

Member Bronowski asked, if on items where there's a report, wouldn't it be customary to have the staff report before the public?

The Chair responded that sometimes the staff report discusses items that action has to be taken on, and it's the Chair's privilege and courtesy to first, if the report is an item where action is being taken, the public has the first duty to talk.

Member Fishman explained the procedure (Coastal Conservancy) at their meeting; the item comes up, the staff member or executive officer presents the project, explains first what is being required or asked by the board to considered, then the people have the ability to look at it.

The Chair agreed with their procedure.

V. Receive and File All Correspondence

The Chair stated Korek Land Company contacted Esther Feldman on some land for sale, and that she has not returned their call. The Chair asked permission to have this item agendized, and stated if the agency is interested in purchasing the land, that we should go ahead and take action.

The Chair made motion to receive and file correspondence. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Saurenman stated that the conflict of interest code was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). On December 28, 2001, OAL published the notice of it's intent to adopt the code and the California Regulatory Notice registered public comment period on this code to begin on that date and run through February 19.

VII. Executive Director Report - David McNeill

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Board Recommendations and Revisions to the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Preliminary General Plan. Mr. McNeill stated the status has not changed. He is requesting comparable general plans from State Parks to share with the City of Culver City and other people who have questions of how the EIR's are written.
- b. Discussion and possible action for BHC staff to provide temporary administrative assistance to the new non-profit, Friends of Baldwin Hills, Inc. Mr. McNeill stated that several members have approached him from the Baldwin Hills community, who are interested.

The Chair stated to Mr. McNeill that he had requested him to pull the item and was disappointed that Mr. McNeill hadn't told the board he was pulling it, as the Chair has received complaints that Mr. McNeill had not notified the county, the city, or the other entities, to more or less find out what is his plan and vision. Before anything is done, this is a package deal and is not a simple thing, as it involves the County, the City of Culver City, Inglewood, and all the surrounding. This is an item that affects lots of people and should be discussed first. Mr. McNeill responded he would take the Chair's recommendation.

Mr. McNeill stated the recommendations on protocol on voting for a permanent chair, has been circulated. The elections will be in February.

Public comment was made by Jim Lamm, President of Ballona Creek Renaissance, on Item VII a. Their group was part of the creation of the vision plan of the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. After reviewing the preliminary plan, on behalf of their board, he submitted some constructive suggestions to the plan, which was more a matter of form, rather than content, and wanted to reiterate they are committed to the vision of the park and working with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

VIII. Legislative Update

Mr. McNeill stated that the legislative session begins this week. No new information on SB 259 or AB 956 which are the items dealing with expansion of the board. As soon as any word comes back from Senator Murray's and/or Assemblyman Wesson's office, he will be able to report more in detail as to what's going on.

IX. California Department of Parks & Recreation Report

Superintendent Russ Guiney reported he has personally met with homeowners and looked at concerns on projects along their boundary with private homes (Vista Pacifica portion) to try and resolve issues the homeowners have in relation to potential erosion problems, boundary adjustments, a tree dropping limbs in someone's yard, and rats. They've also worked successfully with County Parks, to resolve the issue of access to the Finley Fee parcel through the state's piece of property. He thinks they've gotten it resolved. They are also working with county parks and with the staffing director, Lori Bennett, on the Earth Day event, and are working with them on their FamCamp program. FamCamp is a program where State Parks has a trailer that includes camping gear and everything a group of 20 or 25 would need to go camping. The idea is to meet up with community groups unfamiliar with camping and get them to a campsite and teach them what camping is about. The trailer will be set up inside Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

Member Chassin asked if the trailer would be a permanent installation. Superintendent Guiney answered it's a trailer, which can be moved anywhere.

Superintendent Guiney went on to report they have a need to do re-vegetation in the Vista Pacifica portion of the park and also inside Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area. His staff has met with the instructor from Crenshaw High School who deals with plant propagation and with the students from that high school. They feel that this will be a very good program to get the students involved in the re-vegetation on both the county and state side. He asked his site ranger, Dan Raducanu to speak more about the program.

Ranger Raducanu reported this is a pilot program originating from Crenshaw High School. Basically they've gotten the garden project from the high school to come onto the property in Baldwin Hills to start a re-vegetation program. Eventually, they hope to have a greenhouse set up at Vista Pacifica and have the students come and start re-vegetating the park, which will give them a great opportunity for education outdoors. Their hope is that later on, if things develop well, the students setting up the pilot program will become mentors to kids from the elementary schools who come up on field trips. Ranger Raducanu extended an invitation to everyone to attend a one-hour eco walk on January 13, at 11:00 a.m., to show everyone the natural resources that exist. The starting point will be at the site off Hetzler Road and Jefferson. He will pass out flyers, or you can call him at the office.

Superintendent Guiney spoke on how successful the prescribed burn went last month, and introduced Frank Padilla, their department's Fire Management Superintendent, who gave a slide show presentation of the burn.

Member Porini asked if the 22 acres burned would be a big part of the re-vegetation program. Superintendent Padilla answered yes.

X. County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation Report

Lori Bennett, Regional Park Superintendent, reported that after the prescribed burn, they discovered and removed items that had been illegally dumped. She went on to report on February 19, at 8:00 a.m., they have their monthly bird walk, which they've invited everyone from the community to attend. This takes place the third Saturday each month. On January 26, some of the Tree People personnel will be here to manage removal of non-native plants, and on February 22, the community continues their involvement of non-native plant removal.

James Park reported that escrow has closed on the Lloyd Property (11 acres located on the west side of La Cienega). The land was purchased jointly with federal and county funds, for a total of \$1.4 million dollars and change.

XI. Board Member Comments

Member Chassin commended the park staff of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

XII. Public Comments on Items Not On the Agenda

Jim Lamm reported on behalf of the Ballona Creek Renaissance, he's spoken with Ranger Lindsey Templeton (State Parks) and Dave McNeill, that they are ready to roll up their sleeves and participate in the Earth Day event. Their Watershed Task force is working towards the watershed management plan for the entire 130 sq. miles of the Ballona Creek watershed that includes Baldwin Hills. This effort is managed by Los Angeles County Public Works. They have meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, which involves all levels of government at Culver City Hall. In the future, would love to hear about Baldwin Hills Park and what's developing through the conservancy. He encouraged everyone to inquire about this and would love to have participation on a regular basis.

Member Fishman asked if their group was associated with, or vying in the prop Prop 15 deal. Mr. Lamm answered that the grant funding for their efforts had not yet kicked in and they are working outside the grant.

Deeba Hargis stated she had invited several guests to be here and speak on the general plan, but, unfortunately, they have not arrived.

Mr. Fisher asked what was the timeline for building the golf course and suggested building a nine-hole golf course at the site of the dam.

The Chair responded that nothing has yet been approved, but the City of Culver City has been active in Sacramento to make sure that our land would be secured, and negotiations are on-going.

Superintendent Padilla at this time said he had handouts of the Powerpoint presentation he gave of the prescribed burn for anyone who wanted a copy.

XIII. Closed Session:

No Closed Session.

Motion made to close meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Approved:

ALBERT VERA
Chairperson