

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
JUNE 7, 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: Kenneth Bentley, Jim Park (for Tim Gallagher), Mary Ann Greene, Carrie Chassin (for Mary Nichols), Annette Porini (via conference call), and Steve Treanor. Absent: Tim Gallagher and Mary Nichols. Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor arrived after roll was taken.

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General: Nedra Austin (for John Saurenman).

The Chair introduced Greg Broughton, who was recently appointed by the Governor to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Nedra Austin acknowledged to the board that Member Broughton had, prior to the meeting, been duly sworn in and had taken the oath of office.

II. Approval of Minutes

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

III. Receive and File all Correspondence

Mr. McNeill stated he had received a letter from the Attorney General's office, which would be addressed later in the attorney general's report.

IV. Special Comment

The Chair called upon recently appointed Culver City official and conservancy member, Albert Vera, to make a special comment and anyone else who wanted to speak on this particular item.

Mr. Vera spoke on the letter he received from the State Attorney General's regarding his eligibility to serve as a member of the conservancy board. Mr. Vera stated that he would not

assume his seat today as a member, as he has not had enough time to fully review the letter and would provide a formal response to the board.

Mayor Gross stated that the City of Culver City was very concerned about this situation, as they have land bordering and within the areas of the conservancy.

V. Deputy Attorney General's Report – Deputy Attorney General

Nedra Austin, responding to Mr. Vera and Mayor Gross' comments, stated that there were neither clandestine decisions made nor rules especially applied to Mr. Vera. The attorney general's office has a doctrine of incompatibility that pertains to all conservancies. In brief, it says you cannot hold two public offices simultaneously where either have regulatory, supervisory, or some type of authority over the other, or have the potential for conflict in duties or loyalty. When Mr. Vera was elected to a Culver City Council position (which is a public office) it triggered the attorney general's research. Ms. Austin advised this is one of the reasons the attorney general is present at these meetings, and once this occurred, Mr. Saurenman was under obligation to perform the necessary research to see if this was incompatibility of office.

Member Rogers asked if the appointment of the county supervisor, as an elected official, have the same conflicting issues. Ms. Austin responded, stating the supervisor's appointment was approved when the legislation was written and her appointment will go into effect with the new legislation in 2003.

VI. Consent Calendar

Interagency Agreement – Mr. McNeill reported that at end of budget year, he found that the second cut (8% of budget) was not imposed, which made it possible to have \$22,500 for mapping and materials. Mr. McNeill proposed to enter into the proposed agreement for \$22,500 to administer grant contracts with the consultants. Funds in the inter-agency agreement with the Coastal Conservancy will be used for research and mapping of the Ballona Creek, which is an extensive and expensive process, covering four miles. Mr. McNeill also wants to continue the mapping of Baldwin Hills, which requires the same sort of geographical information systems technology. The agreement will last approximately two years.

Motion made to approve Resolution 1-15, with the following modification, " the Baldwin Hills Conservancy authorizes the Executive Officer to enter into an agreement." Motion carried.

VII. Executive Director Report - David McNeill

Mr. McNeil reported a presentation was given at the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force meeting last month. This is a group consisting of representatives from local city, county, and state entities. He is in the process of working with them to try and establish a partnership to share information. Stocker Corridor- State Parks is scheduling a public hearing on June 27, for the proposed acquisitions.

Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan – The plan has been forwarded to the Resources Agency. The BHC recommendations have been incorporated into the plan. Jen Carville, Resources Agency, is currently working with State Parks to deliver the reformed plan to members of the legislature with expectations the plan will return to the BHC in August.

L.A. Conservation Corps, California Conservation Corps, and representatives from the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, and California State Parks met to identify future funding and work crews for trail and restoration projects in the Baldwin Hills.

Budget- This month staff is developing a BHC Capital Outlay five-year plan, a fiscal impact worksheet, and 2003-2004 concepts. Once completed, they will go to the Resources Agency for review (this is request for money from Prop 40).

Vista Pacifica - State Parks is sending out RFQ's for architectural landscape services. This month the BHC will be assisting the planning process by developing a citizen advisory committee to act as the first line of communication for area stakeholders and long-term planning facilities.

VIII. Acquisition and Development

- a. Kenneth Hahn Park West (Vista Pacifica) – Superintendent Russ Guiney reported on the prescribed burn and rim development restoration project, which was initiated three years ago under direction of Resources Secretary Mary Nichols, will include work with the County of Los Angeles and California Conservation Corps. The trail is about 2/3 completed and they expect to complete the final third this summer, with project completion date by September 1. The restoration in the burn area includes removing non-native plants and planting native plants. The majority of the work will be done this fall and winter with completion by next June.
- ii. Interim planning - Superintendent Guiney reported they have hired a second ranger. Ranger Dan Raducanu introduced Peter Gomez, their new ranger, who has been with the department for twenty-five years and comes from the state park in Chino Hills. Ranger Raducanu reported the grant proposal has been submitted on the pilot program they've been working on. The program name is "Weeds 2 Wonder." The program will have students come from Crenshaw High to the park and re-vegetate it with native plants. If this program works out, they will expand to include other schools.

Mr. McNeill asked Member Treanor what was the timeline for Vista Pacifica's long-term planning and if they would be putting together a community process to inform the people surrounding it. Member Treanor asked Wayne Woodruff to explain. Mr. Woodruff stated that an inter-agency agreement had been signed and approved by General Services that would set out the timelines, and that the Coastal Conservancy had just start looking at the exact timeline and deliverables. The Chair stated she was hoping to see something more substantive moving before November.

The Chair asked if it was possible for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to initiate the outreach program in lieu of the subcontractor until they come on board. Mr. Woodruff stated his department would be happy to work with Mr. McNeill on what the conservancy might be able to do and could have the timeline ironed out by next month's meeting.

X. Policy

Acquisition Priority Matrix – Mr. McNeill went over the matrix and pointed out the areas of natural land and open space priorities on the map. He is seeking more suggestions and additional information, to include costs, availability, remediation issues, which Member Amir could help identify. Mr. McNeill noted that the City of Los Angeles, are planning of doing a sewer ventilation system on Parcel 21.

Mr. McNeill explained that they are still in the information gathering stage on the matrix and it was not intended to be adopted in today's meeting. Mr. McNeill informed the board that they could give him their comments today, or e-mailed them to him; he will submit them to the subcommittee during their next meeting, which he will try to schedule within the next two weeks. Member Chassin asked Member Porini if she could develop a financial matrix to go along with the proposed matrix. Member Porini agreed. Member Treanor stated in addition to the matrix and vetting it with other processes, he would like to have an articulated process for applying the matrix, as properties and changes may come up that was not anticipated.

IX. Existing Facilities & Improvements

- a. KHSRA General Plan Report – Wayne Woodroof informed the board that the general plan concepts including, trailheads, parking and the ability for people to come and hike, are consistent/compatible with the master plan. DPR attempted to address all issues and the concerns that the City of Culver City raised in their letters. Mr. Woodroof stated DPR will be re-circulating the plan for public review and believes by next week, they will have a draft compiled for review. DPR will have another official review period that will hopefully clarify the CEQA components. The general plan will deal solely with state owned and the county has indicated they would like their ownership included (Findlay Fee and Lloyd properties). DPR is proposing a late August hearing for the State Parks Commission.

The Chair asked Mr. Woodroof when he has the informal discussions with the City of Culver City and County of Los Angeles, about the changes, their concerns, and what they agree on, would he also asking for their approval. Mr. Woodroof stated they could ask, since it is a CEQA period and a formal review. The Chair asked Member Rogers what would the Culver City's obligations once they have worked with State Parks on the changes. Member Rogers stated that if their staff were satisfied with the CEQA processes, they would want to support it. Their council is on record for supporting development of the park, they were only concerned with some processes not getting the light of day. Member Chassin asked if Mr. Woodroof would take the Conservancy through the process when the EIR gets final approval. Mr. Woodroof answered that the process would be directed by the State Parks Commission. The Commission has the authority to approve the general plan with the EIR during commenting period; the Conservancy would be able to submit comments, like everyone else with an interest in it.

X. Policy

- b. Board Meeting Schedule – the evening meeting date of September 12, is tentative, based upon representation from the attorney general's office. Friday, July 12 @ 10:00 a.m., is the proposed meeting date for next month's meeting. Mr. McNeill will check with Lori Bennett to reserve the room for July's meeting and will also check with the attorney general's office to have a representative available on September 12.

XI. Board Member Comments

Member Chassin, commented as we go through property acquisition issues and property owners believe that access is put above everything else, their prices would probably go up. Member Chassin suggested examining another approach, investigating the possibility of obtaining them through eminent domain process through other agencies in the park, as the state doesn't have eminent domain power. Mr. McNeill stated it would be a good opportunity to discuss this at the next subcommittee meeting.

Member Park stated the Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area is having astronomical attendance and is expected to be extremely busy this summer, credits Park Superintendent Lori Bennett and staff. He also stated there is trespassing in the oil fields, which is a concern from the private owners. The County never has nor will they condone public trespassing in private areas.

XII. Public Comments on Items Not On Agenda:

Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force, thanked Dave McNeill for his presentation at their last meeting and gave updates on their upcoming meeting and projects.

XIII. Closed Session:

No Closed Session.

Motion made to close meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved:

Mary Ann Greene
Chairperson