

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
February 6, 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 February 6, 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 Ann Arbor, Allan Boodnick, Jim Park, Mary Ann Greene, Ted Jackson, Supervisor Yvonne Burke, and Marta Zaragoza. Members Robert Jones and Reginald Jones-Sawyer arrived after roll. Absent: Ruth Coleman, Kenneth Bentley, Mike Chrisman, Fred Klass, and Bobbie Parks.

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was John Saurenman.

Following roll call, the Chair and Vice Chair, on behalf of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ranger Dan Radacanu for his work in helping to establish the Weeds To Wonder program and his continued effort to inspire land stewardship.

II. Approval of Minutes (January)

A motion was made to approve the January meeting minutes. Motion carried.

III. Receive and File Correspondence

Mr. McNeill stated that letters were received from Dave Myerson (Resource Opportunity Group) who formerly worked with Environment Now, expressing his commitment to continue working with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy through Environment Now and Councilmember Carol Gross (City of Culver City) regarding the golf study.

IV. Public Comment – Agenda Items

Ron Webster, Sierra Club, spoke on Agenda Item V(b), citing his work with the L.A. Conservation Corps and the positive work that the Conservation Corps has done and feels the Baldwin Hills Conservancy should support the L.A. Conservation Corps.

V. Consent Calendar

- a) Consideration of a resolution authorizing a planning study proposal for trail linkages to public land in and around the Baldwin Hills

Mr. McNeill gave an overview of the resolution and deferred to Jeff Harlan (Planning Associate) to answer questions on the Scope of Study. Member Zaragoza gave several recommendations and submitted a memo of her recommendations (memo is attached to the minutes). Member Burke commented that in addition to these recommendations suggested creating an advisory committee. Member Greene commented that the people who will be immediately impacted and others in the area, should receive the information and have an opportunity for input. The Chair acknowledged their comments and stated it would be taken into consideration. The Chair asked Mr. Harlan if the comments could be incorporated into the study. Mr. Harlan stated they could. Motion made to approve consideration of the resolution with the recommended changes to the resolution and RFP. Motion carried.

- b) Consideration of a resolution recommending the BHC send a letter to the Prop 40 Urban Grants Office in support of the L.A. Conservation Corps application for a youth facility at 6000 West Jefferson.

Mr. McNeill stated the L.A. Conservation Corps and Trust for Public Schools has put together a proposal for the State Proposition 40 Urban Parks Urban Grants office, which included purchasing an acre of land from the City of Los Angeles at the 6000 West Jefferson Blvd. site, with the intent of creating a facility that would become a charter school. Member Zaragoza read suggestions to be considered before moving to approve the resolution (her written comments attached to meeting minutes). Mr. McNeill addressed her concerns and commented that the resolution was to support a letter of support for a possible grant opportunity if L.A. Conservation Corps meet the grant criteria. A motion was made to revise the letter to not specify the site and change the resolution to include, "or other uses consistent with the park Master Plan." The Chair reiterated that the consideration was just a letter of support for L.A. Conservation Corps grant application. The Chair requested to Mr. McNeill to change the item to reflect the recommendations made. A motion was made to approve the resolution. Motion carried with one recuse by Member Jones-Sawyer and one abstention by Member Jackson.

VI. Discussion and possible action on a resolution authorizing a grant to the Department of Toxic Substance Control for development of a site remediation plan for the Eastern Ridgeline project.

Mr. McNeill pointed out the areas on the map, which the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) would assess. He further stated the quote received from DTSC to develop the plan is \$81,000 (from Prop 40 funds). Member Amir advised the board on the services her department would provide. She stated it would be a preliminary endangerment assessment and the outcome of the grant would be a report that would show risks and what would need to be done to insure public safety. Motion made to approve the resolution. Motion carried.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee Report

Member Mount stated his report would be related to the confidentiality agreements to be made by John Saurenman. Mr. Saurenman stated he had not had planned mentioning it, as he hadn't gotten a chance to discuss it with Member Mount nor Mr. McNeill. Mr. McNeill responded that a signed confidentiality agreement was received from David Wrightsman.

VIII. Executive Officer Report

Mr. McNeill gave his written report. Following his report, he introduced Wendy Talaro, newly hired for the position of Park Interpreter/Naturalist.

IX. Deputy Attorney General's Report – John Saurenman

None.

X. Board Member Comments

Member Boodnick asked if anyone wanting to sign the new petition for public safety/home land security tax act, to please see him following the meeting. He also made announced that Vulcan made an offer to purchase Plains Resources, which Plains turned down.

Member Jackson thanked Ranger Dan Radacanu (particularly for his work with the Weeds to Wonder Program) and the other staff members at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook. Member Jackson then deferred the State Parks report to Angeles District Superintendent Ron Schafer. Superintendent Schafer addressed all the written comments submitted by the residents of Hetzler Road and Tompkins Way and noted they've worked out an MOU with the City of Culver City's police and fire departments and it has yet to be signed. Superintendent Shafer also stated that a draft EIR is currently being circulated for public comment. Michele Freeman, Hetzler Road resident, requested in writing the paperwork which shows State Parks' rights to Hetzler Road. Superintendent Schafer acknowledged her request. Member Zaragoza asked Superintendent Shafer for his comments to be put in writing. Superintendent Shafer consented to her request. The Chair proposed that the residents of Hetzler Road/Tompkins Way get together with State Parks to work out any present and future issues.

Member Greene raised concerns regarding traffic on Hetzler Road and reiterated her request to reopen the CAC meetings that included Hetzler Road, Blair Hills, Barney Matsumoto and State Parks staff. Member Jackson responded stating they are in the EIR phase and there are many obstacles and financial resource issues that would have to be considered before re-starting up these meetings.

Member Zaragoza noted that in the October 2003 meeting minutes, it did not state that the Conservancy made a motion to make Environment Now the Fiscal Agent. Mr. McNeill stated he received a letter from Culver City Councilmember Carol Gross and after researching, found the minutes were written as three segments, which was a mistake. He further stated that Secretary Nichols motion was to use Environment Now as the Fiscal Agent, there was some discussion and an addition to Secretary Nichols' dedicating up to \$100,000 for the study and lastly there was recommendation added to encumber the funds. The initial motion included those friendly amendments and was so carried.

Member Park (County Department of Parks and Recreation) reported that the soccer fields are almost complete and a dedication should be sometime in March.

XI. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Kent Fisher, local resident, asked where the driving range would be placed. Member Park stated he did not have a current update, but are trying to place a driving range near the proposed golf course (on Fairfax).

Jane Walden, Culver City resident, commented that she feels the vision of the Park to Playa with native plants and birds along Ballona Creek is a wonderful thing and other residents she's spoken with agree and are in favor of this vision.

Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance, spoke and encouraged Conservancy members to tap into the experiences out there in other urban areas with similar challenges.

Motion made to close meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Approved:

Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor
Chair