

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
**BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY**  
3578-C Eastham Drive  
Culver City, CA 90232  
Ph: (310) 558-5593  
Fx: (310) 558-5598

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING**  
*of the*  
**BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY**  
**May 7, 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 May 7, 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 Arbor, Allan Boodnick, Jim Park Mary Ann Greene, Dave Harper, and Marta Zaragoza. The following members arrived after roll was taken: Kenneth Bentley, Supervisor Yvonne Burke, and Reginald Jones-Sawyer. Absent were: Mike Chrisman, Tim Gallagher, and Ted Jackson.

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was John Saurenman.

**II. Approval of Minutes (April)**

The Chair stated the approval of April's meeting would be deferred until a quorum was present. During discussion of Agenda Item IV, a quorum was established. Member Zaragoza called for a motion to approve April meeting minutes. Motion seconded.

**III. Receive and File Correspondence**

The Chair stated the item would be deferred until a quorum was present. During discussion of Agenda Item IV, a quorum was established. Mr. McNeill then proceeded to go over the letters received. Member Harper asked Mr. McNeill to explain the reason for the letter from the Attorney General's office regarding the jurisdiction of the Conservancy's boundary. Mr. McNeill stated there had been questions as to the Conservancy's jurisdiction, how it was written into the statute, and the powers Baldwin Conservancy has as an entity, with cross-sections in its boundaries; i.e., Los Angeles County, Culver City, and City of Los Angeles. Mr. Saurenman added that the letter was primarily tied to lands that the Conservancy will acquire, manage, or operate.

#### **IV. Executive Officer Report**

Mr. McNeill gave his written report. He added that the Conservancy staff had moved into their new offices. Mr. McNeill also brought up the matter of board attendance at the monthly meetings. He asked the members to please respond to e-mails asking for confirmation of their attendance. Board members discussed ways to get members to confirm and attend the meetings. Mr. Saurenman advised the board that each of the members were appointed by an entity (Speaker, Governor) and under the statute, the board does not have the authority to remove one of their members. It was agreed that board materials would be sent materials by U.S. mail and also that a survey be established and sent to members addressing time, location, and communication. Member Bentley also suggested that the survey include ascertaining the member's interest in continuing on the board. Mr. McNeill stated he would be on vacation May 17 – 31. He requested to agendize an interim review for the Executive Review in July. He informed the board that the newsletter has been laid out with changes as suggested by some of the board members. A draft will be circulated to the Chair and Vice Chair for feedback. Mr. McNeill added that on May 13, he's been invited to present at a weapons symposium at Loyola Marymount University. He also updated the board on SB1259, which has been revised and passed by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife with minor amendments. He noted that Loyola Marymount University gave a presentation on the Ballona Creek Enhancement and Recreation Study, which some board members attended; this was an opportunity to gather as much as information on the Creek before taking any position on the long-term implications of the creek.

#### **V. Consideration of a Resolution for Habitat Restoration**

Mr. McNeill stated that there was a change in funding since the agenda was printed. Funds for these small projects will come from the support budget and the projects will now require bids. A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. Motion carried.

#### **VI. Consideration of a Resolution to Enter Into an Agreement with GreenInfo Network**

Mr. McNeill and Mr. Harlen gave an overview of the need for the services that GreenInfo Network would provide. Motion made and seconded to approve resolution. Motion carried.

#### **VII. Consideration of a Resolution for Acquisition of the La Brea Greenbelt Property**

A resident of the area, Kent Fisher, asked the board to consider building a golf course instead of developing a greenbelt. Mr. McNeill responded that the Conservancy was continuing to work on resolving issues of the golf study. Member Park also advised Mr. Fisher that the topography of the property on La Brea could not support a golf course. Motion made and seconded to approve the resolution. Motion carried with one abstention.

#### **VIII. Consideration of a Resolution for an Interagency Personnel Agreement for Professional Services**

Mr. McNeill stated this resolution referred back to last year's resolution authorizing a contract for the services of Associate Planner and Interpreter and is currently contracted out to MRCA. Mr. McNeill stated in a prior meeting, it was decided the contract be open to bid from other agencies for these services. Motion made and seconded to approve the resolution with the recommended amendments to the last paragraph to read, "Therefore be it resolved the Baldwin Hills Conservancy thereby authorizes the Executive Director to accept, negotiate, and present proposed personnel services for approval by the Board, not to exceed \$204,000 to provide

Baldwin Hills Conservancy with one year professional services to implement and manage Conservancy planning and stewardship projects." Motion carried.

**IX. Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

Member Mount stated that the Acquisition Committee met on April 16 to discuss possible potential acquisition of the Airey Property. They are developing a process for a comprehensive evaluation of the property, as well as determining the process to be used to acquire the property. They've hired a consultant to assist in this work, Fairway, who has hired David Myerson as a member of their team. He further stated they are making progress and are working on a strategy where the property can be acquired at a reasonable price.

**X. Deputy Attorney General's Report – John Saurenman**

Mr. Saurenman stated that other than the letter he sent to Mr. McNeill regarding jurisdiction, he had nothing further to report. Member Greene had questions about super agency responsibilities. Mr. Saurenman clarified by saying that in any negotiation all entities would come to the table with equal authority.

**XI. Board Member Comments**

Ron Schafer, Angeles District Superintendent (California State Parks) gave an update on new appointments made by Governor Schwarzenegger, that included Ruth Coleman's re-appointment as Director of California State Parks, and Paul Romero, as Chief Deputy Director. Two of the new appointees, Grace Daniels and Rosario Cortez have visited some of the parks in the Los Angeles area, which included the Scenic Overlook and Baldwin Hills Park, and were impressed with what they saw. He also reported that Earth Day at Baldwin Hills went well.

Member Amir met with Terry Tamminen, the new Secretary for California EPA, and stated he is extremely supportive of the Conservancy's mission. She stated the contract with the Conservancy and her department (Toxic Substances Control) is in place and they will be starting work. Member Bentley, referring back to comments on benefits of a golf course, stated that Supervisor Burke has made sure there are programs at County courses where youth can play golf for \$1.00 if they belong to one of the Junior Golf Associations at any of their golf courses. Member Park added that the County also provides free access to their golf courses. Member Boodnick thanked Mim Shapiro, a resident of the area, on her attendance at the Conservancy's Board Staff Development Workshop and for her continued commitment and support. Member Park (County Parks and Recreation) stated that the soccer fields will be dedicated on Saturday, May 22 at noon and that on Wednesday, May 26, the Music Center will host the 2004 Commissioners Leader Conference. He also reported that the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority met a couple weeks ago and dealt with the re-scoping of the T21 money for the Stocker Acquisition. Member Sawyer commended the Acquisition Committee on their work.

**XII. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

Carmen Spiva, area resident, commented that she had been awakened at night for the last two weeks, with the noise from oil drilling. She stated she spoke with Member Boodnick and had also contacted Steve Rusch (PXP) and found the drilling would continue. Ms. Spiva wanted to know the Conservancy's feelings. She also asked if there could be some partnership with PXP

and the Conservancy, where PXP could give funds to the Conservancy on improving the landscape. Mr. McNeill deferred to Member Mount to address her concerns. Member Mount stated that PXP would continue to drill and if the noise is a problem, it's usually handled through the County through a noise ordinance. He further stated that the Conservancy is attempting to acquire the surface rights and if successful, then can have room to negotiate with PXP. Member Boodnick commented that he e-mailed Steve Rusch with Ms. Spiva's concerns and Mr. Rusch contracted him immediately and did some sound proofing for the noise. The Chair advised Ms. Spiva that Kermit Maddox, United Homeowners Association, is the point person appointed as the public relations person to contact for homeowners' association related issues with PXP and she would provide Ms. Spiva with Mr. Maddox's contact information.

Motion made to close meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

Approved:

Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor  
Chair