

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
NOVEMBER 1, 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: Allan Boodnick, Ruth Coleman, Kenneth Bentley, Clare Bronowski, Jim Park, Mary Nichols and Annette Porini. Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor arrived after roll was taken. Absent: Mary Ann Greene and Tim Gallagher.

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

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

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

II. Approval of Minutes

The Vice Chair introduced the newest board member, Speaker Appointee Dr. Allan Boodnick, who was given the oath of office by Nedra Austin.

The Vice Chair had one correction to the minutes of October 4, to note that she was not listed as absent. Motion made to approve minutes with correction, seconded, all ayes.

III. Receive and File All Correspondence

Mr. McNeill stated three letters had been received and were not items for discussion.

IV. Policy

- a. Role of the BHC – in the meeting held yesterday, the committee discussed how to move forward in 2002-2003. The synopsis was to have three different working groups; acquisition, governmental affairs, private sponsors and fundraising. Member Nichols asked Mr. McNeill if the committees would have members from outside as well. Mr. McNeill felt it would be a good idea to bring others in. The Vice Chair stated that they hadn't really been structured as a sub-committee; so, a recommendation will be made to the Chair for her decision to appoint others to participate in the groups.

V. Discussion and possible on possible action on the revised draft partnership agreement with West L.A. College for planning and development.

Mr. McNeill stated the draft MOU has been submitted to the college president, Frank Quiambao and once their counsel has reviewed it, the MOU will then be submitted to the LACCD board.

VI. Discussion and possible action on a resolution authorizing delegation authority to the Executive Officer for preliminary expenditures as required for acquisitions

Motion made to pass resolution 01-17, which authorizes the Executive Officer to expend up to \$30,000 on preliminary work for acquisitions. Motion carried.

VII. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

VIII. Deputy Attorney General's Report – John Saurenman

Ms. Austin reminded the board members that the Statement of Economic Interests forms which was mailed to them needs to be completed as soon as possible and sent to their offices.

IX. Executive Officer Report – David McNeill

Mr. McNeill went over his current projects. Some of the key items he discussed were: Coordinating with Hayden Sohm, Acting District Superintendent (DPR) on a sign-raising and possible media event recognizing the completion of the first acquisition along Stocker Corridor, tentatively scheduled for November 22; Meeting with West L.A. College president and Culver City's Chief Administrative Officer to discuss western ridgeline access issues and potential funding opportunities for construction; acquisition -- he's making efforts to acquire the Los Angeles City property (located below Vista Pacifica) and is working with the City of Los Angeles Mayor's office to get a commitment to seek alternate sites for the Bureau of Sanitation's proposed garbage facility; State Parks Commission's unanimous approval of the Kenneth Hahn State Park Recreation Area General Plan Amendment.

Member Edmiston inquired about changes in the consultant contract for Vista Pacifica and wondered if there was an opportunity for the Conservancy to formally jump in and take more of an aggressive role. Mr. McNeill stated the Conservancy is working on the scope with DPR currently and will step up in all areas necessary. Insuring public participation and outreach is primarily where DPR requires assistance. The Conservancy's biggest concern is to make sure someone is on the project full-time and DPR has assured staff that Barney Matsumoto will be

assigned full-time to this project. Mr. McNeill asked Member Coleman to speak on State Parks' commitment.

Member Coleman stated State Parks decided they needed to free up some funds in order to take care of issues to make Vista Pacifica a success and have decided to absorb the project management costs, which will free up some funds; some will be re-directed immediately for erosion control. In addition, they will be funding the outreach program through the Baldwin Hills Conservancy staff and working with Mr. McNeill in allocating funding. State Parks will also redirect funds for more of the visioning through the architectural engineering contract and monies will be directed to complete the greenhouse and ranger residence.

Member Park stated he received a call from Barney and that County Department of Parks and Recreation will continue to be a partner in this effort.

X. Planning and Development

- i. Long-term planning – Hayden Sohm, Acting District Superintendent, reviewed five major projects DPR is trying to complete at Vista Pacifica; the greenhouse, final grading, erosion control, Shedd Terrace residential site, and offices. Initial money set aside for this project was about \$200,000; right now they are showing a fairly substantial short fall. Erosion control is their number one priority and they will be entering into an inter-agency agreement with CCC's to do the erosion control. Another element is the grading and they are moving in that direction this month. Engineers will be at the site next week to do the staking and get the grading initiated. The first area of grading will be for the greenhouse, next the ranger residence and then the offices.

XI. Existing Facilities and Improvements

Member Park reported some of the Sacramento staff from the State Parks grants office came down and visited one of the County's proposed projects (trail connection between Vista Pacifica trail, crossing the Findley Fee to the Lloyd parcel, to the bridge). The cost of the trail is \$57,000.

XII. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Jim Lamm announced that the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force would hold their next stakeholder meeting on November 13, from 1:30 – 3:30. He also introduced Los Angeles County Public Works Ballona Creek Management Team, Brian White and Wendy La.

XIII. Board Member Comments

Member Rogers reminded everyone of the special focus study of the Ballona Creek trail, which will be held November 14, from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Culver City Senior Center.

Member Boodnick expressed a local resident's concern of Holy Cross Cemetery's long-term goal of filling a part of the canyon they own for additional gravesites, which the resident feels would destroy the natural habitat and create an eyesore. Mr. McNeill stated he had received the resident's e-mail and had responded to it. Mr. McNeill has had past discussions with Holy Cross regarding their long-term planning; feels if there's some concern from the community, Holy Cross might want to do some mitigation and work with the Conservancy to preserve the remaining habitat within the cemetery's boundaries. Mr. McNeill will pursue meetings with Holy Cross to discuss some alternatives.

Member Broughton asked if anyone was aware if West Los Angeles Community College District was in possession of funds through recent initiatives or has a ballot measure coming up to acquire funds, since they are looking at doubling enrollment, then they should be looking at doubling funding, feels it would be worth expanding dialogue with them and to see whether some of the funds could be used for joint purposes with the conservancy. Mr. McNeill stated that their funds were limited to construction and development and discussions on acquisition are centered on the Conservancy's funds for now, but WLA is looking at the amount of land they own around the campus that might be available for public use. Member Rogers added that West Los Angeles College did receive funds from the bond measure on the last election and they received a substantial amount for buildings only and not for land acquisition.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved:

Mary Ann Greene
Chairperson