

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
JULY 13, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order by Chair Dr. Allan Boodnick, at 10:10 a.m. The meeting was held inside the Community Center at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present:

Chair Allan Boodnick, Karen Finn (teleconference), Russ Guiney, Vice Chair Allan Kingston, Starlett Quarles, Sara Amir, Jason Marshall (teleconference) Patricia O'Toole, and Marina Voskanian. Bryan Cash (teleconference) arrived after roll.

Members Absent:

Lloyd Dixon, Robert Jones, Bobbie Parks, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Craig Sap, Joan Cardellino, Barbara Romero, and Patrick Reynolds..

Staff Present:

David McNeill, Gail Krippner, Gloria Dangerfield, and Rosana Miramontes.

III. Approval of Minutes (May) Dr. Allan Boodnick, Chair

There being no quorum, approval of the meeting minutes were deferred. The Chair noted that the June 29 meeting date was cancelled due to lack of a quorum and he has been on the telephone again with Sacramento on filling the vacant board seats. He was told the procedure had change; he recommended extension of those who had applied and was told the applicants would now have to be interviewed at two levels as a part of the appointments process.

**IV. Ad Hoc Committees Reports - Allan Kingston, Grant Proposal Review
- Starlett Quarles, Fundraising**

The Chair asked Member Quarles to give her committee's report first. Member Quarles stated that as part of their committee's fundraising efforts, a documentary film, California Forever, created by Backcountry Productions, a two-part film on California State Parks to be aired later this year on PBS, will have a private screening on July 25, 2012. If anyone has any VIP guests they would like to invite, please let her know. Also, she recommends turning future Conservancy newsletters into an e-blast. She has hired an assistant to assist her and they will be working on other activities as well as programming at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook.

Member Kingston reported on his committee's review of the grant proposal for the Milton Street Park project. They met and discussed, in some detail, the requirements of the local assistance grant project. Page 2 of 3 of their report gives a summary of their discussions. Of note, matching dollars from the State Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and the BHRCA; and the multiple benefit projects covered in Paragraph J. Their committee is recommending approval by the board.

V. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing a Grant of Up to \$2 Million in BHC Proposition 84 Funds to the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority for the Milton Street Park Project Improvements at the Ballona Creek Trail and Marina Del Rey Middle School – David McNeill, Executive Officer

David McNeill stated Ana Petrilic, Project Manager for the Milton Street Planning effort and the applicant for the Prop 84 project would give a PowerPoint overview of the project. In her overview, Ms. Petrilic stated that the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) works on creating park projects with multiple benefits that includes improving existing public access, storm water treatment, habitat creation, and recreation and education through interpretative panels. She went over the Milton project goals as well as all the contiguous projects that will contribute to the larger vision along Ballona Creek.

Member Finn questioned the grant application process as BHC received the application from MRCA on June 1, signed; and the ad hoc committee met on June 11 or 12 to discuss it, which doesn't seem there was enough time to have reviewed it all. Mr. McNeill explained the project has been going on for four years and there has been considerable input and deliberation on developing the budget and project elements. Member Finn also felt the overhead was a bit high and asked who would oversee the contingency budget. Mr. McNeill stated that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy staff monitors the contingency budget and they receive quarterly reports from the grantees to determine the use or retention of contingency funds as needed.

Mr. McNeill also stated staff has received letters of support from Ballona Creek Renaissance, Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and the City of Los Angeles for the project.

VI. Consideration of a Resolution Accepting up to \$200,000 in Matching Funds from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Prop 84 Grant Program for Construction of Green Street Storm Water Best Management Practices at the Milton Street Project and Authorizing the Executive Officer to Enter into an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board for Management and Implementation of the Milton Street Match award – David McNeill, Executive Officer

Mr. McNeill stated staff originally worked with Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission to help facilitate the funding match which led to some confusion as to who the grantee or applicant would be. Ultimately, it was more efficient for the MRCA to be the grant applicant as they were managing the overall project.

VII. Executive Officer Report – BHC Staff Representatives

Mr. McNeill stated updates on the expenditures and capital outlay projects status were included in his report. He announced that Gall Krippner would first give her updates on Prop 40 projects. Ms. Krippner reported 1) The Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) La Cienega Bridge Enhancement Project – decorative fencing and landscaping is going on now and should be completed in mid September; 2) Department of Toxic Substances Control – the agreement expired and in last month's meeting staff asked for an amendment. After reviewing the agreement, staff decided a more appropriate approach would be to generate a new grant agreement to put before the board in the August meeting for approval; 3) MRCA agreement for Milton Street planning is complete and have 90% construction documents; 4) Eastern Ridgeline Project - still awaiting item approved by the County Board of Supervisors; 5) Norman O. Houston Park Improvements – in the pre-design phase and the City is currently doing geo-tech investigation; 6) L. A. Infrastructure Academy – they officially changed their name to Generation Water and are currently concluding invasive GIS mapping; 7) City of Culver City Jefferson Blvd Streetscape Access Improvement – a pre-construction meeting will be held July 26.

VII. Executive Officer Report – BHC Staff Representatives (Cont'd)

Mr. McNeill continued with his portion of the report. He stated that the summary sheet by fund (Attachment II) shows the support balance is consistent with expenditures. The Prop 84 support position is again hinging on approval of the budget which would extend the position for 3 years. The cash balance/cash bond funds – i.e. expenditures based on actual bond sales to date reflect eleven million dollars cash available for projects, of which six million dollars are encumbered and being spent down. He also reported that pursuant to the State's current fiscal year budget, there is a mandatory 4.62 % payroll reduction so staff will be taking one personal leave day per month through 2013. Activities: PBS screening at Sony Studios on July 25; Assemblymember Holly Mitchell will hold their Christmas in July at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area on July 14, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Member O'Toole mentioned she heard on the radio there was a Bastille Day occurring in Kenneth Hahn Park on Sunday. Shawn McAdory (Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area) confirmed the event would take place Sunday, July 15, 2012, from noon – 5:00 p.m. and is a first time event at the park.

VIII. Board Member announcements or agenda items for future meetings

Mr. McNeill announced he would be attending the Greater Green Earth Conference in New York, Saturday, July 14, 2012 thru Wednesday, July 18, 2012.

Chair Boodnick announced an advisory committee has been convened after a two-year hiatus, based on the work done on La Cienega (off and on ramps, etc.). They have met once and will meet again the end of August. The committee is being represented by the State, County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, the City of Culver City, and other homeowner associations.

Member Kingston commented again on the Jefferson Blvd. improvements and the number of visitors using the Baldwin Scenic Overlook steps.

Member Guiney announced the County of Los Angeles' budget has been approved for 2013 and there's no cuts to any of the County Parks department.

Karly Katona (Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas) announced their office is hosting the second community meeting on August 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the school site.

Member Voskanian announced some government agencies, also industries and researchers, were invited by USC to attend a workshop to find independent funding for a research center type work at USC to evaluate the pros and cons of fracturing and its impact. It was very well attended and organized. Representatives from DOGGR were also in attendance.

Member Marshall announced on July 2, they had an informational seminar on the practice of hydraulic fracturing where they covered issues like geology of oil and gas, water issues, air issues, and well construction, with different experts. The recorded seminar is posted on their department's website. He noted interested board members should take a look at the first segment, which deals with geology.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Approved:

Dr. Allan Boodnick
Chairman