

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
DECEMBER 7, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order by Chair Dr. Allan Boodnick, at 10:15 a.m. The meeting was held inside the Theater Room at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, 6300 Hetzler Road, Culver City, CA 90232.

I. Roll Call:

Members Present:

Chair Allan Boodnick, Julie Alvis (teleconference) Karen Finn (teleconference), Lloyd Dixon, Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Yolanda Gorman, Robert Jones, Starlett Quarles, Craig Sap, John Wicker, Sara Amir, Tim Kustic (teleconference), Patrick Reynolds, and Marina Voskanian

Members Absent:

Allan Kingston, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Joan Cardellino, Barbara Romero, and Patricia O'Toole.

Staff Present:

David McNeill, Gail Krippner, and Gloria Dangerfield.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes (October) Dr. Allan Boodnick, Chair

The Chair called for the Motion. Member Quarles made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded and carries.

**III. Presentation of the Final Community-Based Vision for the Stoneview Nature Center –
Karly Katona, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District**

Ms. Katona stated the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA) investigating recreational opportunities at the Stoneview site for about two and one-half years. BHRCA purchased the property at the end of last December for \$3.45 million dollars. They held a series of meetings, starting in May, that were well attended and received substantive feedback on what user groups would like to have at the site; Ms. Katona went over the results of the community meeting. Demolition of the old school building is targeted for May 2013 and the project's completion date could be summer 2015.

**IV. Presentation and Update on 2012-13 BHC Bond Funded Local Assistance Projects in the
Baldwin Hills Parklands – David McNeill**

Mr. McNeill provided a power point presentation on the status of projects the BHC has initiated and has implemented the past year. Highlights included the Jefferson Street Access Improvements at the BHSO, La Cienega Gateway and the ongoing Parklands Habitat Restoration Project. All projects have received substantial funding leverage from local partners including Culver City, County of Los Angeles, LACC, and Generation Water.

V. Election of Board Officers Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 32558

In last month's meeting, Member Jones yielded his nomination to Member Quarles. Hearing no opposition, the Chair called for the motion to nominate Member Quarles as Vice Chair for 2013. Member Dupont-Walker moved that Member Quarles be nominated for the position as Vice Chair. Motion seconded. The members voted; all ayes in favor of Member Quarles as Vice Chair for 2013.

VI. Conservancy 2012 Year in Review – Dr. Allan Boodnick, Chairman

During his 2012 term, the Chair stated he sent a survey to each member at the beginning of the year. In the survey he asked the members to list their goals and implementation for the long run. Members responded with: more ad hoc committees involvement, publish a newsletter, have video teleconference connections to be able to see the members in Sacramento, have board members offer more agenda items, explore outside fundraising, establish the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's function in relation to other organizations. Under the Chair's leadership, goals were met including: an increase in attendance and engagement of board members, Sacramento members attending meetings in person, publishing a newsletter, initiate a designee for the County Supervisor's position on the board, and fill the vacant board positions.

VII. Discussion and Possible on the Proposed 2013 Meeting Schedule

The Chair asked if there were any changes to the 2013 meeting schedule; there were no changes.

VIII. Executive Officer Report - David McNeill

Mr. McNeill stated most of the capital outlay projects' statuses were given in the presentation earlier other than Department of Toxic Substances Control monitoring of the Eastern Ridgeline development, which will continue. In terms of the budget, the Conservancy has an annual appropriation for Environmental License Plate Fund for support, Prop 40 support (AGPA position) and Prop 84 position – advertising for the exam for this position is currently out. Interviews for hiring should begin in the first quarter of next year. Capital outlay funds for Prop 84 have three appropriations: 2007, 2008, and 2009. Spending has begun with funds encumbering the majority of one appropriation at this time. Prop 40 funds, there were four original appropriations. Multiple appropriations have been encumbered with two almost fully expended. Staff expects funds to move more rapidly as the BHC rolls out more shovel ready projects next year.

IX. Board Member Announcements or Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Member Sap reported California State Parks has a new director, Major General Andrew Jackson. They also have a new Chief Deputy Director, Aaron Robertson. Jeannette Brody was promoted to Angelus District Superintendent. Announced that Simon Delogos, who recently retired and was a ranger for thirty years, passed away; also, Kim Lassiter, who was an office technician. On another note, Culver City is doing a magnificent job on the Jefferson Streetscape project.

Member Reynolds reported that the Jefferson Streetscape project is moving along smoothly and have had weekly meetings with the contractor and consultants, who has been very diligent in keeping them informed on the lead time of delivery of the signal, which is being installed today. Landscaping and all other work has been going on schedule and in budget. They are working closely with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy on the parklands habitat restoration projects; presently are identifying areas that link to Baldwin Hills trails. There are areas of their park that are targeted for some habitat restoration work under the grant program and they are also looking at doing water audits in the near future. They are very pleased and hear encouraged to hear that the Park-To-Playa Trail construction documents are at 50% and Culver City is very supportive of the Stoneview park project.

Member Wicker acknowledged Sean McArdory, Superintendent for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and asked him for updates on the park's activities. Mr. McArdory stated most items had been already been discussed including the Eastern Ridgeline Project.

Member Voskanian stated their Executive Officer, Curtis Fossum has retired and the new Executive Officer for State lands Commission is Jennifer Lucchesi. Outside of state business, she read a couple days ago about the acquisition of PXP by Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.

Member Amir reported her department (Department of Toxic Substances Control) is updating regulations for safer consumer products, so any product that has toxic or chemicals of concern, will have to come with assessments or alternatives. This will be the first of this type of regulation in the United States and it should be in place by June 2013.

Member Dixon thanked outgoing Chair Allan Boodnick on the great work he did. Also, he likes the idea of having a mechanism for reporting leadership goals and hopes it can be discussed in January's meeting.

Mr. McNeill reported the new Chair, Allan Kingston, sends regrets for not being at the meeting (he's in Washington D.C.) but will be present in January's meeting. He announced Assemblymember Holly Mitchell has joined forces with Culver City's Mayor Andrew Weiss and Councilmember Meghan Sahli-Wells, in hosting a meeting to get input from the public on hydraulic fracturing. The meeting will be held on Friday, December 14, from 9:30 a.m. – noon at Culver City Vet Auditorium. The California Regional Water Quality Board is having a public hearing about the NPDES permit PXP has requested. The permit will address stormwater runoff from the oil fields into the Ballona Creek. Comments are due COB January 7, 2013 and the hearing date is scheduled for February 7, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Water District office downtown. Staff chaired last night's CSD meeting regarding the oil field operation's compliance with the County regulations. CAP members are preparing for the five year review of the County ordinance and are seeking to involve homeowner groups and local organizations in the process. There were also discussions on fracking and fracking legislation. Lisa Paillet (PXP) commented on fracking, re-iterating it is a well completion process and that PXP will send out notification before they do any conventional or high volume fracking. It was announced on Wednesday that PXP and Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc were merging and didn't expect any operational changes at PXP.

Member Boodnick wished everyone a happy holiday New Year.

X. Public Comment

A resident commented on PXP's transaction with Freeport. He feels the fracking discussion will be the key issue in 2013 and hopes the Conservancy will be a clear voice in these debates and PXP's major expansion over the next decade. Ms Paillet suggested if the public had any further questions or concerns or wished to have one of technical experts come out and speak, a wealth of information can be found on their websites.

There being no further business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Approved:

Dr. Allan Boodnick
Chairman