

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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**Minutes of the Public Meeting
of the
Baldwin Hills Conservancy
Thursday, December 17, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order by Chair Robert L. Jones on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 10:40 a.m., at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Community Center, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

I. Roll Call

The Conservancy roll was called and the following voting members were present: Kenneth Bentley, Allan Boodnick, Lloyd Dixon, Russ Guiney, Mary Ann Greene, Allan Kingston, Robert Jones, and Ron Schafer. The following voting members were absent: Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor, Bryan Cash, Mike Chrisman, Ruth Coleman, Bobbie Parks, and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. The following non voting members were present: Sara Amir, Barbara Romero (designee for Joe Edmiston), Patricia O'Toole, and Mary Small. The following non-voting members were absent: Joe Edmiston, Bill LaPointe, and Greg Scott.

The following staff members were present: David McNeill, Gail Krippner, and Sandra Hamlat.

Representing the State Attorney General office was Rosana Miramontes.

II. Public Comments

John Martini, Manager of Governmental Affairs for Plains Exploration (PXP) spoke in regards Agenda Item VII (Ad Hoc Report on the CSD). They [PXP] have raised several concerns to the Conservancy's board and have filed a public records act request with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Their company is increasingly bothered by some of the policy statements originated on behalf of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy made within the last month. He further stated they feel the Baldwin Hills Conservancy has gone beyond park expansion and acquiring/managing open space in the context of the CSD and has verged into commentary on regulation of the oil field. The Chair thanked Mr. Martini for his comments and asked that he submit their concerns in writing to the board,

John Engh, on behalf of the (Moynier Lease, requested that past Baldwin Hills Conservancy meeting agendas be corrected; as they give his name as being in negotiations with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy for sale of the Moynier Lease, which he contends is false. He read his letter for the record that was submitted to the Executive Officer, in which it states this objection and asked that a copy of the corrections be forwarded to his e-mail. Also they do not wish to be contacted in relations to the easements, right-of-ways, or access, and Bead Oil LLC (co-owners of the Moynier Lease) is opposed to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy incorporating their land holdings in their statements, maps, or any other forms of advertising, to have the public believe that their land is part of "one big park." Bead Oil, LLC is opposed to the proposed funding of the study of the CSD by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

Clayton Hix, attorney (Hill Farrer and Burrill) who represents the Vickers Group, read a letter their office sent to the Executive Officer dated December 17, which states that the Vickers Group, consisting of owners who are not willing sellers, have no desire to sell their property to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy nor the County of Los Angeles. Their letter was submitted into the record.

Rachel Feiertag, on behalf of Baldwin Stocker, read a letter from John Spanier (Baldwin Stocker) to be submitted into record. In their letter, they state their concerns about a number of proposed actions taken by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and related agencies; BHRCA, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. They assert documents on the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's website erroneously state that

Baldwin Stocker is in negotiations to sell their property. They assert the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy also lists misleading statements on their website. Baldwin Hills Stocker is not and has not been in negotiations with any of these agencies for sale of their property. Also, they strongly oppose any funding of the study of the Community Standards District review. .

Patrick McGarrigle, attorney who represents the Cone Fee Trust, stated they have submitted submissions to the Conservancy board on a number of subjects. A month ago, they submitted their opposition to the proposed motion to fund the CSD review. In a writing earlier this week, they have demanded that the board remove the one big park schematic the Conservancy's website; claiming it's misleading and misrepresents to the public to believe that private property will be converted for public use. Also, they request the board strike from their Harvard Study any reference that the Cone Fee Trust property is for sale. Cone Fee Trust property asserts is not for sale and is not and has not been in negotiations with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy board or any State agency. They request the Executive Officer and the Conservancy board respond to their demands in writing. .

III. Approval of Minutes (November)

The Chair called for the motion for approval of November's meeting minutes. Motion made by Member Boodnick and was seconded. Motion carries with Members Schafer and Bentley abstaining due to their absence in November.

IV. Park To Playa Project Update – Sandra Hamlat, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, Barbara Romero, Director of Urban Projects (MRCA)

Prior to the PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Hamlat thanked everyone for attending this morning's celebration and mentioned that the Park To Playa Plan was something that has been discussed for awhile and the interpretive notes are part of the final trail that would connect existing parklands within the Baldwin Hills to the Ballona Creek. Norma Garcia (County Department of Parks and Recreation) spoke on the trail planning section of the presentation and Barbara Romero (MRCA) spoke on the trail branding.

V. Presentation of Special Recognition Awards – Robert Jones, Chairman

Chair Jones presented Member Kenneth Bentley, who has resigned as member of Baldwin Hills Conservancy board, with a special award to show the board's appreciation for his diligence and hard work. Member Guiney honored and thanked Member Jones as outgoing Chair with a special award.

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

The Chair stated that Member Dixon had expressed interest in being nominated as Vice Chair of the Conservancy board and called for the motion to move to vote on the nomination of Member Dixon for Vice Chair. Hearing no objections, the motion was on the floor. The vote was called and seconded. All ayes, motion carries.

VII. Executive Officer Report – David McNeill

Mr. McNeill reported on the Capital Outlay progress status report and

- Trail junction opening
- Prop 40 signs installation
- Eastern Ridgeline
- Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook

He also went over the fiscal update report that showed the support and capital outlay budgets. He also offered further discussion and advice during closed session with the Attorney General regarding some of the legal assertions being reported by PXP and some of the private landowners.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee

There were no reports.

IX. Board Announcements

Member Boodnick wished everyone a Happy Holiday and New Year to all.

Chair Jones thanked everyone for their time and consideration in coming out and supporting the Baldwin Hills Conservancy meetings and, on behalf of the Conservancy board, wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Hanukkah, and all celebrations.

Member Schafer expressed to Member Bentley that it was a pleasure working with him as a board member and he would miss him.

Member Greene wished everyone Happy Holidays and she also expressed to Member Bentley how great it was working with and will miss his expertise and passion and hope that the board will continue to see him.

At this time, the Chair announced that the closed session portion of the meeting would be held

X. ADJOURNMENT

The regular session of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy resumed at 1:00 p.m. A motion was made to adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Approved:

Robert L. Jones
Chair