

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
5120 West Goldleaf Circle, Suite 290
Los Angeles, CA 90056
Ph: (323) 290-5270
Fx: (323) 290-5276

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
April 8, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order by Chair Lloyd Dixon at 10:05 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.

I Roll Call

Prior to roll, Chair Dixon commended Baldwin Hills Conservancy staff members, David McNeill and Gail Krippner, on their hard work and the excellent job done by them for the Eastern Gateway grand opening.

Members Present:

Julie Alvis (teleconference) Vice Chair Allan Boodnick, Ronilee Clark, Chair Lloyd Dixon, Allan Kingston, Robert Jones, Miriam Ingenito (teleconference), John Wicker, Sara Amir, Joan Cardellino, Joe Edmiston, Pam Robinson, and Greg Scott.

Members Absent:

Bobbie Parks, Starlett Quarles, and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Staff Present:

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

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes (January)

Member Boodnick made the motion to approve January's minutes. Motion seconded and carries. Member Ingenito noted the minutes should not reflect appointed members as absent, when their designees are present.

III. Public Comments

Jim Lamm (Ballona Creek Renaissance) spoke on the new projects that are occurring, including the Eastern Gateway opening and the number of new projects along Ballona Creek. They've recently completed a creek site native plant learning garden, and have received a permit from the County of Los Angeles for a similar project, which will be part of a network of green projects with MRCA and others. He looks forward to working with the Conservancy on the vision of the Park to Playa Trail through Ballona Creek to the beach. He acknowledged Pam Robinson (Culver City Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services) who was very active in their non-profit's initial beginning in Culver City and thanked her for all her support.

Bill Vanderberg (Sierra Club) commented in regards to the Park to Playa Trail, he attended the first public workshop. He mentioned the Sierra Club has long advocated for a trail running from Veronica Street north of La Brea, to allow safe northern access to the park. The Sierra Club Task Force has created a proposed trail line that would allow easy and safe access to the park. He was distressed to not see their proposed trail line included in the Parks to Playa plan and wants to make sure that there is support from the Conservancy board for allowing this access, which is critical to the community. He noted that the Sierra Club has already volunteered to build the trail, along with community volunteers, so the work should not be an impediment.

IV. Park to Playa Project Update – Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority, Leslie Chan, Deputy Division Chief Urban Projects & Watershed Planning

Ms. Chan gave an update on the project's development. A community workshop will be held on May 3, at 7:00 p.m., inside Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area's Community Center, and based on feedback from the workshop, there will be a meeting with the partners, then a draft implementation plan will be created, reviewed by the partners, and presented to the community, for incorporating in the final plan.

V. Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Project Evaluation Criteria for 2011 BHC Prop 84 Grant Applications – David McNeill, Executive Officer

Mr. McNeill stated that the Conservancy has adopted the grant procedures and program objectives and are now in the stage of receiving grant applications. Once submitted applications have been reviewed, they will be prioritized by the ad hoc committee, who will then select the ones to be brought before the board. Per suggestion in last month's meeting, an ad hoc committee was formed with members Kingston and Boodnick volunteering to serve. Member McNeill would like to have some non-voting members volunteer as well, to be part of the committee. The Chair called for the motion to approve evaluation process as presented. Motion made by Member Kingston to approve Resolution 11-03 and seconded by Member Clark. Member Cardellino commented that her agency has dealt with CEQA compliance issues in their grant application process and stressed that it be an important part of the process to discuss with the grantees to make sure they understand CEQA guidelines. Mr. McNeill asked Member Cardellino if she would be part of the review process. The Chair called for to vote to approve, all ayes. Motion carries. Members Clark, Member Jones and Barbara Romero (MRCA) also volunteered to be part of the ad hoc committee to review the applications.

VI. Executive Officer Report

Mr. McNeill gave his report::

- Eastern Gateway project opened and grantee has reached the certification stage
- Wayfinding projects is nearing it's end as well
- DTSC grant (ongoing)
- MRCA Milton Street grant addressing constraints due to Army Corps regulations
- Prop 40 projects are winding down and are now looking forward to Prop 84 project startups.
- Fiscal update on appropriations and bond sale balances
- Meetings staff attended that included Culver City's city council, re-imagine empty space summit held in Martin Luther King Park, recycled water advisory group, CSD advisory committee meetings

Mr. McNeill stated that Assembly member Holy Mitchell is putting together a community cabinet and has asked him to chair her environmental committee. He then commended Gail Krippner (staff) on the extremely wonderful job she did in putting together this morning's event.

The Chair asked Mr. McNeil if there were any news on the lawsuit. Mr. McNeill asked Karly Katona (Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas) for an update. Ms. Katona reported all parties have met multiple times and are close to a settlement; however, the March 29 date was pushed back to the end of June to give all parties some time to reach a settlement agreement or go back to court in July. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has had updates to the community and a meeting would be held April 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Foundation for the Junior Blind.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee Report

None.

VIII. Board Member Announcements or Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Member Edmiston announced that effective March 15, the U.S. Department of Justice issued park regulations with respect to multiple access, all inclusive access. This will affect all park agencies. He knows State Parks has already discussed this between their agencies on what will be required and not required and recommends that this body agendaize a presentation from State Parks on what the trail requirements are for multiple accesses. Member Clark stated that she would check and see and make sure their people will be available at the next meeting for a presentation.

Member Cardellino announced that one of the consultants on the Park to Play trail, Randy Anderson, is really up on this issue and think it would be a good idea if he could come before the board and give a presentation as well.

At 11:28, the Chair excused the public for the closed session portion of the meeting.

Open session reconvened at noon. The Chair announced that during closed session, the board discussed negotiations relating to the school site property and no decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the board, motion made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Approved:

Lloyd Dixon
Chairman