

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
**BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY**  
3578-C Eastham Drive  
Culver City, CA 90232  
Ph: (310) 558-5593  
Fx: (310) 558-5598

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING**  
*of the*  
**BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY**  
**June 4, 2004**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**I. Roll Call**

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 10:15 a.m. on June 4, 2004, at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

The Conservancy roll was called, and the following voting members were present: Ta-Lecia Arbor, Allan Boodnick, Kenneth Bentley, Jim Park, Mary Ann Greene, Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Bobbie Parks and Marta Zaragoza. Robert Jones arrived after roll. Absent: Ruth Coleman, Mike Chrisman, Tim Gallagher, Ted Jackson, Supervisor Yvonne Burke, and Dave Harper.

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was John Saurenman.

**II. Approval of Minutes (April and May)**

Member Zaragoza made motion for approval of minutes. Seconded by Member Sawyer-Jones. Motion carried.

**III. Receive and File Correspondence**

Mr. McNeill stated that a letter was received from Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation regarding the Eastern Ridgeline Restoration grant. Member Zaragoza moved to receive and file all correspondence and was seconded by Member Jones-Sawyer. Motion carried.

**IV. Public Comment Agenda Items and Items Not on the Agenda**

Mr. Simmons, Baldwin Hills Homeowners Association, stated that their association would like to know what the Park has planned for youth, living within the radius of park, in terms of wildlife, and providing a public education system program. The Chair stated the Conservancy understood their concerns and one of the Conservancy's goals is to provide signage. Mr. McNeill added the Conservancy is pursuing a \$400,000 grant with Urban Educational Partnership to do an interpretation initiative to apply sciences in the Baldwin Hills to school

districts within the area. Member Zaragoza asked the Chair if Mr. Simmons could be mailed the approved meeting minutes in the future. The Chair deferred to the Conservancy's secretary to mail a copy of approved minutes to Mr. Simmons.

Carolyn Hamilton, South Coast Air Quality Management District, invited members to their upcoming town hall meeting at the Baldwin Hills Branch Library, on June 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Mim Shapiro, Blair Hills resident, commenting on Agenda Item 6a, felt that misinformation is causing the current problem with Culver City and felt there needs to be some clarification from Sacramento and the Conservancy so people understand the real purpose of the Conservancy. Ms. Shapiro stated also she strongly felt that Culver City removing Ballona Creek from the Conservancy (after all the studies that have been done) from would be an unproductive move for the community and region.

At this time, the Chair stated that Item 6a would be moved up and Item 5 would be heard after 6a. Member Zaragoza moved that the agenda be altered to hear Item 6a first. Seconded by Member Bentley. Motion approved.

#### **Vla. Discussion of Culver City's Inclusion in the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's Territory**

The Chair reiterated that in their meeting on Tuesday, Culver City Council voted to be removed, via legislation, from the Conservancy. Conservancy staff and the chair recommended to the City Council to have Culver City remain within the Baldwin Hills Conservancy boundaries. The Chair then stated that the Executive Officer, Mr. McNeill, would give some informational points for discussion.

Mr. McNeill stated that Culver City had retained a lobbyist firm to monitor actions in Sacramento on the SB1259 spot bill. The lobbyist provided Culver City Council with five courses of action for inclusion or exclusion from the Conservancy, all impacting the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act. Mr. McNeill went over the actions proposed by Culver City's lobbyist. Mr. McNeill stated that a procedure has to be in place for any modification proposed by an entity that may impact the Baldwin Hill statute. Mr. McNeill recommended the Conservancy Board discuss and analyze how to proceed from a policy standpoint. Member Jones-Sawyer asked for substantive reasons for Culver City Council not wanting to be part of the Conservancy. Councilmember Gross (City of Culver City) expressed their discomfort of falling under the umbrella of another entity and they felt excluded from the initial process of creating the Conservancy. She noted that Council doesn't want to turn their back on the building of the park or improvements along the creek, but wants to be an equal partner. She noted their City Council voted only to discuss the matter with Senator Murray. Member Bentley agreed that some type of policy as stated earlier by Mr. McNeill should be established. Member Edmiston commented he felt there must be a failure on the part of the Conservancy if we are unable to help Culver City understand the benefits of being a member in the agency. He recommended that a committee comprised of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's Executive Officer, Chair, and key members of the board meet with Culver City representatives on a regular basis in an effort to work the problems out. Member Park stated that in his experience of the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River planning, similar issues arose from cities along the corridors and felt the Conservancy needs to be inclusive to go forth with the concept. Member Jones-Sawyer suggested a meeting with Senator Murray, to deal with these issues prior to them reaching the boiling point. Member Zaragoza stated input she's received from residents says if you supported plans for Ballona Creek, you were identified and included in meeting minutes; if you opposed it or the Conservancy, you did not get much of a voice. Member Greene added the consensus she's heard is that Culver City was not included in the initial creation of the Conservancy; she expressed it was an unfortunate mistake on the State's part to not have included Culver City

early on. Member Greene felt the Conservancy has an obligation to help residents of Culver City and surrounding areas understand what the Conservancy is doing.

The Chair concurred that the purpose of the discussion item was to do exactly what Members Greene and Bentley recommended; establish a policy for the future and asked the board if they had the legislation that includes the first Senate bill, Senate Bill 1625 and the second bill (with amendments) Senate Bill 259. The Chair read portions from the bills, specifically Senate Bill 259, which dealt with Ballona Creek. The Chair agreed that subcommittees needed to be established; one to act as liaison to Culver City and one for policy to address future issues. Member Parks stressed the point that it should be the responsibility of the public to attend the Conservancy's monthly meetings and she didn't like the idea of setting up special meetings for individuals. She apologized and added the Baldwin Hills Conservancy should take ownership of whatever happened without Culver City's input, but things have to go forward. Member Jones commented it would be dangerous to pick out a particular group for special consideration and stressed that this is a participatory government and it is the duty and responsibility of the voters to participate. Mike Bohlke stated he felt the Conservancy offered an olive branch to Culver City today and as a representative of Supervisor Yvonne Burke, abdicated that Culver City accept it, work with the Conservancy, and put aside their idea of being excluded.

The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and reiterated the establishment of two committees; an Ad Hoc Liaison Committee consisting of Members Mary Ann Greene, Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Marta Zaragoza, Robert Jones, and Allan Boodnick, to meet with Culver City; an Ad Hoc Policy Committee consisting of Members Kenneth Bentley and Jim Park.

#### **V. Consent Calendar**

- a. Consideration of a Resolution to Present a Certificate of Recognition to the Director of Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation

The Chair stated the Certificate would be presented to the Director, Tim Gallagher, at a later date, as he was not present. Member Gallagher commended Tim Gallagher on the wonderful work he has done with County Department of Parks and Recreation.

- b. Consideration of a resolution authorizing a Grant to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the Green Visions Open Space Plan

Mr. McNeill stated it was a great opportunity for the Conservancy to participate in the green vision plan for open space in a partnership with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, along with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. \$10,000 has been set aside from the planning study with Environment Now and approval is being sought to move forward with a grant. Member Zaragoza recommended to defer the resolution to a later date, as there was no deadline and voiced concerns regarding the \$10,000 to be expended from the Environment Now funding to GIS. Member Edmiston stated there should be formal consultation with the Attorney General's office, if this is bond funding. Member Greene made a motion to insert the following wording, "contingent upon the source of funds being consistent with the purpose of the grant." Motion seconded by Member Jones. The Chair re-capped the consent items to be voted on. The Chair called for the motion; a motion was made and seconded to approve Consent Items a and b. Motion carried.

The Chair stated that Item c of the Consent Calendar was pulled.

#### **VII. Ad Hoc Committee Report**

None.

**VIII. Executive Officer Report**

Mr. McNeill stated he would give his report at part of the site tour.

**IX. Deputy Attorney General's Report – John Saurenman**

Mr. Saurenman acknowledged that Member Edmiston raised an important point on the expenditure of bond funds. Mr. Saurenman stated that bond funds are being subject to increased scrutiny to ensure the funds are being spent for purposes consistent with the bond statutes.

**X. Board Comments**

Member Greene moved to have the Board consider setting aside or suspending monies programmed for use of collaborative process (in particular the money set aside for the evaluation of a golf course) until there is some certainty on what the Conservancy will look like. In response, Mr. McNeill stated that the funds she referred to had been dispatched, but had not been expended and a committee meeting has been scheduled on June 9 with stakeholders on the subject.

Member Boodnick reported that Plains Exploration is hosting a P.R. meeting and tour for the community selectees on June 11 and the soccer fields were dedicated on May 22, which he attended and extended kudos to Supervisor Burke. The Chair announced there would not be a closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Approved:

Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor  
Chair