

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
Governor

GRAY DAVIS,

**BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY**

6133 Bristol Parkway, Suite 301  
Culver City, CA 90230  
Phone: (310) 641-3497

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
*of the*  
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY  
DECEMBER 7, 2001**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**I. Roll Call**

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on December 7, 2001, at Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

The Conservancy roll was called, and the following voting members were present: Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor, Kenneth, Bentley, Clare Bronowski, Mike Smith, Mary Ann Greene, Steve Treanor, and Albert Vera (Interim Chair). Absent: Annette Porini and Rusty Areias. Mary Nichols arrived after roll was taken.

The following non-voting members were present: Paul Mount, II, Don Rogers and Joe Edmiston. Absent: Neal Fishman and Sara Amir.

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was John Saurenman.

**II. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

The Chair announced that public comments would be called at the proper time, when the items show up.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Member Green commended Ms. Dangerfield on the excellent job done on the minutes of November 2. Member Green wanted a correction made to Superintendent Guiney's report to reflect what she believed he said about the exit strategy given by Lainge Homes, and referencing Culver City had been contracted to oversee it. While the initial work had been completed, a year's waiting period should be imposed to ensure that any homes adversely affected by the grading would be handled.

The Chair asked Vice-Mayor Gross and one of Culver City's council member to check and see if Culver City is responsible for any homes that are left undone after the grading.

Member Bronowski made motion for approval of meeting minutes. Motion carried.

#### **IV. Interim Chair Report - Albert Vera**

The Chair decided to pass on making his report until later.

#### **V. Receive and File All Correspondence**

The Chair made motion to approve receiving and filing all correspondence. Motion carried.

#### **VI. Deputy Attorney General's Report - John Saurenman, Deputy Attorney General**

Mr. Saurenman requested adopting Resolution 01-10, which authorizes submission of the Conflict of Interest Code, to the Office of Administrative Law.

Member Bronowski had questions on the disclosure categories. Mr. Saurenman stated this code was based upon what the FPPC had accepted before, for San Gabriel Lower Los Angeles Rivers County Conservancy's Conflict of Interest Code.

Member Bronowski moved that Resolution 01-10 be adopted and submitted to the Office of Administrative Law. Motion carried.

#### **VII. Executive Officer Report - David McNeill**

##### **a. Discussion and Possible Action on Board Recommendations and Revisions to the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Preliminary General Plan:**

Carol Gross, Culver City 's Vice-Mayor spoke, thanking Wayne Woodruff, John Saurenman, David McNeill, and Russ Guiney, for meeting with them this past week. The State Department of Parks and Recreation agreed to separate the environmental review from the general plan that was set forth and submit a master plan for the park. The general plan would not go before this board or State Park's commission until after Culver City has had an opportunity to comment on it. Mr. Woodroof would then separately create a general plan and EIR for the areas actually owned by the conservancy or by state parks.

Mr. McNeill stated he has had multiple conversations with representatives of Culver City, an assemblyman from Inglewood, and representatives of Los Angeles County. Throughout all the discussions the idea and concept for the expanded Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area remains a positive one and everyone will stand behind it. Mr. McNeill added there would be some technical changes that State Parks will work out, in conjunction with the Conservancy. Most importantly, he recommends to the Board not to compromise the integrity of the plan and the work put into the concept, and that the BHC work towards meeting its goals by using the guidelines set out in the plan.

Member Bronowski stated that the Board assumed that State Parks would be the lead agency on the plan, and Baldwin Hills Conservancy doesn't have anything in the budget to produce an environmental document for a plan.

Mr. McNeill stated she was correct in saying there is no budget in the Conservancy for extended environmental review. The Attorney General's office is analyzing as to what type plan the Baldwin Hills Conservancy can approve that will either address the environmental issues or leave them to be addressed at future stages of development.

Mr. Saurenman concurred with what Mr. McNeill stated.

Mr. Woodroof stated that DPR needs to move forward with at least a general plan, not only for the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, but also for Vista Pacifica. A question came up if the master plan could be separated from the general plan. Mr. Woodroof, answered " technically speaking, yes," "the department can." The Attorney General's office is looking into what the CEQA requirements would be and then will pass the information on to this board.

Member Edmiston wanted to know what were the advantages of changing the plan and shouldn't the master plan and state park plan be one document?

Mr. McNeill answered the objective is to have one plan.

Mr. Saurenman added in his view, it is just a master plan and not a general plan. He stated reasons, the main one being, that dealing with so much property the state doesn't own, it does not need CEQA compliance at this time. The issue then if this Board does approve the master plan, the approval itself requires CEQA compliance. That's the issue the Attorney General's office still looking at.

Member Bronowski expressed her belief that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy should try and stay with State Parks recommendations.

Mr. Woodroof stated that it's in the best interest of the State of California to be looking at this as a master plan to make sure that State Parks is a player in this region. The plan is a vision that they are hoping all the jurisdictions plan and intend to implement.

Member Nichols stated the Resources Agency is seeking advice of the attorney general and has also received some pro bono assistance from a private CEQA attorney. Supports what Mr. Woodroof has stated that we should deal with the procedural issues correctly.

The Chair stated he's 100% with Member Nichols, stating the problem has been that during the planning process certain reports/documents has been kept away from cities like Culver City, Inglewood, and other surrounding communities. If the state paid for these reports, they should be public reports. Why are they being kept away from the county, the cities and everybody concerned and from this board?

Member Bentley also agreed with Member Nichols. It is a plan that in the process took in comments from different communities. He feels it's excellent and the plan really encompasses all the things he spoke to residents about what they want. He feels that

Culver City has done a good job of being actively involved and feels that we should get some of the other communities involved.

Mr. Saurenman stated that during their meeting with Culver City last week, amongst their discussions was to get from their staff, on an unofficial basis, preliminary comments highlighting the major issues that they have and hopefully provide these preliminary unofficial comments to the Conservancy and parks next month.

Member Greene mentioned that if there are any reports out there they don't know anything about, they should certainly have them and they should be made available to everyone.

Member Rogers stated his understanding from last Tuesday's meeting with Culver City was the support of the concept of the park, was not the issue. The issue was the procedural issues and whether or not this document meets the standard of an EIR and follows CEQA guidelines.

#### **b. Review of proposed reductions to the BHC Support Budget:**

Mr. McNeill reported the Conservancy's budget has been further reduced and the general expenses are now down to half, from \$15,000 to \$8,000, facility operations is down \$5,000, consulting and professional budget has gone from \$20,000 - Ø, resulting in a total of \$39,000 in budget reduction. We can safely assume another 15% reduction next year.

Mr. McNeill stated there are two items missing from the Conservancy's files; Ethics Certification Form, and Request For Compensation, or Waiver of Compensation forms, for attending the Baldwin Hills Conservancy public meetings. Mr. McNeill asked the members to please turn in all forms they were given in their initial board packages when the conservancy was first started.

#### **VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Report on Draft By-Laws**

Mr. McNeill stated that at the last meeting, Member Greene proposed a resolution that by-laws be drafted. The chair appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of board members Carrie Chassin, Clare Bronowski, and Mary Ann Greene. The committee came up with guidelines that might be appropriate and have spoken with the Attorney General's office on the by-laws, who felt to adopt them as official might be a difficult process or might be conflicting with the statute itself.

Member Bronowski emphasized they recognize this is a very diverse group and serves regional interest and stated they wanted to find a way there's rotation and sharing of the leadership. The proposal is to have annual elections in May, which makes the term of chair guidelines so the chair of the conservancy would be one of the public servant's current members and the vice-chair can be one of the agencies.

Member Edmiston spoke against the proposal. He recommended starting elections in January, having the full calendar year.

Member Nichols stated that she did not feel it is a good policy to limit the tenure of the chair; as state agencies, governed by state statutes, we should not get into the business of adopting by-laws.

Member Green stated she appreciated Member Edmiston's comment regarding the administrative act. She reiterated the concern for continuity, leadership, and sharing of power. The ad hoc committee was hopeful that they could move the election above the political frame.

We wanted to make sure that all the various interests were represented. Member Green took issue with the comment she thought was made, that you cannot limit the term of office; feels you should be able to limit term.

Member Edmiston replied that a lot of what has been discussed here is prudent to the organization and appropriate, but was concerned that the extra statutory restriction and having an ad hoc meeting, if that meeting is not public, would be a real problem in terms of the public's perception for a few people to get together and decide who the chair and vice-chair will be, which could have some bad ramifications.

The Chair stated there's an item discussed on documentation, any reports that exists, city halls and communities should have them. If it's confidential, should be marked such, if not, should be given to whoever wants it.

The Chair stated that the Board should start honoring community leaders who have worked hard publicly with some sort of certificate in recognition of their support and knowing the budget is bad, volunteered to pay for it. Any member of the board can choose someone who they feel has done leadership work. He reiterated again that for this marriage to work, everyone must be on the same page.

Member Nichols stated she has heard these concerns about not receiving documents and is not aware of any confidential documents. Member Nichols stated if there are documents people feel are being held or not being made available, DPR is prepared to respond and provide them to interested parties.

## **IX. California Department of Parks & Recreation Report**

Ranger Lindsey Templeton apologized to Culver City's Vice-Mayor Carol Gross and Council Member David Hauptman for any confusion they had regarding building permits, and noted they are not building anything soon. They are trying to establish different activities for supervised groups to visit Vista Pacifica. In order to do that, they need to have a road and a parking area. Ranger Templeton stated their long-term goal is to get ranger housing on the site.

Member Treanor stated DPR staff is going to Culver City to find out what the process is as they look at these issues. They do not have a set plan, but a vision and desire to go forward and make these properties usable.

Ranger Lindsey also reported DPR is beginning to do community outreach. They have reached out to LAUSD, and are having their first group coming out on December. 28. They hope that their partnership with Los Angeles County and Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area on the "earth day" event will let people know that State Parks is in the

area, working closely with Los Angeles County Parks. He introduced Ranger Dan Raducanu. Ranger Raducanu stated that he's at the office almost every day, patrolling the area in the neighborhood (basic law enforcement) and checking if there's any soil erosion. Please stop by, if you have any concerns. Ranger Templeton added that they've been re-seeding the areas of the hill.

Lori Bennett (Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area) gave a brief update of the public meeting held on Monday, December 3, for the prescribed burn. The date of the burn, if weather permits, is December 18. December 19 will be the back-up date.

**a. Overview of State Land Acquisition Procedures - TBD:**

Mr. McNeill, no discussion, information item only.

**X. County of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks Report:**

Member Smith (Los Angeles County Parks) stated that between the different agencies (as there's state property and county management of other properties), there's been very effective dialogue (earth day and the controlled burn) to bring together one philosophy, although there are different agencies, it's one park, so congratulations on the county and state staff who's been helping it to make it happen.

Lori Bennett (Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area) gave an update on filming in the park and their educational programs. They continuously have a non-native vegetation removal project going, which they began about five years ago. The first Saturday each month, is an opportunity for the community to be involved and help with this project. She invited all the conservancy members to call her for a guided tour of all their trails.

Member Smith at this time, introduced James Park (County of Los Angeles Real Estate and Acquisitions) to give an update on the Lloyd Property and Findley Property.

**XI. Board Member Comments:**

No comments.

**XII. Public Comments:**

Deeba Hargis (Friends of Baldwin Hills) suggested maybe a website should be created to give the community information from the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

Mr. McNeill stated he would work closely with Ms. Hargis in creating a Friends of Baldwin Hills website.

Mr. McNeill suggested moving the meeting to January 11.

The Chair asked the Board if there were problems with that date. None was presented. Next scheduled meeting will be **January 11, 2002.**

The Chair asked if there were any closed items to be discussed. Mr. Saurenman, at this time, stated that discussions on the status of the Stocker Corridor negotiations would be closed.

The Chair at this time thanked and excused the public from the closed session.

**XIII. Closed Session**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved:

ALBERT VERA  
Chairperson