

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
NOVEMBER 2, 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 November 2, 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, Mary Ann Greene, Carrie Chassin (designee for Mary Nichols), Annette Porini, Steve Treanor, Albert Vera (Interim Chair). Absent was Mike Smith.

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was Nedra Austin (designee for 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

Motion made by the Chair to approve minutes of September 7, 2001. Seconded, all ayes.

IV. Interim Chair Report - Albert Vera

The Chair explained his reason for the cancellation of last month's meeting and asked everyone to rise, before the meeting started, for a moment of silence, to honor those people in New York who were killed last month.

The Chair discussed an item he wanted to introduce; any BHC correspondence should be copied and given to the board, along with the minutes for approval. The Chair stated that the group should get going and start initiating projects that's good for the community and for the state.

V. Deputy Attorney General's Report - Nedra Austin, Deputy Attorney General

Nedra Austin, Deputy Attorney General, (designee for John Saurenman). Re conflict code matter – this item will be brought back to the December meeting with the resolution that it be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for processing. Once submitted to the OAL (Office of Administrative Law), a notice will be published.

VI. Executive Director Report - David McNeill

We have the opportunity today to review the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan aka Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area preliminary plan, which was sent to the Board, as well as the Baldwin Hills Park Advisory Committee. The audience has been given a two-page copy of the plan with basic information. If anyone would like further information, the plan is available on the web or they can review the plan at the Conservancy offices. It's important for this Board to review and make comments or recommendations on the plan.

Mr. McNeill introduced Wayne Woodruff (California State Parks) to give a presentation on the plan. Mr. Woodruff thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to present the preliminary general plan for the Baldwin Hills Park, also referred to as Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, as Mr. McNeill mentioned earlier. He then explained that when the Parks Commission adopts a plan, they adopt a general plan for something they own, which is the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Mr. Woodruff invited questions and feedback during his presentation. The plan met two main objectives when it started off: create a vision of a world-class park, and come up with a plan the Board could use to guide future acquisition and development, and ultimately achieve this vision.

The goals they started out with came from two different places; one being Senator Murray's enabling legislation, in essence authorizing them to prepare it, had nine major goals demanding an increase in active recreational opportunities for the people in the area.

Mr. Woodruff discussed the public access (ingress and egress) designed to try and not cause additional problems, protecting and restoring natural habitat areas, educational components, water quality -- making it good and clean, and restoring industrial lands. Additional things, the public was interested in: economic opportunities and other priorities, which included educational and interpretive opportunities, and public health and safety.

Mr. Woodruff explained how the information was gathered; different input came from different groups and organizations within the community. Worked with landscape architects for design and Green Info for the maps, which were done in GIS format for easy update and retrieval. Discussed different alternatives, before coming up with the preferred alternative as one big park.

Mr. Woodruff explained the various goals for active recreation; sixty acres of multiple use ball fields for soccer and softball, an eighteen-hole golf course, clubhouse and banquet facilities, tennis facilities, and campgrounds.

Ms. Chassin asked questions regarding costs. Mr. Woodruff said they really had not cost some things.

Ms. Amir asked how bad were the effects of the oil operations and would there be major remediation costs incurred. Mr. Woodruff responded that they weren't really allowed nor did he think they were requested to go out on site and do a lot of testing.

Mr. Woodruff talked more about proposed amenities; trams, bicycle and hiking trails, a sculpture garden, biological corridors, shuttle system, and other suggestions for the park.

Someone asked if there was any priority given to the community's preferences and what they would like to see? Mr. McNeill went over the priority preference of what the people requested, listed on Page 82.

Ms. Greene stated the original plan submitted put the golf course on the eastern side, the plan now before the State places it more north and over the La Cienega Pass and asked how would it impact the rest of the plan. Mr. Woodruff stated the placement of the golf course probably would not make a lot of difference. Ms. Bronowski asked about the normal State Parks planning process. Mr. Woodruff answered that the normal State plan is a plan that covers land the State owns.

Someone from the audience expressed the various neighborhoods' concern over the location of the golf course. Mr. Woodruff expressed another concern the various neighbors had were the daylight hours; i.e., how late at night will it be open.

Mr. Woodruff stated that economic opportunities to generate funds could come from the habitat restoration, restaurants, pro shop, golf, vendors, internal trams systems, banquet facilities and catering, coaching, and training. He touched base on park management and the entrances into the park.

Ms. Bronowski asked if one of the purposes of revenue generation would be to provide for park maintenance. Mr. Woodruff answered that it would help offset maintenance costs. Ms. Bronowski then asked if this would also include parking fees. Mr. Woodruff responded that parking fees weren't put down, but, whatever camping or parking fees generated could help offset the costs.

The Chair asked what would be the three main entrances. Mr. Woodruff explained they would be: Fairfax and Stocker, Fairfax and Slauson, and the current La Cienega entrance into Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

Mr. Woodruff went over the Vista Pacifica site, stating it could be used as a visitor center, or possibly a high-class restaurant, and could have hiking trails. Ms. Chassin asked about the plans. Mr. Woodruff explained that the plan wasn't at that level of detail yet. The Chair

expressed that before anything is done, that they get together with the people of Vista Pacifica (Ms. Greene interjected "Blair Hills") to see what they want.

Ms. Chassin asked if there was eminent domain power. Ms. Greene responded that the Conservancy does not. Mr. Treanor stated it's very rarely used by State Parks and most of the bond issues are now expressed in such ways as to prohibit eminent domain from being used.

The Chair stated as to the golf course, Culver City and the County needs to work together, so everyone is aware of each other's intentions. Ms. Greene agreed and felt that it is important for the entities to work together in the interest of the park.

Mr. Woodruff continued with his presentation. Mr. Woodruff stated the Commission needs to adopt a plan that deals with Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, and this Board ultimately needs to adopt a version of the plan, and the master plan needs to be presented to the legislature after January 2002. Mr. Woodruff then concluded his presentation.

IX. Board Member Comments

The Chair congratulated Mr. Woodruff on a terrific job.

Ms. Greene stated that the multi-jurisdiction approach in the original park plan has now been taken out. Wants to see it added back. Seconded by the Chair. The Chair expressed concern about control of management of Culver City parks.

Ms. Porini asked about swimming in the lakes and wanted the lake areas pointed out. Mr. Woodruff pointed them out on the map and then gave clarification to Ms. Greene on the multi-jurisdiction approach.

X. Public Comments:

Carol Gross (City of Culver City): proper EIR needs to be done that addresses the impact of parking.

The Chair wanted to know what the plans were for safeguarding homes from mudslides.

Ms. Bronowksi stated that EIR issues should be addressed to State Parks, not the BHC Board.

Joseph Pannone (City of Culver City) stated that Culver City feels that the plan does not properly address CEQA requirements. Suggested the Baldwin Hills Conservancy address the state with his comments.

Dorothy Steiner stated she is happy with county and state decisions on the park and requested that Vista Pacifica be called Linda Vista.

Mr. Rogers requested an explanation what CEQA is and to explain the difference in the plan names; i.e., Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area General Plan and Baldwin Hills Plan Master Plan.

Ms. Greene defined CEQA.

Mr. Woodruff stated that CEQA is the state law that requires plans to have an Environmental Review, subject to the level of detail in the plan.

The Chair returned to the agenda.

Mr. McNeill discussed Agenda Items 6 – 7. Staff wants recommendation on process of gathering all of the Board members' suggestions, and putting them together to present to State Parks.

Mr. Bentley asked Mr. McNeill if he wanted them to give their comments to him. Mr. McNeill answered "yes," send them to the Conservancy's office.

Mr. McNeill read the Mission Statement and the list of Strategic Objectives. On motion of Ms. Bronowski and duly seconded, the Mission Statement was adopted.

Ms. Greene wants to add sentence to the Mission Statement regarding denying non-complying developments in the park; i.e., power plants.

Mr. McNeill reviewed the flowchart and stakeholder information.

The Chair asked if there were any concerns.

Ms. Bronowski and Ms. Greene commented on charting some overlapping functions in the future.

Mr. McNeill stated the update to SB259 was submitted to the legislature. The bill would increase voting board members to 13. Mr. McNeill also highlighted amendments affecting Ballona Creek, management of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, and Stocker Street.

Ms. Porini corrected Mr. McNeill's statement, indicating the bill will be in the regular legislative session, not the emergency session.

Mr. McNeill stated that SB1602, Prop 40, needs BHC support. Mr. McNeill gave budget update on the Stocker Corridor. Mr. McNeill moved that all powers be delegated to the Executive Officer (Resolution 01-07). Motion carried. Mr. McNeill moved that the BHC support the park bond act (Resolution 01-08). Motion carried

Mr. Rogers requested a copy of prior Resolutions 1 – 6.

David Hauptman (Culver City – City Council) made a statement regarding Item VIII, requesting BHC identify the public resources sections on the agendas, quoting the Brown Act.

Ms. Austin responded that the requirements of the Brown Act were met, and that the information on the Public Resources Code is available to everyone.

Ms. Greene commented that the spirit of the Brown Act would dictate spelling out the section for the public. Ms. Amir and Ms. Bronowski concurred.

Ms. Greene moved to hold Item VIII open for sixty or ninety days to develop policies and procedures for the operation of the BHC. Motion carried.

IX. Closed Session:

No Closed Session.

Motion made to close meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Approved:

ALBERT VERA
Chairperson