

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
FEBRUARY 18, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

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

Prior to roll call, the Chair offered condolences on behalf of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, to Mike Bohlke on the passing of his mother. He also expressed concern and sympathy to Culver City on property damages due to the current storms. The Chair pointed out changes to the scheduled meeting dates and added the evening meetings may be changed to begin at 7:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m.

I. Roll Call

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

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was John Saurenman.

Following roll, Mr. Saurenman swore in Lyn Wallensak, appointed designee for the Director of Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

II. Approval of Minutes - January

Motion made by Member Jones-Sawyer to approve; seconded by Member Arbor. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Proclamation by the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to Member Ta-Lecia Arbor

Member Arbor was awarded with a proclamation recognizing her contribution as past Chair.

IV. Guest Speakers – Senator Kevin Murray and Assemblymember Karen Bass

Senator Murray gave an update on what's going on at the legislature, in particular, the CPR recommendations. He stated that although it seems to be waning, suggested the Baldwin Hills Conservancy continue to operate under the presumption it's still a serious threat. The Senator recommended that the Conservancy complete acquisition transactions to accrue land in its portfolio and continue to push for community support and getting information out to the public regarding the Conservancy's projects. He cautioned that money budgeted for projects be spent or encumbered within the timeline, to avoid losing it.

Assemblymember Bass stated she has put in a spot bill in support of the Conservancy and asked if she could have some of the board members work with her on it. She introduced Daniel Cordozo, Field Representative, who will attend future Conservancy meetings on behalf of her office. The Chair queried members to participate in an ad hoc committee to work with Assemblymember Bass.

V. Public Comments

None.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Authorizing A Grant Amendment, Not to Exceed \$70,000, for California State Parks Foundation to Develop Working Drawings for Development of the Stocker Corridor Conceptual Plan

Mr. McNeill gave background on the resolution. Member Burke made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Member Arbor. Member Greene raised questions on the timetable of the plan and money in the State Parks budget. Member Zaragoza had question of the resolution's compliance with the State Department of Finance's audit. The Chair called for the vote; eight ayes and one nay by Member Zaragoza. Resolution 05-04 passes.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Authorizing the Executive Officer to Offer In-kind Contributions (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lower Ballona Creek Watershed Restoration Feasibility)

Mr. McNeill gave background on the resolution. Motion made by Member Arbor to approve the resolution; seconded by Member Jones-Sawyer. Member Greene had questions on the purpose of the study. The Chair called for the motion, eight ayes and one nay by Member Zaragoza. Resolution 05-02 passes.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action on Incorporation of Recommendations Documented in the Department of Toxic Substances Control Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (Eastern Ridgeline)

Mr. McNeill gave background on the recommendations made by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Motion made by Member Zaragoza to approve the resolution; seconded by Member Schafer. Member Arbor had questions regarding surface rights. The Chair called for the motion; all ayes. Resolution 05-01 passes.

IX. Ad Committee Reports

Negotiations – Member Mount reported on the negotiations of the Lovingfoss property and stated another meeting will be held concerning Senator Murray’s interest in acquisition financing options. **Public Relations** – Member Schafer reported that their committee met and discussed the ways to improve the Conservancy’s newsletter’s; distributing flyers and public outreach efforts, holding ceremonies grant awardees, and possibly hiring a public relations person for the Conservancy. **Board and Staff Development** – The Chair reported their committee met to discuss the topics for April’s meeting, which will be led Jean Prewitt, who’s well experienced in the areas of governance.

X. Executive Officer Report

Mr. McNeill gave his report. Mr. Saurenman elaborated on the State Finance Department’s audit procedures, in regards to their recent audit of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy’s. Member Zaragoza had a question regarding their Finding #1 and was answered. Mr. McNeill then reported on mud slides and erosions in the area due to the recent rainstorms. He stated the areas are being monitored. They can call also 911 for Culver City and will then be connected to State Parks.

XI. Attorney General Report

Mr. Saurenman announced that Form 700 is due April 1. He will circulate the interactive form to the board by e-mail or regular mail.

ADJOURNMENT

XII. Board Member Comments

Member Rogers announced this would be his last meeting, as he’s retiring. His retirement party will be held Thursday, March 31 @ 1:00 p.m., at Culver City’s Senior Center.

The Chair stated he and Member Greene attended a Culver City Democratic Club meeting which featured guest speakers making negative comments about the Conservancy. He has received a call from the Club’s vice-president to attend their March 9 meeting to speak about the Conservancy’s objectives, goals, and work that has been accomplished. Member Schafer and Member Greene agreed that it would be a good idea do a positive constructive discussion of the Conservancy’s activities. Member Jones-Sawyer stated he is a member of the Club and it was important for Conservancy members to attend the March 9 meeting.

Councilmember Carol Gross (City of Culver City) wanted to clarify comments made by the Chair, stating that the Democratic Club meeting was not an evening devoted to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, it was mostly about the candidates’ forum. She and Councilmember Vera were invited to specifically speak on why Culver City had voted to have certain areas removed from the Conservancy’s boundaries and were only given a limited time to so.

The Chair convened the regular meeting at 11:30 a.m. to go into the closed session meeting.

The regular meeting reconvened at 12:45 p.m. and the Chair announced that in closed session certain parcel pieces were discussed. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Approved:

Allan Boodnick
Chair