

**BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY**

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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
of the  
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY  
October 3, 2003**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**I. Roll Call**

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on October 3, 2003, 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 Ann Arbor, Ted Jackson, Kenneth Bentley, Jim Park, Mary Ann Greene, Mary Nichols, Bobbie Parks, Marta Zaragoza, and Reginald Jones-Sawyer. Supervisor Yvonne Burke and Robert Jones arrived after roll call. Absent were: Ruth Coleman, Allan Boodnick, and Tim Gallagher.

The following non-voting members were present: Sara Amir and Don Rogers. Joe Edmiston and Neal Fishman arrived after roll call. Absent were: Paul Mount 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 (July)**

Motion made to approve minutes. Motion carried that minutes stand approved as presented.

**III. Receive and File Correspondence**

Mr. McNeill referenced letter dated September 18, 2003, with comments on West Los Angeles College Facilities Master Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report. The letter was drafted in response to their EIR; the primary issue the road options. Mr. McNeill stated that West Los Angeles College's president, Frank Quiambao, would be attending the meeting to comment on this issue.

**IV. Presentation on the Draft Ballona Creek Focused Special Study – Culver City**

Keith Gurnee made the presentation. Following the presentation, Member Nichols raised the issue of water quality. Mr. McNeill went over the relationship between Ballona Creek and the trail systems of the Baldwin Hills Master Plan. Member Zaragoza expressed the concerns made by Culver City stakeholders and their attempts to meet with Mr. Gurnee. Mr. Gurnee responded to her concerns. Member Amir asked Mr. Gurnee if there were any Brownfields in the area publicly owned; if so, her department has a grant they've received and her department can do free assessments (up to \$3,000), but the application deadline is October 17. The Chair thanked

Mr. Gurnee for the presentation and suggested any further items addressed to Mr. Gurnee be deferred to Mr. McNeill and to make sure that the public is always informed of meetings associated with Ballona Creek. Member Zaragoza noted that Dr. David Rockwell is to be notified of any meetings involving Ballona Creek Development.

#### **V. Public Comment Agenda Items**

Sara Feldman, Southern California Director (California State Parks Foundation) stated the Foundation has received a \$25,000 grant from Trust for Public Land, with a dollar for dollar match in order to be implemented. She and Mr. McNeill hope to apply the grant for development of a trail for the Stocker Corridor project.

On Agenda Item 10, Culver City Councilmember Carol Gross stated they have a number of issues and concerns over the Golf Feasibility Study and that they thought the plan was to be referred back to the task force for review before coming to the board for approval. The Chair stated Councilmember Gross' question would be re-addressed when the agenda item is discussed.

The Chair stated that Agenda Item IX would now be held at this time, to accommodate voting members who needed to leave early.

#### **IX. Election of Vice Chair Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 32558**

Member Nichols briefly went over the Nominating Committee's process for nominating the Chair and Vice Chair and the criteria for serving in those positions. Two candidates were nominated for Vice Chair -- Ted Jackson and Allan Boodnick. The Chair opened the floor to Board members to nominate other choices for Vice Chair; there being none, a motion was made for the nominations closed. Motion carried. Roll call vote was called, results were: three votes for Ted Jackson, four votes for Allan Boodnick, with two members abstaining. Allan Boodnick elected as new Vice Chair.

#### **VI. Executive Officer Report**

Mr. McNeill went over the highlights of his September report and the amendments. Mr. McNeill introduced Jeffrey Harlan, recently hired for the position of Associate Planner for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Mr. McNeill reported that Governor Davis was at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area two weeks ago to hold a press conference for clean air and global warming, along with Washington State Governor Locke, as well as Secretary Nichols and the Secretary for California EPA. The press conference was well attended and Mr. McNeill thanked Anthony Myles, Regional Park Superintendent, California State Parks and County of Los Angeles employees for making it successful.

Following Mr. McNeill's report, Al Austin (Senator Kevin Murray's Office) stated that Senator Murray has agreed there is a need for more legislation to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Board. Senator Murray is interested in proposing a legislation that would simplify, streamline, and clarify the acquisition, contracting, and purchasing process for the agency. Mr. Austin added that Senator Murray is requesting assistance from the Conservancy in developing the language.

## **VII. Deputy Attorney General's Report – John Saurenman**

Mr. Saurenman reported that Nedra Austin has resigned from their office to accept another job offer. His office will do their best to appoint another deputy to attend the Conservancy's meeting in Mr. Saurenman's absence.

## **VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Report**

The Chair asked for board members to volunteer to serve on the two newly formed ad hoc committees: Prop 40 Grants – Ta-Lecia Arbor, Mary Ann Greene, Ken Bentley, and Marta Zaragoza. Legislative Proposals – Joe Edmiston, Robert Jones, Marta Zaragoza, Mary Ann Greene, Don Rogers, Tim Gallagher, Neal Fishman, and Ta-Lecia Arbor.

## **X. Discussion and Possible Action on the Revised Draft Golf Facility Feasibility Study Grant**

Mr. McNeill stated amended copies of the preliminary planning grant of the golf proposal were sent to the task force for review two months prior to this meeting. Minor recommendations were sent by Culver City Parks Department and positive feedback was conveyed from the County of Los Angeles and Environment Now. The purpose of the golf feasibility study is to establish a neutral fiscal agent to act as administrator in the process of hiring consultants. Mr. McNeill would like \$100,000 from Prop 40 funds be made available for a team of golf development experts. He stated it is possible more recommendations are forthcoming from Culver City, yet nothing has been received in writing. Member Nichols made a motion, to be seconded, that \$100,000 be appropriated to Environment Now for the purpose of managing the feasibility study. Concerns from some board members were made regarding Environment Now as agent for the RFP reviews and possibly being a consultant. The Chair asked for a vote to encumber funds in the amount of \$100,000 to be utilized for the Golf Feasibility Study. All ayes, motion carried.

Councilmember Gary Silbiger, Culver City, stated he was not aware of any public comments of a golf course in Culver City or anywhere else, and their city council has not had any public discussions, nor taken any votes on it. He added he hasn't seen any proposals given to their subcommittees or from their subcommittees to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. He stated that any comments from their subcommittee would only be informal and hopefully, in the near future, Culver City will have a public discussion/public comment period taken by their city council on the golf study.

## **XI. Discussion and Possible Action on the Revised MOU for Cooperative Site Planning and Development at Holy Cross Cemetery**

Mr. McNeill stated that he hadn't received an update from Holy Cross. The Chair stated that the item would be deferred until November.

## **XII. Board Member Comments**

Jim Park, Assistant Director, L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation, stated that the soccer field is still underway on the property off Fairfax and should be completed in December; they will have a groundbreaking dedication in January or February 2004. He also stated County Department of Parks and Recreation has been in existence for sixty years and their department will have celebrations throughout 2004.

Member Greene welcomed the new board members and asked the Conservancy to acknowledge past member Clare Bronowski for her contribution and support. She also voiced her support for Senator Kevin Murray's legislation proposals and urged everyone to attend the design workshop on October 4.

Ron Schafer, District Superintendent, Angeles District (California State Parks) introduced Kathleen Franklin, their new Sector Superintendent. Mr. Schafer gave the following updates: Audra Lindsey will be working with Frank Padilla to put together a grant application to use Prop 40 funds for the Stocker Trail Project; Ranger Dan Radacanu is working with the Weeds to Wonder program and have gotten their first 150 native plants; their resource ecologist is meeting with the design team's recreation specialist to come up with a native plant pallet for the landscaping and is also working with his staff on the landscaping around the residence. In addition, she is also working with them on the erosion control efforts. Mike Boyd, their Maintenance Chief, is working on graffiti removal, litter pickup, fire abatement, and brush clearance. Steve White, their new Chief Ranger for the district, has been working with Captain Hank Davies, Culver City Police Department, to come up with a MOU to clarify both their roles in public safety response. Mr. Schafer thanked Member Mary Ann Greene for helping set up the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> with the rangers and residents in the area of the park, that was very productive and opened up dialogue.

Frank Quiambao, President West Los Angeles College (WLA) stated that their draft EIR proposal received lots of comments, particularly, about the possibility of traffic congestion and noise. President Quiambao commented that WLA looked at dozens of possibilities and came up with three possible roads; one which goes through Duquesne and a newly determined dog park (they made a presentation to Culver City's City Council that they would not put the road through the dog park) and two that goes through the Conservancy. West Los Angeles College promises they will not put any roads through the Conservancy without discussion, consensus, input and approval.

The public session adjourned at 12:10 p.m. for the closed session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The public session resumed at 12:40 p.m. The Chair announced during closed session, a development plan from the personnel committee was adopted for the Executive Officer. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Approved:

Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor  
Chair