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BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
October 22, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

I. Roll Call

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 10:15 a.m., 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, Allan Boodnick, Russ Guiney, Mary Ann Greene, Supervisor Burke, Ron Schaefer (for Ted Jackson) and Marta Zaragoza. Kenneth Bentley arrived after roll. Absent: Ruth Coleman, Mike Chrisman, Ted Jackson, Dave Harper, Robert Jones, Reginald Jones-Sawyer, and Bobbie Parks.

The following non-voting members were present: Sara Amir and Paul B. Mount II. Joe Edmiston arrived after roll. Absent: 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.

As there was no quorum, the Chair stated that Agenda Item IV would be heard first.

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Items Not on the Agenda

Kent Fisher, local resident, spoke on Agenda Item 6b, asked who was Environment Now, that he's never heard of them and recommended the public be permitted to comment on any future golf course studies.

Lee Brennan, Hetzler Road resident, stated he was representing both the Hetzler Road and Tompkins Way residents, adding he personally supports being in the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, but his neighbors does not. He has worked with California State Parks and attended the workshops and has gotten support and feedback from them regarding their concerns, but one concern that has not been addressed, is the entrance and the roadway. The residents continue to be concerned about the water pressure being negligible on the hill, the entrance off Jefferson, graffiti, increase in traffic, noise, safety issues and concerns about an urban park being in their backyard.

Member Zaragoza provided for the record, a signed petition by the Hetzler Road and Tompkins Way, with their written concerns.

Councilmember Gross reiterated the issues she shared in the Conservancy's meeting last month. She referenced a comment made that Culver City had refused to sign an MOU and

shared a copy of an MOU, signed in January 2004 by their Chief Administrative Officer, Acting Chief of Police, City Attorney's Office, and their Fire Chief, with contained no signature by California State Parks. Councilmember Gross stated that Culver City met with Blair Hills Homeowners Association last week, which was very positive, representatives from State Parks and their Chief of Police was there, and they had lots of dialogue in working together. She then introduced their Assistant Chief of Police, Bill Burke, to answer any further questions the Conservancy board might have. The Chair asked for the date the MOU was submitted and if the MOU had been submitted to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. Councilmember Gross stated the date of submission was December 25, 2003 and she felt sure it had been (submitted to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy) at that time. The Chair stated in the Conservancy's package today, there was a letter from Senator Murray dated September 15 2004, regarding his follow-up with California State Parks regarding an MOU to provide security in the Baldwin Hills. The Chair further stated that the MOU appeared to be the same one Councilmember Gross had and the Senator's MOU had no signatures. Member Burke suggested to that Culver City should find out who was responsible for forwarding the MOU, who they forwarded it to, and the exact date it was forwarded. Ron Schaefer, California State Parks, was asked if his department ever received it. Mr. Schaefer stated he never saw a signed copy. Member Burke stated it might be easier to sign another copy if they couldn't find the original. Member Greene added that the MOU being discussed should reflect any changes occurring after January 2004. The Chair reiterated the recommendations made by Member Burke and Member Greene and concluded by saying an amendment is to be added to the existing document and circulated to the appropriate parties for signature.

At this time, a quorum was present and the Chair stated that approval of the September's meeting minutes would be heard.

III. Approval of Minutes (September)

Member Zaragoza stated she had a correction to the last page, in the paragraph of Ms. Victoria King of Senator Kevin Murray's office, there was an omission where Ms. King stated, "there was an MOU, but Culver City had yet to sign it." Member Boodnick made motion to approve the minutes to include Ms. King's comment. Member Zaragoza seconded. Motion carried.

Member Greene requested for the record, to state "that there's been a considerable amount of inadequate communication about the MOU and now efforts will be made for the responsible parties to come together to fill it." Member Zaragoza asked the Chair, if it would help, since there are two parties, Culver City and State Parks, if it would be possible to have a liaison from the Conservancy Board between the two bodies. The Chair felt it wouldn't be necessary, as there has been a conscious effort in today's meeting from all the parties concerned to have an amendment made to the document so it can get out. Culver City's Assistant Police Chief Bill Burke, stated for clarification, as there appeared to have been some amendments since they signed the MOU last January, it was his understanding from today's discussions that someone from the State would amend the MOU with the changes. Ron Schaefer, California State Parks, responded it would be handled in any way they (Culver City) liked. Mr. Schaefer further added he knew there had been some discussions with their now retired Chief Ranger and the City of Culver City and there were some disagreement about the things that should be added to the MOU. He stated the State could re-open discussions if Culver City wanted to submit in writing the things they want. Assistant Chief Burke, stated they were satisfied with it, didn't know of any amendments (they have signed it) and if it works for the State, they only needed their

signatures. Mr. Schaefer asked they send it directly to his attention and he would make sure it would be signed. Member Greene suggested the item be put on the Conservancy's agenda periodically. Mr. McNeill recommended setting up a committee to work with the parties involved to facilitate this opportunity. Member Greene and Member Zaragoza volunteered to be on the committee.

IV. Receive and File Correspondence

Mr. McNeill stated he; 1) received a letter/MOU from Senator Kevin Murray, 2) a letter from California State Parks regarding Ted Jackson's promotion to Deputy Director of Park Operations, and 3) press articles from the WAVE and Los Angeles Times on the California Performance Review (CPR) issue as it relates to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy. On the issue of the CPR, he asked that the representative from the Center for Law In The Public Interest (CLIP) who has taken the environmental justice issues on behalf of the conservancies and the voice of the people speak. Erica Flores, Assistant Director for CLIP, stated that on behalf of several community groups, they have looked into the issues and on behalf of community based organizations, homeowner associations, and other activist groups, her organization has submitted public comments to the CPR regarding their recommendations. She gave her contact information and urged anyone with questions to call her. Ms. Flores also referenced the article in today's Los Angeles Times and stated a special will air on KTLA the morning of Sunday, November 14.

V. Consent Calendar

Supervisor Burke made motion that the items be approved. Member Guiney seconded. Motion carried.

VI. Presentation: Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan/Strategies for Implementation

Jeff Harlan, Planner for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy gave the presentation. The Chair felt that Mr. Harlan's report was very informative, as it answered questions on how the Conservancy acquires property and the processes involved.

VII. Discussion and possible action on a resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy for management of the East La Brea Greenbelt

Mr. McNeill stated that this item would be for discussion only. He's been working with County Counsel on the MOU and their timeline for getting the final approval was not conducive to making a decision today. Mr. McNeill gave background information on the property and the grant agreement the Conservancy board had prior approved. He stated that the MOU would give the Conservancy and Los Angeles County Parks the opportunity in deciding how the land would be used and developed. Member Greene asked what communication would there be to ensure that the Conservancy, who are putting up the money to acquire the property, is a real partner to it and if the title is in the County's name, could it be deeded back to the Conservancy. Mr. McNeill referred her to Items 6, 7, and 9 on Page 2, of the MOU. Member Burke stated there were always provisions made where the County manages State land and at any point the State wants to take them back, the County gives them back to the State. She suggested that the agreement contain a provision that should any time the State or the Conservancy wants to take it back, they will have the right to take it back. Mr. McNeill stated that the grant agreement does

have the option to exercise that right. Member Edmiston stated that realistically, the request has to go through the State's Public Works Board to re-acquire on part of the State; it would not be up to the Conservancy board itself to make the decision.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Member Mount stated that the Acquisition Ad Hoc Committee met on September 30 and discussed acquisition strategies and potential/immediate targets, which he would discuss in closed session. In addition, they decided to meet with Plains Exploration Company, which was a very productive meeting. One of the things they are exploring with Plains Exploration Company is an MOU with Plains and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

The Chair announced that the Nomination Committee met to select nominees for the next Vice Chair positions. They selected Reginald Jones-Sawyer and Kenneth Bentley and since, Kenneth Bentley has stepped down. Member Zaragoza, asked the Chair (as there were no oppositions to the office today and there was a quorum) if it would be proper to make a motion to select the two individuals by acclamation. The Chair agreed. Member Zaragoza made a motion to select Member Boodnick and Member Jones-Sawyer as the Vice President by acclamation. Member Edmiston asked if the item was on the agenda. It was noted that the item was not. Member Zaragoza withdrew her motion.

IX. Executive Officer Report – David McNeill

Prior to giving his report, McNeill stated that in response to discussions in last month's meeting about the ATF facility, he had asked the City's Bureau of Sanitation to have someone present at today's meeting to speak and was told they will have a public meeting on November 8, 2004 at 6:30 p.m., at the Baha'i Faith Center on Rodeo Road (5755 Rodeo Road).

X. Deputy Attorney General's Report – John Saurenman

Mr. Saurenman announced that due to his demanding work schedule, another deputy from their office, Roseana Miramontes, would represent the Conservancy and attend the monthly meetings. The Chair thanked Mr. Saurenman for his dedication and welcomed Ms. Miramontes.

IX. Board Comments

None.

The Chair announced at 12:45 p.m., that the meeting would now go to closed session

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair re-opened the regular meeting session at 1:13 p.m. and the Staff Personnel Development Committee met to determine the evaluation of the Executive Officer's performance and will come back with recommendations in December's meeting and no actions was taken. Also in closed session, instructions were given to negotiators regarding the Lovingfoss property acquisition. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Approved:

Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor
Chair