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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

I. Roll Call

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 6:40 p.m. on September 9, 2004.

As there was no quorum at this time, the Chair deferred roll call and discussion of Agenda II and started the meeting with Agenda III.

The Conservancy roll was called, and the following voting members were present: Allan Boodnick, Russ Guiney, Mary Ann Greene, Supervisor Yvonne Burke, Robert Jones, Reginald Jones-Sawyer, and Marta Zaragoza. Members Kenneth Bentley and Bobbie Parks arrived after roll. Absent: Ruth Coleman, Mike Chrisman, Ted Jackson, and Dave Harper.

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was Terry Fujimoto.

Following roll, Terry Fujimoto, State Attorney General Office swore in Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department Interim Director, Russ Guiney.

II. Approval of Minutes (July)

The Chair called for approval of the minutes by the board. All ayes. Minutes of July approved as written.

III. Receive and File Correspondence

Mr. McNeill stated two letters had been received: one from the State Department of Finance regarding Prop 40 bond funds and the other from Environment Now regarding the Planning/Acquisition Development grant.

IV. Public Comment – Agenda Items

Jackie McCain, Culver City resident, voiced concerns over the second access road from West Los Angeles College and made a suggestion where alternate road should start and end. She urged them to consider the safety of the students and residents of Culver City and not have the road come out on Jefferson Blvd. Public comment by Culver City resident, Charles McCain,

was read by the Chair as follows, "Second access to West Los Angeles College, connecting to La Cienega should be the first step before any expansion of the student body because all emergency facilities are in this area."

V. Consent Calendar

Mr. McNeill read the four items on the consent calendar. Member Greene had questions on Item 5a, as to the goal in terms of number of trainees to come from the program, and if the program is ongoing. Mr. McNeill deferred Member Greene's questions to Wendy Talaro, the Naturalist Interpreter for the Baldwin Hills. Ms. Talaro stated that she's hoping to have 30 trainees per session for five trainings, with the first starting in October and invited everyone present to sign up. She added that the total series would consist of twenty-four, one-hour sessions, to be broken up over four consecutive weekends. On Item 5c, Member Greene asked Mr. McNeill for clarification on the acre size and planning efforts. Mr. McNeill stated that the Conservancy is looking at one half of the five-acre site and the City of Los Angeles would retain the other half for an air treatment facility. On Item 5c, Member Zaragoza asked Mr. McNeill to explain the City of Los Angeles' intent for the air treatment facility. Mr. McNeill stated he didn't have any specific details and suggested having a presentation made by the City of Los Angeles at one of the Conservancy's future meetings. Member Zaragoza requested to the Chair to have more information (for public awareness) on what the City of Los Angeles is proposing as part of their treatment facility. Member Jones-Sawyer stated that as the Chief Real Estate Officer for the City of Los Angeles, he couldn't comment or vote on Item 5c, but agreed that someone from the City's Public Works Department should come to a meeting and explain the procedures and acquisition process. He also stated for the record he abstains from voting on 5c. Member Burke made motion to approve the consent calendar items, seconded by Member Zaragoza. Motion carried.

VI. Presentation – West L.A. College Facilities Master Plan (Secondary Access)

Jeff Harlan gave a brief overview of the context of the WLA presentation and brought up representatives from West Los Angeles College and Turner Construction Company. Shari Borchetta, Vice President of Administration, West Los Angeles College spoke on the history of the second access, including how funds were received to improve, expand, and renovate facilities at West Los Angeles College. She stated that the draft EIR would be distributed next week, which will start the forty-five days review and response period and that many of the questions people have are explained in the draft EIR. Anthony Crump, of West Los Angeles College's Consensus Planning Group, explained their group's role in the draft EIR process and stated that there would be upcoming public workshops. Daniel Benavides, Project Manager for Turner Construction, explained all the concepts they considered for the second access road and showed a map of the proposed routes.

Member Zaragoza stated that Hetzler Road residents and Jefferson Corridor businesses were concerned with the lack of traffic signal lights along Jefferson Blvd., would cause safety issues with an increase of students. Member Zaragoza asked if there was a proposal in the draft EIR to provide for signal lights at Hetzler and Jefferson. She also asked that they contact individual businesses on Jefferson from Rodeo through Sepulveda and asked if there was an alternate proposal if access through Vickers and the other routes, assuming they don't acquire the land. Ms. Borchetta responded to her first concern that maximum head count of enrollment would be 15,000; answering her second question she responded that every budget or planning has a component for mitigation, which their plan has and is included in the EIR, and lastly, any business not included in their distribution they will go back and include them.

More concerns regarding the second access road was voiced by Culver City residents, especially the idea of shortcuts being taken on major thoroughfare to get to and from the college and ownership of the road.

Councilmember Gross (City of Culver City) felt a secondary access road is needed and when Culver City Council voted on comments in the first draft EIR, they made clear that the second road was necessary; they feel there should be no connection with the secondary access road entrance to the college and the Overland entrance. They are also concerned about the forty-five days comment period and the City has formally written to request a sixty days comment period.

Member Zaragoza made a motion for the Conservancy to suggest to West Los Angeles College to consider extending the forty-five days comment period to a sixty days comment period. Motion seconded by Member Greene. The Chair announced there was a motion and a second to suggest extending to sixty days from forty-five days and called for the vote. One aye from Member Zaragoza, Member Bentley - no, Member Jones – abstained. Motion not carried.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Mr. McNeill read into record the letter written by the Conservancy Chair, Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor. He gave an update on the acquisition priority parcels being negotiated to date.

VIII. Executive Officer Report – David McNeill

Mr. McNeill gave his written report and Jeffrey Harlan gave an update on the planning projects; the Stocker Corridor Community Planning Project (there will be two public workshops – September 18 and October 7) and the Linkage Access Study. He will be scheduling meetings to get relevant landowners, county, city, as well as other interested parties input on specific issues when it gets closer to the program design and development. He also stated that Barney Matsumoto (California State Parks) informed him that the preliminary planning phase is almost completed for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook; once completed, California State Parks will be looking to have working drawings developed and when completed, full bid packages can be sent out for bids for construction.

IX. Deputy Attorney General's Report – John Saurenman

Nothing to report.

X. Board Member Comments

Member Zaragoza acknowledged and welcomed Councilmember Bernard Parks. She then thanked the Conservancy Chair, Ta-Lecia Arbor, for her letter and commented on the third paragraph. She suggested the Conservancy meet monthly, so that the public can have access to information that may not be obtained individually. She also stated she hoped Mr. Esterly would stress in his report that the public needs to comment to the Conservancy board their wishes, either reduce the meetings to six weeks interval or to remain monthly.

Member Jones-Sawyer commented on the upcoming audit and stated he would work with Mr. McNeill and requested of other board members who's gone through an audit, to also work with Mr. McNeill.

Member Guiney stated he was glad to be back as the Interim Director for the Los Angeles County Department.

Member Greene welcomed Member Guiney back and acknowledged Councilmember Bernard Parks. She relayed concerns on behalf of Blair Hills' residents -- the problems on the perimeter and the impact Culver City's relationship with the State will have on the protection and security of people along the perimeter of the park. She asked that the Conservancy board members lend their hands and support their efforts to have the kind of law enforcement security along the perimeter that will include the primary patrolling of the park.

Member Jones acknowledged the attendance by Culver City residents and their concerns and thanked them for coming out, as their participation will help the Conservancy board bring the best service to them.

The Chair commented that in the last Conservancy meeting it was suggested to know what the Joint Powers Authority do and how they interact with the Conservancy and said the presentation would be made in October's meeting.

Councilmember Parks spoke of the 8th District's interest in the Conservancy and announced that the City Council wanted to know how they could lend their voices and weight in dealing with the proposed budget cuts coming from Sacramento. He stated his district supports the project, which deals with the land on the east side of La Brea on the Corridor between Stocker and Jim Gilliam Park. His office found the property was in arrears and the City has allowed the County to take control of the property. He further stated they are hoping the Baldwin Hills Conservancy will buy the property from the County and develop it into a green space and walking trails

Councilmember Gross touched on the safety and security issues, which Member Greene had spoke on. She cited an incident occurring recently, coming from the area of the park, which is State property.

Victoria King of Senator Murray's office responded their office had heard about the incident and immediately contacted Culver City Police Department (which holds jurisdiction). They are in conversation with California State Parks to make sure that an MOU with Culver City Police Department is expedited as soon as possible.

The Chair called for the motion to adjourn; Member Zaragoza made motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Rogers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved:

Allan Boodnick
Chair