

Draft

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING *of the* BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY April 1, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

I. Roll Call

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 6:30 p.m., on April 1, 2004, at the Foundation for the Junior Blind, 5300 Angeles Vista Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90043.

Prior to roll, Vice Chair Boodnick announced he would be chairing tonight's meeting. He also announced as a quorum of voting members was not met at this time, the meeting would proceed on items not requiring a vote.

The Conservancy roll was called, and the following voting members were present: Allan Boodnick, Jim Park, and Bobbie Parks, and Marta Zaragoza. Kenneth Bentley, Ted Jackson, Robert Jones. Absent: Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor, Ruth Coleman, Mike Chrisman, Tim Gallagher, Mary Ann Greene, Supervisor Yvonne Burke, and Reginald Jones-Sawyer.

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was John Saurenman.

The Chair point out that Items 8 & 10, would be taken together with Item 9 following.

III. Receive and File All Correspondence

Mr. McNeill reported that a letter was received from the Urban Education Partners, which is part of Agenda Item 10.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

V. Deputy Attorney General's Report – John Saurenman

Mr. Saurenman had nothing to report.

VI. Ad Hoc Committee Report

Mr. McNeill stated that the Planning Committee had met and discussed developing a project comprehensive matrix for development projects in the Baldwin Hills. He also reported that the Acquisition Ad Hoc Committee would be meeting tomorrow, Friday, April 2.

VII. Executive Officer Report

Mr. McNeill went over the highlights of his report and a recap of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Board Workshop. As part of his report, Jeff Harlan gave a PowerPoint presentation of the planning influences around the Baldwin Hills.

II. Approval of Minutes (March)

At this time, the Chair formally called the meeting to order, as a quorum was present. Roll was called again. A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes. Motion carried

IX. Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Recommending the Following Staff Proposed amendments to SB 1259 - Murray

Mr. McNeill outlined the details of the proposal with emphasis on two items that would assist the Conservancy in acquisition efforts. Mr. McNeill stated the resolution would help the acquisition process move more quickly and efficiently. Victoria King of Senator Murray's office stated that if the board made a decision on some language regarding the acquisition process, Senator Murray's office would consider it and work with the Conservancy to help streamline the process. Further, Senator Murray wanted to make clear that he never discussed the subject of eminent domain. Motion made and seconded to approve Resolution 04-07. Member Broughton asked if under the current process was the Conservancy dependent upon state appraisers. Mr. McNeill explained the process. Member Zaragoza wants assurance to constituents that while it's open to include certain language on SB 1259 bill, there is no future consideration to include eminent domain by the Conservancy. Member Rogers voiced concerns about the risk in expediting board action on this item. Member Bentley stated he was in favor of moving forward now on the bill immediately. Motion called again to approve Resolution 04-07 as written. Motion carried.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action on Revisions to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy 2003-04 Strategic Plan Proposed at the March Board Workshop

Mr. McNeill stated that based on the information exchange at the workshop, the Conservancy Board is very engaged in finding projects that meet the Conservancy's goal to acquire and develop land and create educational opportunities to enhance recreation in the Baldwin Hills. The proposed amendment to the Strategic Plan is an education initiative which promotes the idea of increasing awareness on State directed watershed conservation efforts including land acquisition, habitat restoration, and water quality enhancement. The three components of the initiative proposed are curriculum development, needs assessment, and capital improvement projects. Mr. McNeill stated that \$100,000 would be set aside for planning and development of the curriculum, \$50,000 set aside for research and needs analysis similar to the

assessment of the Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway Enhancement Study; and \$250,000 for Capital Improvement for the design and construction of an outdoor classroom facility in the Baldwin Hills. Motion made to approve the amendment to the Strategic Plan. Motion seconded and carried.

X. Consideration of a Resolution Recommending the Board Authorize a Grant for An Environmental Education Initiative

Mr. McNeill recommended that the board approve Resolution 04-08, and authorize the Prop 40 grant of \$400,000 to Urban Educational Partners, to administer the environmental educational initiative. Board members Broughton and Zaragoza had questions on how the money was determined and if an RFP was sent out. Mr. McNeill addressed their questions. Member Park felt the capital improvement component should be a separate item from the other two components and asked Mr. McNeill to address it. Mr. McNeill clarified how the components were connected and explained that the Conservancy, as the agent, would be directing the capital improvement project. Motion made and seconded to approve the initiative. Motion carried.

XI. Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Authorizing a Grant Match of Proposition 40 Funds for a Transportation Enhancement Application

The Chair announced that this item would not be heard.

XII. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

David Rockwell, Culver City resident, representing the Creek Side Neighborhood Alliance, gave a power point presentation of his group's concerns and recommended changes to the Ballona Creek Special Focus Study conducted by the City of Culver City. The Chair asked Mr. McNeill if the City of Culver City had submitted a proposal to the Conservancy on these issues. Mr. McNeill stated there had not been any new information from Culver City in regards to the General Plan amendment and the creek. Mr. McNeill also stated he understood that Culver City is making revisions to their Focus Special Study on Ballona Creek, but hasn't seen any information on it. The Chair informed Mr. Rockwell that the Conservancy board would try to expedite action on it.

June Walden, Culver City resident, expressed her support of the enhancements proposed by the Culver City Study on Ballona Creek.

Jim Lamm, President of the Ballona Creek Renaissance and Culver City resident, stated many others support the Culver City Study on Ballona Creek, and look forward to working together to form a solution.

XIII. Board Comments

Members Jones stated that the concerns of Culver City residents are very important and that the board will work diligently to provide the support and aid that will enhance the project and development of Ballona Creek.

Member Jackson deferred to Ron Schafer, Angeles District Superintendent, for California State Parks' report. Superintendent Schafer gave updates on the following: improvements to Hetzler Road, installation of trees and landscaping at Shedd Terrace residences; area clean up around Shedd Terrace residences; Stocker Corridor Project team has reviewed RFQ's; Notice of Determination of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, State Parks Environmental Impact Report will be posted on the DPR website in upcoming weeks; the architectural engineering contract design and development of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook/State Park, should be approved in April by DGS; graffiti removal at the entrance on Wrightcrest; and a clean-up day with Weeds To Wonder scheduled for April 24.

Member Zaragoza stated as a board member, she would like the Conservancy to work in an objective and inclusive manner regarding the regional aspects of the Park.

Member Parks stated the concerns of Culver City residents would be heard and she and the other Board members would work hard to make sure their concerns are carefully looked into.

XIV. Closed Session

The Chair announced this item would not be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Approved:

Allan Boodnick
Vice Chair