

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
6133 Bristol Parkway, Suite 301
Culver City, CA 90230
Phone: (310) 641-3497

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
DECEMBER 4, 2003

CALL TO ORDER

I. Roll Call

Prior to roll call, Ron Schaefer, Angeles District Superintendent, California State Parks, introduced Barney Matsumoto, Project Manager for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook site. Mr. Matsumoto gave a summary of the design team and meetings held and creating different proposals to present to the public and announced the presentation will show the final results. Ricardo Rabines, of Safdie Rabines, introduced his staff and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the designs for the 68-acre site.

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 7:15 p.m. on December 4, 2003, at The Foundation for the Junior Blind, 5300 Angeles Vista Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90043.

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

The following non-voting members were present: Neal Fishman, Paul Mount, and Don Rogers. Absent: Sara Amir, Joe Edmiston, 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 (November)

The Chair entertained the motion for approval of November's minutes. Motion made and carried.

III. Receive and File Correspondence

Mr. McNeill stated that two letters had been received today from Culver City regarding Agenda Item No. 6 and would be entered into the minutes as written:

December 4, 2003

Ms. Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor, Chair
Baldwin Hills Conservancy
6133 Bristol Parkway, Suite 301
Culver City, CA 90230

**Subject: Agenda Item #6 – December 4, 2003 Meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy:
City of Culver City Grant Application for the Blair Hills Park Project**

Dear Ms. Arbor and Members of the Board:

Thank you for presenting the opportunity to apply for a Baldwin Hills Conservancy Prop. 40 Grant. The City of Culver City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department submitted a grant application for the Blair Hills Park Project, which is located within the Baldwin Hills Conservancy's boundaries. The City has also been notified of the Conservancy's *Grants Ad Hoc Committee's* recommendation not to fund this project. However, City staff believes that the project is viable for grant funding.

Culver City's Blair Hills Park and residential neighborhood are adjacent to the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Project, which is considering linkages to Culver City parks. The proposed project recommends replacing the decaying picnic pavilion and restrooms and constructing a new community room/exhibit space at Blair Hills Park. The picnic and restroom facilities at Blair Hills Park need to be upgraded so that the increased number of park users associated with the Scenic Overlook project would have an opportunity to enjoy the Blair Hills park facilities in an more improved condition than they are today.

Finally, the BHC Grants Ad Hoc Committee states that the Blair Hills Park project "may be a potential candidate for funding in a future grant program." City staff hopes that the Conservancy will consider hosting public hearings in the development of future grant program guidelines. Conducting public hearings for this purpose would be helpful in engaging grant applicants earlier on in the process. This practice is beneficial and would be consistent with Prop. 40 grant funded programs administered by the State of California Parks and Recreation Department. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shelly W. Chagnon
Senior Management Analyst

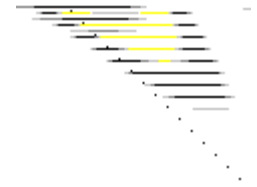


PAM KEYES

Public Works Director and
City Engineer



9770 CULVER BOULEVARD, 2ND FLOOR
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA 90232-0507



Phone (310) 253-5635
FAX (310) 253-5626

December 4, 2003

Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor, Chair
Baldwin Hills Conservancy
6133 Bristol Parkway, Suite 301
Culver City, CA 90230

Regarding Agenda Item 6: Discussion and possible action on Ad Hoc Committee recommendations for BHC Specified Prop 40 grant awards. City of Culver City Grant Application for the Ballona Creek Pedestrian Bridge Landscape Project

Dear Ms. Arbor and members of the Board:

The City of Culver City is respectfully requesting your approval of our grant application for a minor project under the Resources Stewardship of the California Clean Water, Clear Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002, Proposition 40. The City is requesting \$99,000 of grant funds for the landscape and irrigation of the south approach of the Ballona Creek Pedestrian Bridge project located at the intersection of Ocean Drive and Westwood Boulevard in Culver City. The area is located within the jurisdiction of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

The goal of this project is to involve the School District, local community, and Ballona Creek Renaissance, a non-profit organization, to volunteer planting the native plants at the site and maintaining the site. The proposed landscaping will beautify the area at an important location where student drop-off and pickup point occurs and provide an opportunity for education of the area and responsibility for maintenance. The City of Culver City will promote community participation in the establishment of the native plants at the project site. The City will work with the School District and community members by sending letters or flyers encouraging residents and students to volunteer to plant at a scheduled event, and then maintain the new landscaping at the project site, all through the education and supervision of a landscape contractor. The letters or flyers will include reasons for the importance of the project and for community participation, such as ecological value and opportunities for education for School students on Ballona Creek and its connection to the Baldwin Hills.

The City received several major grants from various agencies for the design and construction of the new Pedestrian Bridge at the project location. The City received \$520,000 from the State Coastal Conservancy for the design and construction of the Pedestrian Bridge at the project location. Also the City received \$150,000 from the California Department of Parks and Recreation – Recreational Trails Grant. Another \$250,000 was received from the Federal Transportation Enhancement Act Grant, through the MTA Tip Call for Projects. The City of Culver City also contributed about \$350,000 to the Bridge project. This important project is almost completed and serves as an important link to the bike trail, the Pacific Ocean, and to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy jurisdiction.

The landscape application is supported by the Culver City Unified School District, members of the School District Board, Ballona Creek Renaissance, STAR Education, and STAR ECO Station. These groups will volunteer and help to sustain the project that is at an important location within the Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

Please consider our application for approval.

Sincerely,

Matt Gaspar
Associate Engineer/Project Manager
City of Culver City

IV. Public Comment – Agenda Items

David Rockwell, resident of Culver City, voiced concerns over the Culver City Ballona Creek and Trail Special Focused Study. He and other residents feel the conceptual study done by consulting firm RRM are severely flawed and there are inconsistencies in the report. They feel the study in its current draft will put the residents at risk with the noise, and public safety. He has put together a brief for the Mayor of Culver City and the CAO. The Chair informed Mr. Rockwell that the Conservancy Board had received his e-mails and was concerned as well. She informed Mr. Rockwell that the BHC did not have this item on its agenda and the only official action on the plan would be taken by the Culver City Council at their upcoming meeting and encouraged him and his constituents to be present.

Jim Lamm, resident and President of Ballona Creek Renaissance, voiced his support of the City of Culver City's application for Prop 40 funds for landscaping/resource stewardship project at Ballona Creek and the pedestrian bridge. He shares some of the concerns made by Mr. Rockwell and he sees some of the improvements made, i.e., pedestrian bridge/landscaping, as ways to alleviate these concerns and looks forward to working with the Conservancy, residents, and school kids to make the Park-to-Playa connection work together.

V. Ad Hoc Committee Report

Mr. McNeill stated five applications were received for the park improvement projects in the Baldwin Hills. Mr. McNeill went over the committee's process for the evaluation criteria and the determination made in regards to the applications. Mr. McNeill briefly went over the applications that were received and the recommendations made by the Prop 40 Ad Hoc Committee for each

grant application for approval by the board in tonight's meeting. The Chair thanked Mr. McNeill for reviewing the Ad Hoc Committee report and read a public comment to be entered into the record regarding Agenda Item VI: "Mim Shapiro, Blair Hills Association, 5922 Wrightcrest Drive, Culver City, 90232," "In favor of the study being accepted as a road map for the further progress to greening the creek and moving this area as a productive and beneficial use and enhancing the quality of life for all the urban area."

VI. Discussion and Possible Action on Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations for BHC Specified Prop 40 Grant Awards

The Chair entertained the motion for discussion and/or possible action on the Ad Hoc Committee's Recommendations on the Prop 40 Grants to approve two of the five proposals. Motion made to approve the recommendation. Motion seconded to accept the two grant proposals; Native Plant and Wildlife Garden Walk; the Eastern Ridgeline Development. Member Greene made a suggestion for the criteria in the next round of funding to consider larger and broader issues of connectivity and infrastructure necessary to support development of a park. Member Rogers stated Culver City Parks was disappointed their grant was one that was not accepted and asked Mr. McNeill for something from the committee as to why the proposal wasn't eligible so they won't make the same mistake again. Mr. McNeill said the committee could provide further information on the criteria set forth on the grant application. Member Jones-Sawyer recommended continuing to look for additional resources for people wanting to add to the park. The Chair expressed that they were not turning down the ideas of the three proposals, just that the two accepted applications met the criteria and the committee will take all the comments made tonight into consideration to the next grant cycle. Member Bentley suggested a session for people interested in submitting grants to discuss with them the process and to have a workshop set up for that activity.

Hearing no further comments, the Chair stated that it had been moved and seconded to accept the recommendations of the ad hoc committees for funding of the Native Plants and Wildlife Greenwalk and Eastern Ridgeline projects. Motion carried.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Authorizing the Executive Officer to Negotiate and Enter into Contracts With Grantees for implementation of Board Approved Prop 40 Grant Projects in the Baldwin Hills

Motion made and seconded to approve resolution. Motion carried.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action On a Resolution Approving the Draft Report to the Legislature on the Potential Environmental and Recreational Uses of Ballona Creek Pursuant to Public Resources Code 32556 Subdivision (e)

Mr. McNeill stated he didn't have the complete draft and no action was required.

IX. Executive Officer Report

Mr. McNeill informed the board that the new Secretary for the Resources Agency is Mike Chrisman. Mr. McNeill noted some significant items contained in his report.

X. Deputy Attorney General's Report

Mr. Saurenman had three items to discuss: 1) Reminder that information conveyed in closed sessions is confidential and is not to be shared outside the Conservancy. The Conservancy

Board can authorize that information from closed sessions be made public, but first it must be voted public information by the Board; 2) When members attend other stakeholder meetings, unless specifically authorized by the Conservancy to speak as a representative of the Conservancy, member opinions are not representative of the Conservancy; 3) Reminder that all members will have to file Form 700. Mr. Saurenman hopes to be able to distribute them in January's meeting and will need them returned to him by mid-February.

XI. Board Member Comments

Member Jackson deferred to Ron Schaefer, who deferred to Mike Boyd to give the State Parks report. Mr. Boyd started off by giving Ranger Dan Radacanu's report on the Weeds-to-Wonder meeting held last week and the progress they are making with the program and students. Mr. Boyd gave Barney Matsumoto's report on the interpretive program for the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and the interpretive analysis for the site has been written and sent to various people in DPR for comments. Mr. Boyd reported that the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook area office is nearing completion and most of the infrastructure is in and will include an ADA ramp for disability access; the home site on Shedd Terrace is also nearing completion -- curbs, gutters, and fencing is being installed. Mr. Boyd asked that any suggestions or questions be directed to him. Someone from the audience asked when the next coffee with the Rangers would be held; Member Greene answered the Rangers Coffee Hour be Saturday, December 13, from 9:00 a.m. –11:00 a.m. and encouraged residents and others to come out.

Member Mount stated he expects the Acquisition Ad Hoc Committee will have a report to give in the next meeting, as well as the final report that the State Lands Commission is working on.

Member Zaragoza requested if equal time could be given to David Rockwell (he represents residents in various Culver City neighborhoods) to make a presentation in an upcoming Conservancy meeting. Also, in the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overview presentation, there was no emphasis of accessibility to the center for the handicapped is made available and asked to increase the number evening meetings to allow more working people from the community to attend.

Member Rogers asked when would the Golf Feasibility Study be available for board action. Mr. McNeill responded that board action was taken to allocate \$100,000 and the funds are being encumbered. The Conservancy is prepared to move forward, but would like written comments back from concerned task force members.

Member Parks, County Department of Parks and Recreation, reported they were hoping to deliver the soccer fields before Christmas, maybe now a couple more months. They are still working on them.

Member Jackson responded to comments raised by a board member on ADA/disability issues at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, that the State has to be in compliance with ADA by law, so everything that be made accessible, will be made accessible and can provide the information to her when she requests.

XII. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Lee Brennan and Stefan Freeman, residents on Hetzler Road, raised their concerns about traffic and accessibility to their residences after hours. They also voiced concerns about how the utilities would affect their water pressure, their privacy being protected, and assurance for alternate way on and off Hetzler Road. They asked the Board to make sure that their concerns are addressed.

Carolyn Hamilton, South Coast Air Coast Quality Management District, invited everyone to their town hall meeting scheduled for January 20, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the Baldwin Hills Branch Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair announced that the next scheduled meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Approved:

Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor
Chair