

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
OCTOBER 4, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

I. Roll Call

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on, at Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

The Conservancy roll was called, and the following voting members were present: Kenneth Bentley, Jim Park (for Tim Gallagher), Mary Ann Greene, Carrie Chassin (for Mary Nichols), Annette Porini (via conference call), and Steve Treanor. Ta-Lecia Ann Arbor arrived after roll was taken. Absent were: Tim Gallagher, Ruth Coleman, Clare Bronowski, and Mary Nichols.

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was Nedra Austin (for John Saurenman).

II. Approval of Minutes (September)

Prior to approval of minutes, the Chair asked that a correction be made to September 12, meeting minutes under Section 5, Consent Calendar, to read, "The Chair entertained the motion to approve." "Motion was made by other members to approve the plan."

Motion was made by member to approve September meeting minutes with the noted changes, motion carried.

III. Receive and File All Correspondence

Nothing received.

IV. Approval of Proclamation

A proclamation was read and presented by the Chair to Lori Bennett, Regional Recreation Director for Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, for her outstanding and dedicated work as Park Superintendent for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

V. Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Partnership with West L.A. College for Planning and Development

Mr. McNeill gave a brief summary of the purpose of the draft MOU. The BHC and WLA share a number of mutual objectives. Working with President Quiambao, staff has drafted an MOU that focuses on access to the western ridgeline and leveraging funding, planning, and information for education opportunities on the Baldwin Hills at the colleges science department.

Member Chassin asked what was West L. A. College's budget for the feasibility study. President Quiambao answered they are working with consultants on the educational master plan, facility plan, and infrastructure and are currently spending close to one half million dollars for the campus facility master plan.

At this time, the Chair acknowledged Assemblyman Rob Wright, who spoke on the efforts started by Gwen Moore, Senators Murray and Hayden, and getting the Black Caucus to agree there was a need for a the park.

On the facility section, Mr. McNeill emphasized parking and the possibility of moving the conservancy's office into the college's science facility for office space and work in collaboration in developing curriculum and laboratory facilities for students as well. Member Porini wanted to make sure that Mr. McNeill was aware that when state entities look for office space, they have to work through the Department of General Services. On the curriculum section, Member Treanor stated one of his concerns is the number of different agencies available as resources for education as it relates to the park property and feels the potential resources should be more inclusive.

On grants and financial support, Mr. McNeill stated no one has figured out how to finance the construction of any roads from the public lands to the north of the college. Baldwin Hills Conservancy is hoping to do some grant matching to assist in facilitating some of the education programs and/or the Baldwin Hills Conservancy office space. The Chair feels future discussion will be needed on how the prop 40 funds would be allocated. Member Chassin suggested contacting Cal Start for grant money.

Mr. McNeill went over the map acquisition, pointing out the connection between the public lands and the college, using access through the western ridgeline. Member Amir asked Mr. McNeill if the areas contained contamination, as any environmental studies would be expensive. Mr. McNeill stated that he wouldn't know until permission was given by the owners to access the property. Member Amir stated property owners are responsible for mitigating the contamination and her department (Toxic Waste and Substance Control) are doing some site screening in the Baldwin Hills area to locate contaminated areas and could work with Mr. McNeill to designate any contaminated areas. Member Amir also felt it would be a good idea to have a voluntary agreement with the conservancy and her department to review all the parcels to make sure the conservancy does not acquire any contaminated land.

The Chair asked Mr. McNeill to prepare a modified agreement to the MOU to be put onto the next month's consent calendar for discussion and action. Member Treanor asked that the document be e-mailed to the board members, so they could incorporate their comments to the MOU, before submitting it to West Los Angeles College.

VI. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Marta Zaragoza, Culver City resident, raised concerns about contamination in the soil (she cited the Belmont High contamination) and requested assurance that the emergency access road, will not impact use of the parks (Culver City or Kenneth Hahn). She also stated there were active and non-active oil lines on the property. Member Amir addressed her concerns about contamination, stating that nothing like the Belmont High incident would occur here. The Chair added that the conservancy was created to represent the community's vision and that safety was a top priority for this agency.

VII. Deputy Attorney General's Report – Nedra Austin

Nothing to report.

VIII. Executive Officer Report

Mr. McNeill went over his written report, which covers the news articles on the approval of the Baldwin Hills Master Plan, community projects staff is currently involved in, budget information, and Prop 40 and Prop 50.

IX. Planning & Development

a. Vista Pacifica

The Chair asked the following to be read into record; "Dear Chair and Members:" "I have been a resident of Culver City for 36 years and served as the Blair Hills Association's representative to the Baldwin Hills Advisory Committee, later named the Kenneth Hahn advisory committee for over 10 years." "In 1968 Kenneth Hahn first thought of a regional park while driving along La Cienega Blvd. and was pleased to see the park becoming a reality." "It was through funds from state bonds that much of the land began to be purchased for his dream. I and my neighbors hope to see more of this dream come true." Sincerely yours, Dorothy Steiner.

- i. Interim planning – District Superintendent Russ Guiney stated they are working on immediate public use facilities at the Vista Pacifica site, (parking lot, trailhead, trail to top of the hill, and picnic tables, and sanitary facilities) projects are moving along. They are working with Culver City very closely, so that the parking lot near Hetzler Road on Jefferson, meets all concern of the Public Works Department. The trail crew has completed a foot trail to the top of the hill and they are beginning to re-vegetate and restore those areas. They expect to have the parking lot completed and open for public access in six – eight weeks. On short-term planning – they have two educational programs for schools; Weed to Wonders, and School-to-School. The Chair expressed concern about the lack of a MOU with Culver City Police and asked for an update. Superintendent Guiney stated they've completed and signed a MOU with the Culver City Fire Department, which includes some equipment and things that State Parks will provide to facilitate their response onto the property. They have had discussions with Culver City Police Department about a MOU and feels they will have a MOU with Culver City Police Department shortly. The peace officer residence is moving along and should be finished within five – six months. Superintendent Guiney then announced he will be leaving State Parks to start employment with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department as Chief Deputy Director and introduced Hayden Shom, who will be the Acting Superintendent and Steve White, who is responsible and oversees the rangers who work at Vista Pacifica.

- ii. Long-term planning – Esther Feldman (Community Conservancy International) announced CCI will be leading the design effort for the Vista Pacifica project. They have selected the architects and teams of sub consultants (civil engineers, restoration consultants, traffic consultants, financial estimator) to help figure out how to develop the site. She stated a very important part of the project is to have the community active and public agency involvement. The design team (State Parks, Baldwin Hills Conservancy, City of Culver City, County of Los Angeles, landscape architects, CCI) will meet on a regular basis to oversee the design process and will hold a series of public workshops; the first one is scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2003. They will also meet on a regular basis with the Citizens Advisory Committee, chaired by Mr. McNeill. They will also meet individually with homeowner organizations and other key groups.

X. Existing Facilities & Improvements

Member Park stated they held their groundbreaking ceremony with Supervisor Burke for their soccer field complex. He pointed out their ball field, soccer fields, and structure locations on site maps. Member Park noted that across the street from the soccer fields, the county owns eight acres and are soliciting RFP's by end of the year for development of a driving range, Frisbee golf range, and a batting cage complex. Member Arbor asked if Stocker Resources still owns property where the eight acres are. Member Park stated the county owns 31 acres in fee title and the eight acres on the site across Fairfax; Stocker Resources owns the remaining acres surrounding their property. Member Edmiston stated this was an important example of urban and natural park interaction; Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation moving ahead and providing urban recreation interface where the private sector can get involved and plus have State Parks cooperation, who is a premier natural park provider. He feels it shows the appropriate balance of responsibilities in urban parks. Member Edmiston feels the appropriate role of the conservancy, is to maybe not only be the expenditure of money, but be a forum where all parties can come together on a monthly basis and all do what they do best to optimize the entire circumstance, rather than asking one department to do certain things. The Chair agreed and thanked Supervisor's Burke's office and Mike Bohlke (Supervisor Burke's representative) for giving the leadership.

XI. Policy

- a. Role of the BHC – The Chair stated this issue was placed on the calendar as agendized and continued from last month's meeting to discuss the many entities actively engaged and involved in the Baldwin Hills area. The committee formed to address these issues was not able to meet. Member Arbor recommended agendizing for the next meeting. The Chair agreed to put the item over.

XII. Board Members Comments

Member Treanor stated he's retiring from State Parks and this would be his last meeting with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and thanked the conservancy for allowing him to serve. The Chair thanked and commended Member Treanor on his helpfulness, years of experience, expertise, and sensitivity to issues that affect and impact the development of the urban park. Member Arbor also acknowledged Member Treanor and Superintendent Guiney and thanked the community members who attended the evening meeting last month. Member Chassin thanked both Member Treanor and Superintendent Guiney.

Member Bentley stated he and Chair Greene met with Mike Bohlke and Supervisor Burke, and were pleased to hear of her commitment to the park and what the conservancy is trying to accomplish.

XIII. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Marta Zaragoza spoke behalf of East Culver City Neighborhood Alliance, requesting the Conservancy make available on or before October 25th, a written clarification of the sewer drain and lighting plans that will impact Culver City, Ladera Heights, and Los Angeles. Her group would also like to have the specific master plan for the proposed West Los Angeles access road. The Chair responded that discussions on the specifics have yet to occur and the conservancy is in the beginning stages of developing a legal relationship with West Los Angeles College. The Chair stated the she and conservancy members would be very happy to speak to the alliance and as the park evolves and develops and would want them to have the information when it is available. Right now, it's beyond the conservancy scope and capability as details have not yet been proposed.

The Chair at this time called the public meeting to close at 11:55 a.m. to go into closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair reopened the public meeting 12:50 p.m. The public was advised that acquisition strategies were discussed during closed session. There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Approved:

Mary Ann Greene
Chairperson