

BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY

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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
September 12, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER

I. Roll Call

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order at 6:45 p.m., on September 12, 2002, 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 Ann Arbor, Clare Bronowski, Mary Ann Greene, and Steve Treanor. Kenneth Bentley arrived after roll was taken. Absent: Ruth Coleman, Tim Gallagher, Mary Nichols, and Annette Porini.

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

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

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was for John Saurenman.

The Chair asked for a moment of silence to reflect upon the September 11, 2002 tragedy. The Chair thanked Bill Vanderberg and Ralph Franklin, along with volunteers from Boy Scouts Troops 192 & 999 for their assistance.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Chair entertained the motion to approve meeting minutes of July 12. Motion made by other board members to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

III. Receive and File all Correspondence

Mr. McNeill reported he has received letters of support for the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan from environmental groups and the Natural History Museum, a letter from the City of Culver City requesting the Conservancy pull the item from the agenda to allow time for further review. Mr. McNeill gave a power point presentation on the plan.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Local residents from the audience, Jody Hall Esser and Katya Bozzi of STAR Education, and Bill Vanderberg of the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club, voiced their support for the master plan. One resident spoke in favor of keeping the golf course made additional comments, to keep it as is, in the area by clubhouse, and not move it to Culver City, while another resident expressed his desire to have a senior center and equestrian facility built.

Mayor Gross (Culver City) stated they support the park concept and its importance, and asked everyone to work with Culver City and their staff in developing the specifics of the plan as Culver City borders a large area of the park. Mayor Gross expressed concern about the vagueness and ambiguousness of the plan having negative impacts (physical, fiscal, and social impacts) with no mitigation assurances identified.

V. Consent Calendar

The Chair, prior to the consent calendar item explained the master plan is conceptual, and as each site specific proposed development is addressed the necessary environmental requirements would be met. Member Treanor spoke on his department's involvement in the

the plan supports the vision and mission of State Parks and supports the plan as it stands. State Parks will go forward with more detailed plans and continue the commitment of community

Members Arbor, Bronowski, Bentley, Broughton, and Park, all added their support of the plan with emphasis that this is a one-park plan involving all communities and residents coming

States. Member Bentley urged residents in attendance to write or e-mail the board to ensure the board is on the right track in building the type of park wanted by the community.

board is going to consider and some of the comments made by the City of Culver City.

Mr. Saurenman went over Section 3265.5 (F) of the Public Resources Board, which directs the

State Parks director has submitted it to legislature. Mr. Saurenman noted that the AG's office previously analyzed this provision, and any CEQA implications that it might have, and provided

as a non-discretionary decision, the statute requires the board to approve the plan upon submission to the legislature.

01-16, to approve the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan. The Chair then read the resolution for adoption and entertained the motion to approve plan. Motion was made by other members to

VI . Deputy Attorney General's Report –Deputy Attorney General

Mr. Saurenman spoke on a letter received by the Executive Officer from a Glendale law firm.

government would soon be condemning property in the area for the park. His office has written the law firm advising them that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy does not possess the power to

Conservancy. The law firm responded to Mr. Saurenman, stating they feel that other governmental entities might be condemning property. Mr. Saurenman feels this is a scare tactic

contemplating condemnation with the conservancy of any property in the area.

VII . Executive Director Report - David McNeill

Mr. McNeill spoke on the Vista Pacifica access

Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation has plans for a garbage transfer facility on the eight-acre lot below Vista Pacifica property. Staff is currently engaged in discussions with Councilman Nate

Department and L.A. Economic Development Unit, to recommend searching for an alternative site for this facility. Mr. McNeill further stated he is working through the State Department of

property to add to the list of alternative sites for the City to choose from. Mr. McNeill anticipates this could be a necessary agenda item for the next meeting to discuss action or possible land

West L.A. College –has invited the BHC to participate in their master planning for the college expansion, which is crucial to future development of the park and access from Jefferson Blvd

include plans to mitigate traffic on Overland by adding a second entrance. This would be beneficial since it would provide parking for future trailheads, etc. He is putting together an

the property owners. The college is currently not within the conservancy's boundary, although the President has express interest in being included in it. Mr. McNeill recommends an agenda

The State budget was passed, with a BHC 2002-2003 support budget of \$262,000 approved for staff and operating expenses. Mr. McNeill advised this might be subject to budget cuts in

outlay from \$20 million dollars to \$15 million.

The Weeds To Wonder Project received \$33,000 from the John McCabe Foundation. If the

BHC to make the balance of funds available. Working with Bill Corcoran and Bill Vanderberg, the Sierra Club has made it possible to fund an illustrated map for the Kenneth State Recreation

Green Info Network will use Boy Scout volunteers to walk existing trails and mark them using a global positioning satellite to get accurate readings on levels and distance.

The State Parks Commission will be in Los Angeles on Friday, October 11 and Baldwin Hills Conservancy is working with State Parks to schedule a tour of the Baldwin Hills including Vista Pacifica and Kenneth Hahn Park, with a reception later that evening sponsored by the State Parks Foundation. The commission will meet on October 12, at 9:30 a.m., at the Westin Hotel, 5400 West Century Blvd., to take action on the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area's general plan. Mr. McNeill urged everyone to attend.

Mr. McNeill stated the Stocker Corridor acquisitions are going very well, parcels 4 & 5 will be in escrow, with Parcel 5 closing later this month and Parcel 4 in November.

The Chair went over the items Mr. McNeill requested to be put onto next month's agenda, the MOU with West Los Angeles College (as a discussion item) and the alternate land swap/alternate location deal with the City of Los Angeles (which would be a closed session item). The Chair then asked for consent to have State Parks report (Item IX) heard prior to Item VIII.

VIII. Policy Discussion

The Chair suggested forming a policy committee to ensure the role of the conservancy serves the vision created and supported by the public. The Chair stated the discussion on this item would be held over for another agenda item, due to time constraint. Members Arbor, Bronowski, Bentley, and Broughton, volunteered to form the committee.

IX. Planning & Development –Barney Matsumoto

Mr. Matsumoto is managing the Vista Pacifica project, which is a two-fold. The first stage is IPU (interim public use) that basically involves access into the park. DPR anticipates three items installed by year's end: rangers office, ranger residence, a parking lot trailhead and a trail up to Vista Pacifica. Mr. Matsumoto gave a power point presentation of all the proposed items, along with a status update. The second stage of the project is creating a long-range vision for Vista Pacifica working with the BHC, CCI, Culver City and the County in creating the vision. The first core team meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

The Chair asked Mr. Matsumoto how would the community be represented on the committee. Mr. Matsumoto reported that Mr. McNeill had compiled an advisory committee of representatives from different homeowners associations and environmental groups, County and State Parks, and other agencies. The Chair wanted more clarification. Mr. Matsumoto replied the core group would listen to what the community has to say and present alternative, thereby creating valuable input. He stressed that state parks will be very accessible during this entire process.

Member Arbor brought up concerns regarding traffic and parking issues on Jefferson Blvd. Mr. Matsumoto stated he delivered plans to Culver City's in response to the concerns expressed by Culver City's traffic consultant at their meeting last week and is waiting for their final input. Following Mr. Matsumoto's report, Mr. McNeill gave a power point presentation on the land conservation priorities.

Existing Facilities & Improvements

held at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Ms. Bennett gave a short presentation on some of the programs currently available in the park including: fishing, picnics, bird walks, school

which occurred yesterday in the park. Ms. Bennett also discussed other future activities and points of interest in the park.

Board Member Comments

together, along with a commitment to make sure the support is there to keep the programs going. Member Treanor asked Supervisor Lindsey Templeton, to speak on activities they are

Vista Pacifica site and gave updates on the immediate public use trails (from Jefferson up to top of Vista Pacifica site), the Weeds to Wonder Program and the School-To-School Program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to go into closed Session.

Closed Session

Approved:

Mary Ann Greene