

**From:** Mastrup, Sonke@FGC  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 20, 2014 9:11 AM  
**To:** FGC  
**Subject:** FW: Follow Up to Meeting

[For public forum comment at next meeting](#)

**From:** Walter Lamb [mailto:landtrust@ballona.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 18, 2014 1:53 AM  
**To:** Mastrup, Sonke@FGC  
**Subject:** Follow Up to Meeting

Dear Sonke,

I know that I speak for many people when I say that I appreciated the patience exhibited by you and your staff, DFW staff, and members of the Commission in allowing the full three minutes of public comment even after a long day of discussion on Wednesday. I hope you were all able to catch your breath a bit on Thursday.

I also appreciated the Director taking the time to respond to my comments and to those of the other speaker on Ballona. That said, I would like to respond to his comments and to provide some additional information that I hope you will pass on to the Commission members:

- President Sutton made reference to being clear about what is being asked of the Commission. Having spoken several times now, and wanting the follow President Sutton's guidance to avoid redundancy, I hope the Commissioner's have not forgotten our standing request to have this item placed on the agenda for discussion in order to facilitate a proactive determination that it would not alter the regulations at Ballona in order to accommodate the type of facility being proposed by the Annenberg Foundation. A draft EIR was already created and made public for this same project at Point Vicente, and it did not provide the kind of information that would further inform the Commissioners decision. The National Park Service called that draft EIR "egregious" for that reason. It is counter-intuitive and counter-productive for the Commission to wait passively for another such document, that likely won't come before the Commission until well into 2015, when ample information is available currently to determine that this is a bad fit for the ecological reserve.

- I left hand outs for the Commissioners that show how the name of the Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) established for the project has changed several times in response to criticism the Foundation has received both at Ballona and Point Vicente, the project's original location. In January 2009, the LLC was created with the name "Compania LLC" because the Foundation had no reason to hide the true nature of the proposed facility. In April 2011, after significant push back against having companion animal facilities on the proposed site, the LLC was renamed to "Annenberg Interpretive Center at Lower Point Vicente LLC." In November 2011, months after after the Foundation had withdrawn from Point Vicente and started talks with the Department about relocating the project to Ballona, the LLC was renamed to "Companion Animal Center LLC." This remained the project name until July 2013, when it was renamed "Ballona Urban Ecology Center LLC." When Director Bonham first publicly briefed the Commission about the proposal in February 2013, making no references to companion animals, the official name of the project was "Companion Animal Center LLC". Likewise when several people addressed the Commission in May 2013. I am happy to resend these documents electronically if any member of the Commission would like them for their records.

- In response to the Director's comments that the images I shared with the Commission were published in an attempt to share more information with the public as we wait for a significantly delayed draft EIR/EIS, we are glad to see that our long effort to get more information out in the open has been partially successful. That said, this small step in the right direction does not mitigate the appalling lack of ecological sense reflected by the released information, nor does it

mitigate the highly misleading nature of the new web site. The answer to the question of "Who is proposing the Visitor Center" falsely implies that the Annenberg Foundation came to Ballona to help fulfill an existing need. This is part of an ongoing pattern of false claims that has led to the expenditure of public funds in pursuit of the Foundation's private objectives.

- In response to the Director's comments regarding our two pending lawsuits, I can't comment on the pending litigation, but I can say they we treat litigation as a last resort, and are sure to exhaust all remedies before seeking a determination in the courts. There are several additional issues that have been raised to the Department and for which we are still waiting a response, and it is possible, but hopefully not inevitable, that additional litigation may be necessary.

- Lastly, I strongly encourage the Commission to begin taking public comments at the beginning of the meeting as is the commonly accepted standard. The current format makes it unnecessarily difficult for public stakeholders to plan their workday around making public comments.

Again, thank you for your patience on Wednesday, and thank you for passing this e-mail, and my last e-mail prior to the meeting, on to the Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Walter Lamb  
President, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust  
[landtrust@ballona.org](mailto:landtrust@ballona.org) | [www.ballona.org](http://www.ballona.org)  
310-384-1042