

# Hillside Federation Newsletter February, 2011



## LA Clean Sweep



Ron Kaye of the Saving LA Project will talk to the Hillside Federation about his latest project. L.A. Clean Sweep was launched in 2010 as a joint effort between members of the Saving L.A. Project and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition out of frustration with the City Hall status quo. Community leaders, civic-minded citizens, local activists, and other stakeholders came together to form L.A. Clean Sweep to take a proactive, hands-on approach to improving the city of Los Angeles. Typically, in the political structure of Los Angeles, grassroots

## Agenda

February 2, 2011

7:00 pm

### I. Call to Order and Introductions

#### Guest Speakers:

- A. LA Clean Sweep - Ron Kaye
- B. Friends of Griffith Park - Gerry Hans, Sarah Napier

### II. Approval of January 5, 2011 minutes

### III. President's Report

### IV. Old Business

- A. Mulholland Bridge reconstruction - Mark Stratton

### V. New Business

### VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Universal City Nissan

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West

between Lankershim and Universal Dr. bridge off ramps. Park in the underground garage or on the street; take elevator to 2nd floor conference room.

*The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be: To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.*

community candidates stand little chance of being elected to public office. Insufficient finances, a lack of public recognition and little support within the political machine generally marginalize and discredit outsiders looking to challenge the established political structure. In an attempt to level the playing field, and provide a more robust and representative pool of candidates to voters, L.A. Clean Sweep will vet, train, and support grassroots candidates interested in running for council seats in the even numbered districts in the upcoming March 2011 election as well as the other seven odd district elections in 2013. See [www.lacleansweep.com](http://www.lacleansweep.com).



*Ed Hunt, park policemen for Griffith Park, holds the reins of his saddled horse in 1912.*

**Mulholland Scenic Parkway Design  
Review Board**  
Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month,  
6:30 pm  
Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center  
6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys, CA  
1st floor conference room

## Friends of Griffith Park

Friends of Griffith Park is a non-profit group that promotes the enlightened stewardship of Griffith Park so it can survive and thrive in the 21st Century.

Why does the Park need friends? While some attractions in Griffith Park have well-established groups supporting their missions, until now no one has worked to sustain the whole of the Park. Friends of Griffith Park seeks to conserve its essence -- its irreplaceable environment and the history it enfolds.

The impact of reductions in funding, maintenance and staffing is evident in the Park's deteriorating landscapes and historic features. Rising pressures to reposition the Park as a revenue source – thereby opening the door to commercial developments that encroach on its free and open character – pose a parallel threat. Unless we act now, Griffith Park will cease to be the natural escape from urban pressures that Colonel Griffith envisioned when he donated the Park to the people 115 years ago.

Through advocacy, support, education and service, Friends of Griffith Park works to preserve Griffith Park as L.A.'s signature green and open space, place of free recreation, and linchpin in the survival of Southern California's native ecosystems. See [www.friendsofgriffithpark.org](http://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org).



## NBC Universal Evolution Plan



Hillside Federations members had the opportunity to view the large model of NBC Universal's Evolution Plan at the January 5 meeting in the commissary at Universal Studios.

Senior Vice President of West Coast Real Estate, Tom Smith gave an introduction to the project which will increase the size of the facility by 33%. The 2.01 million-square foot project includes themed entertainment, retail and dining, production facilities, a 500-room hotel, and 2,937 residences (in yellow in the photo). The Gibson Amphitheater may be

repurposed. They may not need the hotel, but if they don't ask for it now, they can't build it later. Since they are not in the residential development business, that section of the development will probably be sold to a developer, in all likelihood the same developer who is doing the MTA project across Lankershim.

Although they bragged about having 35 acres of open space, upon intense questioning by Federation members, they admitted that they now have 120 acres of open space so there is a loss of 85 acres open space which

will impact wildlife. The remaining open space is on steep bluffs. The historic back lot will disappear and the filming with it.

NBC Universal is requesting that it be removed from the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan (MSPSP), seen in the triangle at the bottom left of the photo. Although they said their plan would be consistent with the MSPSP, they are requesting several special sign districts which would allow a plethora of signage including digital animated signs thirty feet high.

When the Federation made arrangements for the meeting, we told them that we were particularly interested in the increase in traffic. They provided no drawings to illustrate proposed mitigations. Traffic consultant Pat Gibson said they were making \$100 M in traffic improvements. These are primarily in the form of signal improvements at 90 intersections. They are providing shuttle services to the Red Line for the length of the development agreement. The red pins on the model represent shuttle/bus stops. However at the end of the development period, approximately 20 years, they will no longer fund the shuttles. If they are to continue, they will become the burden of the taxpayers.

They plan to widen Cahuenga East to two lanes. On the 101 northbound from Highland to Barham they will swing the traffic to the east side so that it merges on the right. There are drawings for an auxiliary lane on the 101 for entry and exit ramps. CalTrans liked the idea, but has no funding for the project. They are hoping to get federal stimulus funds (your tax payer dollars) for the mitigation.

No one knows what the impact of the acquisition of NBC Universal by Comcast might be on the project.

## **January 5, 2011 Draft Minutes**

**Presentation:** NBC Universal Evolution Plan  
Thomas Smith, Senior Vice President, West Coast Real Estate, and Pat Gibson, traffic consultant, made a two-hour presentation on the NBC Universal Evolution Plan. Federation members had the opportunity to view the large model and ask questions about the project.

**I. Call to order:** Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 9:00 pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 3, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

### **III. President's Report**

Marian thanked Nickie Miner, Dawneen Lorance, Cass Berrère, Charley Mims, and Lynette Robe who contributed to the December holiday party.

Since the Baseline Hillside Ordinance is still in the City Attorney's office, Marian urged everyone to please nudge Carmen Trutanich to fulfill his promise made at our party.

Everyone is invited to a CD 4 candidate forum on Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 pm at the Autry National Center. The candidates are incumbent Tom LaBonge, Steven Box, Tomás O'Grady.

### **IV. Old Business**

A. Bel Air Presbyterian School - Mark Stratton

Mark moved that the Hillside Federation write a scoping letter on the Bel Air Presbyterian Church Pre-school that includes comments regarding lighting, traffic,

wildlife, connectivity and other issues within our jurisdiction. The motion passed.

B. NBC Universal Evolution Plan - Marian Dodge

Marian asked everyone to get their organization's comments in regarding Universal project by February 4 to Jon Foreman. Marian will write the letter for the Hillside Federation. Concerns to include in the letter:

1. Remain within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan. Against signage.
2. Tax payers shouldn't have to pay for a new fire station to accommodate specialized equipment for high rises.
3. Don't widen the road through Griffith Park.
4. Keep new road through residential area open to the public for access to open space.
5. The affect of the loss of open space on wildlife
6. They should pay for traffic mitigations, not the tax payers.

#### **V. New Business**

A. Barbara Fine Mulholland Overlook - Dr. Niles Chapman

Dr. Chapman had to leave before the end of the NBC Universal presentation. He indicated that a single family residence has requested a variance for an over-height building which would block the view of people using the Barbara Fine Overlook. The Federation has notified both Alan Kishbaugh of the Mulholland Design Review Board and Jerry Daniel of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy of the issue. Niles did not think the Federation needed to take any action at this time.

**VI. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Recording Secretary,  
Donna Messinger

#### **Members Present:**

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Michael Chasteen
	Nickie Miner
	Alan Fine
Franklin Ave/Hlwd	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Patti Negri
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
	Dawneen Lorance
Kagel Canyon	Marlene Rader
Laurel Canyon	Jim Nelson
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
N. Beverly/Franklin	Robert Levy
Res. of Beverly Glen	Tensie Palmer
	Dan Palmer
	Gillian Calof
Sherman Oaks	Niles Chapman
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	Wendy-Sue Rosen

#### **Guests Present:**

Supervisor's office	Ben Saltsman
CD 4	Doug Mensman
Los Feliz Impv. Assn	Dennis Chew
Foothills Trails NC	Linda Hornick
Cahuenga Pass POA	Florence Blecher
	Judith Marlin
Franklin/Hlwd W	W. Joel Ashley
N. Beverly/Franklin	Connie Levy