

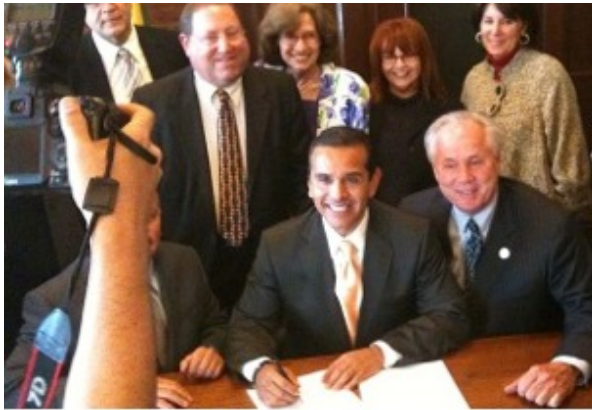
Hillside Federation Newsletter May, 2011



www.hillsidefederation.org

Baseline Hillside Ordinance Signed!

Marian Dodge



The press gather for Mayor Villaraigosa's signing of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. Front: Mayor Villaraigosa, Councilmember Tom LaBonge. Back: Councilmember Paul Koretz, Hillside Federation President Marian Dodge, Carol Sidlow, and Susan Mullins.

The Federation is thrilled that the Baseline Hillside Ordinance is finally a reality. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa performed the ceremonial signing of the ordinance on April 6. It is effective May 9. The ordinance is designed to provide for appropriate development of our hillside neighborhoods that is in scale with its lot, that preserves the natural topography of the land as much as possible, and that assures that there will be adequate open space between

Agenda

May 4, 2011

7:00 pm

New Location!

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli

12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604

101 between Coldwater Canyon exit

and Laurel Canyon exit

I. Introductions

Guest Speaker: Save La Rocha Trail -

Patti Negri, Alexa Iles

II. Approval of April 6, 2011 minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

B. Installation of officers

C. Treasurer's Report

IV. Old Business

A. Franklin Canyon update - Ellen Scott

B. ACE - Administrative Citation

Enforcement update - Wendy-Sue Rosen

C. Save Benedict Canyon - Nickie Miner

V. New Business

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, June 1, 2011

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.

structures to provide for wildlife corridors.

It has been a long journey, but it shows the city process at its best. It was June 6, 2006 when Councilmember Tom LaBonge introduced a motion, seconded by Ed Reyes, to draft an ordinance to protect the hillsides from mansionization. Then the Planning Department began a series of workshops and hearings. There was an extraordinary amount of public outreach. The Planning Department's Vince Bertoni, Charlie Rausch, Erick Lopez and Jennifer Driver did an outstanding job. Dave Garfinkle (Tarzana) and Bill Eick (Shadow Hills) met privately with the Planning team on behalf of the Federation. Many of their suggestions were incorporated in the ordinance.

When things got bogged down and the ordinance hit a few bumps in the road, Councilmember Paul Koretz stepped up to the plate for his constituents. He got the process moving and tried to add some amendments that the residents felt were important elements of the ordinance. He added an amendment requiring a grading inspector on site for properties on steep slopes. His deputies Shawn Bayliss and Jeff Ebenstein were always available to give advice and lend their support.

I would also like to thank the members of the Hillside Federation for all the work they put in to make this ordinance a reality - attending meetings, writing letters, and speaking at all the meetings: Mark Stratton, Wendy-Sue Rosen, Lois Becker, Nickie Miner, and Steve Twining.

The Baseline Hillside Ordinance has been a real team effort. Three cheers for all!

Web Site

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, www.hillsidefederation.org. It is still a work in progress.

One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association's web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 323-663-1031 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	ORGANIZATIONS: Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Skycrest POA Bel Air Ridge Association Benedict Canyon Association Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood Crests Neighborhood Assn. Encino Property Owners Assn. Forrest Hills Homeowners Assn. Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn. Hollywoodland Homeowners Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. La Tuna Canyon Community	Laurel Canyon Assn. Los Feliz Improvement Assn. Mt. Olympus Property Owners Mt. Washington Homeowners Nichols Canyon Assn. N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon Oak Forest Canyon Assn. Outpost Estates Homeowners Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.	CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Gordon Murley Polly Ward CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore
PRESIDENT Marian Dodge CHAIRMAN Charley Mims VICE PRESIDENT Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARY Donna Messinger TREASURER Don Andres			

Save Franklin Canyon Trail

Ellen Scott



Thanks for your interest and support in our efforts to save the Hastain Trail of Franklin Canyon from development. Currently we have over 600 people signed onto our website in support of these efforts. We are now involved in fundraising to pay attorney's fees to land use attorney Stephen Jones who came to us highly recommended by folks from Benedict Canyon. He is providing his services at a very low rate in our pursuit of an easement to save the trail, but it still costs money to file a lawsuit. We have raised \$5,000.00 of our present goal of \$20,000.00. We have a ways to go and if the federation can assist us with our fundraising

efforts in any way that of course would be wonderful.

A few weeks ago, a young mother of twins and avid Hastain Trail hiker gave me the e-mail of one Ann Simmons whose article on an environmental battle of some sort had caught her eye. I contacted Ann with a history of our fight to save the canyon, and she said it sounded like a story to her. Subsequently she met us for a hike and our battle was published on the front page of the California section of the Sunday, April 24 edition of the Los Angeles Times.

www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-franklin-canyon-20110424,0,7365379.story

Following this we have been contacted by other publications for more interviews.

We continue to pursue the tact of fighting for the Implied Dedication For Public Use easement and we are also renewing efforts to garner support from our State and City Council Representatives. Many think that they should step in and purchase the land because as Paul Edelman, chief of planning and natural resources for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy says, "The trails in question are part of the greatest open space recreation area in the city outside of Griffith Park."

www.savefranklincanyon.com/

NEW OFFICERS

Installation May 4, 2011

President	Marian Dodge	Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Chairman	Charley Mims	Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
1st Vice President	Mark Stratton	Bel Air Skycrest POA
2nd Vice President	Wendy-Sue Rosen	Upper Mandeville Canyon POA
Recording Secretary	Donna Messinger	Hollywood Heights Assn.
Treasurer	Don Andres	Franklin/Hollywood Blvd. West
Executive Secretary	Donna Messinger	Hollywood Heights Assn.

Victory for Benedict Canyon

In a surprise move, the attorney for the Saudi prince withdrew his proposal for an 85,000-square-foot compound on Tower Lane a week before it was to go to a public hearing, due to the strong opposition of the residents of Benedict Canyon. This is a huge victory for Benedict Canyon Association.

Plans will be resubmitted for a smaller project of 52,000 square feet.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky wrote a strong letter of support for Benedict Canyon to the Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety. He requested an immediate review of the Tower Lane property owner's illegal activities and misleading application. You may read Yaroslavsky's letter at www.savebenedictcanyon.com/#!links.

Draft Minutes

April 6, 2011

I. Call to Order: President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:15. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker - Administrative Citation Enforcement - Tina Hess

Supervising Assistant City Attorney Tina Hess made a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) plan. The purpose of ACE is to provide fair, effective, and timely enforcement of the LA Municipal Code. Their budget has been reduced by 30%. Currently code violations must be prosecuted in the court system, which is a time consuming laborious process and a low priority for the courts. Any fine collected in the courts goes to the state, not to the city. In 2009, the City Attorney reviewed 17,000 violations.

ACE is an alternative method of code compliance. Any enforcement agency may issue an administrative citation. Zoning violations will be given time to comply before a fine is imposed. The person may pay the fine or contest the citation. If you contest the citation, you pay a deposit; if proven innocent, you get your money back. Typical violations are: 1st - \$250, 2nd - \$500, 3rd and subsequent violations, \$1000.00. After the 3rd violation the matter will be referred to the criminal court. All fines will stay in the city and go into the General Fund. Hearings would be conducted by volunteer retired judges.

They have requested a pilot program for Animal Services. The Dept. of Building & Safety has been decimated; they have gone from 200 inspectors to 80. This is really a problem of safety.

Tina is seeking the Federation's support for ACE. Councilmember Koretz is the sponsor of the motion. This type of enforcement is in use in San Diego, Sacramento and Oakland.

Members discussed ACE. Some councilmembers think it will cause social injustice; the poor will be unable to pay the fines. Dr. Niles Chapman moved that the Federation support the ACE program. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes: The March 2, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian and Nickie Miner went to the Mayor's signing of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance this afternoon in the Mayor's office.

Dawneen Lorange, Hollywood Heights Assn. rep, has accepted a new position in another area. She sent a thank you note and best wishes to the Federation.

Jackie C. is looking for a photo of 1963 Vice President Martin Lancer. It was suggested that Marian ask Shirley Cohen, Gordon Murley, and Jerry Daniel if they knew him.

B. Treasurer's Report

Dan Palmer reported the amounts in the checking accounts and CDs.

C. Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Chair Don Andres discussed the need for the Federation to grow and become more vigorous. The last year was successful with the passage of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. The committee proposed the following slate of officers:

President	Marian Dodge
Chairman	Charley Mims
1st VP	Mark Stratton
2nd VP	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Record. Sec.	Donna Messinger
Treasurer	Don Andres
Exec. Sec.	Donna Messinger

Yvonne Hessler moved that the slate be accepted as Don announced. The slate was accepted by acclamation.

Retiring Chairman Joan Luchs thanked everyone she has worked with over last 20 years. She said this would be her last Hillside Federation meeting.

Charley Mims thanked retiring officers Dan Palmer and Cassandra Barrère for their service and advice and Joan Luchs for her help over the last 10 years.

IV. Old Business:

A. Save Benedict Canyon - Nickie Miner

Nickie described the gigantic 85,000-square-foot compound proposed on 5.2 acres on Tower Lane. Neighbors got wind of the project, hired attorney Manatt Phelps and started www.savebenedictcanyon.com. A previous owner built a 12-foot high, 200-foot long "giraffe wall." Every time a meeting was held with owners reps the neighbors got a completely different presentation. If the permits have expired, this property might

have to conform to the new Baseline Hillside Ordinance.

Joan Luchs suggested that they really needed an EIR, but what is basis to deny the development? Nickie said there were misrepresentations. Wendy-Sue suggested the lawyers put together a list of talking points for people to address at the meeting. Joan recommended attorney Doug Carstens and resident Bob Cohen as a strong person to help them. Charley Mims recommended getting a letter from Councilmember Koretz or asking that he have a staff member to support them at the meeting.

Nickie moved that: The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations requests that the LA City Planning Dept., Dept. of Building and Safety and any and all other LA City entities involved, repeal in entirety the lot line adjustment granted to 9933-9941 Tower Grove Place (Tower Lane). The Hillside Federation further requests a full CEQA review be required of that property. As well, we request an investigation of grading and building permits pertaining to the property and the validity and adherence to City codes of structures presently on property.

After a discussion regarding the adequacy of the information about the issue, Charley Mims made a substitute motion: The Hillside Federation supports Benedict Canyon Association's request that the LA City Planning Dept., Dept. of Building and Safety and any and all other LA City entities involved, repeal in entirety the lot line adjustment granted to 9933-9941 Tower Grove Place (Tower Lane). The Hillside Federation further requests a full CEQA review be required for this project. As well, we request an investigation of all prior and proposed grading and building permits pertaining to the property and the validity and adherence to City codes of structures presently on property. The substitute motion passed and passed as the main motion 11 - 2.

B. Save Franklin Canyon Update - Ellen Scott

Save Franklin Canyon is working with land use attorney Steven Jones. They are having a fundraising event this Saturday in the meadow.

See www.savefranklincanyon.com for information about the event. Ellen thanked Patricia Bell Hearst, Wendy-Sue Rosen, and Marian for their help.

C. Nominating Committee - Don Andres

The Nominating Committee recommended that the Federation have a Parliamentarian. They asked Barbara Dohrmann who volunteered. Applause.

V. New Business

A. Bel Air Bar and Grill - Michael and Terry Ravin

The Bel Air Bar and Grill at Sepulveda Blvd. and Maraga has a remodel proposed. Patricia Bell Hearst reviewed their documents and suggested they come to the Federation for support. The construction of a 3-story office building will include 2050 square feet of additional space.

The project required a public hearing because of the additional space, alcohol permit and over-height building 5 feet over the limit. The Bel Air Association approved the project on July 7. It was also approved by the Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council on August 10. They attended a hearing on Nov. 17, 2010 where the City Planning Department split the case. The Zoning Administrator attached 31 conditions to the project. The City Planner disapproved the applicant's request for a "Q" condition for an over-height building. The matter goes before PLUM on April 12. The Ravins have met with Councilman Koretz who is undecided. They do not want to establish a precedent for higher buildings.

Wendy-Sue Rosen asked why the Bel Air Association approved the project and asked if a rep from BAA could come to explain their support. Patricia Bell Hearst said the

BABCNC President Robert Ringler should explain why they supported the project.

Charley Mims moved that: The Federation supports the decision of the City Planner in disapproving the requested clarification of the "Q" condition for 662 N. Sepuveda Blvd. and 647 Acanto Street. Granting such a "Q" condition could set a precedent for permitting over-height buildings in the area. The motion passed 11 - 2 with Wendy-Sue Rosen opposed to the process.

Marian thanked Mark Stratton and Lois Becker for the cookies and Patricia Bell Hearst for the cupcakes and brownies.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Recording Secretary,

Donna Messinger

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Cahuenga Pass Neigh.	Joan Luchs
Franklin Av/Hlywd Bldg	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Los Feliz Imprvmt	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
N. Beverly/Franklin	Robert Levy
Outposts Estates	Ray Schuldenfrei
Res. of Beverly Glen	Dan Palmer
	Tensie Palmer
Sherman Oaks HOA	Niles Chapman

Studio City Res. Assn. Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville James Provenzano
Wendy-Sue Rosen

Save Franklin Can. Ellen Scott
Audrey Gallant
Rob Warner
Steve Song
Steve Weinberg
Michael Ravin
Terry Ravin
Katherine Bard

Guests Present:

LA City Attorney Off. Tina Hess
CD 11 Joaquin Macias
Franklin Ave/Hlywd Candice Harding

Maraga

Map to Pinz Bowling Center
www.pinzbowlingcenter.com

