

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
May, 2013**



www.hillsidefederation.org

Is This Scenic?



New cell pole on Mulholland Drive

Much to the dismay of neighbors, this cell pole appeared next to the Hollywood Bowl Overlook in the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor. Alert residents contacted officials, the phone company, and the Hillside Federation. Councilmember Tom LaBonge has been working with the community in Outpost Estates to get the pole relocated so that it will not block the view from the Jerry Daniel Overlook or views of the Hollywood Sign.

On the west end of Mulholland Drive another cell pole is planned next to another scenic overlook. Residents of Bel Air Skycrest and the Federation have written letters to the Board of Public Works opposing the locating of cell towers within the scenic corridor.

Meanwhile the City's cell tower ordinance, Above Ground Facilities Ordinance, supported by the Federation, is stalled in the City Attorney Office and has not yet been approved by Council.

**Agenda
May 1, 2013
7:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order
 - II. Approval of April 3, 2013 minutes
 - III. Officers' Reports
 - Installation of Officers - Steve Twining**
 - A. President's Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - IV. New Business
 - A. SB 31 - Billboards for AEG - Marian Dodge
 - B. AB 162 - cell towers - Barbara Kohn
 - C. Consolidation of Planning and Building & Safety Departments
 - V. Old Business
 - A. Billboards - Summit Media ruling - Marian Dodge
 - B. Millennium Hollywood - request for support of appeal - Terri Gerger
 - C. Cell Towers on Mulholland - Michael Meyer
 - D. Stanley Hills Dr. - Tony Tucci
 - VI. Adjournment
- Next meeting - Wed., June 5, 2013

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604
CA 101 between Coldwater Canyon exit
and Laurel Canyon exit

Hillside Federation mission: 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.



The Lion in Our Midst

Friends of Griffith Park is quietly celebrating P-22's first anniversary in Griffith Park. He's still in the park and appears to be healthy. P-22 was first identified when a Griffith Park Connectivity Study (GPCS) motion-activated camera snapped his photo in February, 2012 as he walked east of the Pilgrimage Bridge that crosses the Hollywood Freeway. GPCD biologists, Erin Boydston, Dan Cooper, and Miguel Ordeñana, shared their exciting discovery with the National Park Service (NPS) NPS biologists trapped the mountain lion, took blood samples, fitted him with a GPS collar, and released him where they found him. They labeled him P-22. P is for puma and 22 because he is the 22nd puma they have collared.

NPS biologists have been studying the mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains for a decade. Most of their work has been in the area west of the I-405 in the rural areas around Calabasas so P-22 was quite a find. He's a four-year-old male. At that age it's time to leave the home turf and look for a mate. P-22 is an adventuresome male. His blood work shows that he came from the group of mountain lions west of I-405 and south of the 101 freeway. That means that he somehow managed to cross the I-405 without being hit by a car. Did he take the Mulholland Bridge? Maybe. Then he got across the ridge line of the Santa Monica Mountains, maybe through your back yards. When he reached the Hollywood Freeway he may have crossed on the Pilgrimage Bridge because the camera that first picked him up was located nearby.

P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027
president@hillsidefederation.org
www.hillsidefederation.org

PRESIDENT
Marian Dodge
CHAIRMAN
Charley Mims
VICE PRESIDENTS
Mark Stratton
Wendy-Sue Rosen
SECRETARIES
Carol Sidlow
Donna Messinger
TREASURER
Don Andres

ORGANIZATIONS:

Beachwood Canyon
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Ridge Association
Bel Air Skycrest POA
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass Property Owner
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W.
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills HOA
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.

Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Lookout Mountain Assn.
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HOA
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills HOA

Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Upper Nichols Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

CHAIRPERSONS

EMERITUS
Shirley Cohen
Jerome C. Daniel
Alan Kishbaugh
Gordon Murley
Steve Twining
Polly Ward

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM
Brian Moore

P-22's blood also contained a DNA marker that shows that he is a descendant of mountain lions that came from, not only west of I-405, but also north of the 101 at an earlier time.

Mountain lion habits

The GPS collar is programmed to give locations once during the day and every two hours at night. During the day mountain lions, like your house cat, usually find a protected place and sleep. At night they explore, looking for food, a mate, or a path to new territory. With approximately eight locations every day, the NPS has now plotted over 1,700 location points for P-22. These points plotted on a map suggest that P-22 has tendency for "major human avoidance." Although he has gone all over Griffith Park, he tends to stick to areas of native habitat with low human usage.

A mountain lion's food of choice is deer. There are lots of deer in Griffith Park. Deer also move in and out of the park and have been spotted running across the Mulholland Bridge between car crossings. National Park Service has hiked in and documented 8 deer-kills, based upon GPS collar activity. A male of P-22's size might kill a deer once a week. The mountain lion may eat smaller prey, but if so, no evidence would remain.

Miguel Ordeñana, who monitors the remote wildlife cameras for the Griffith Park Connectivity Study reports that P-22 has been photographed at various locations throughout the park. "He looks very healthy," observed Ordeñana. Griffith Park Natural History Survey Scientific Director Dan Cooper calls P-22 "the most 'urban' mountain lion in the state, if not the world, and his continued presence demonstrates how wildlife can successfully co-exist with people."

The biggest threat to wildlife besides loss of habitat is cars. Mountain lions, deer, bobcats, and coyotes frequently end up as road kill, victims of a speeding car. Forest Lawn Drive is notorious. So slow down, obey the speed limit and save wildlife.

The motion-activated cameras are located at likely wildlife corridors along the edges of the park. After a particular area is well documented, they are moved to another location to expand the GPCS. If you see one of the cameras, please do not disturb it; it is an important tool in studying and protecting wildlife.



GPCS biologist checks a camera trap.

Seeing a mountain lion

Will you ever see a mountain lion in Griffith Park? Probably not. NPS Wildlife Ecologist Seth Riley replied, "We hardly ever see them, and we know where they are." Mountain lions are elusive, active mainly at night, and shun human contact. Very few distant sightings have occurred, but a few have been verified by Park Rangers. You are a hundred times more likely to be killed by lightning than by a mountain lion. In the rare circumstance that you might encounter a mountain lion Riley advises, "Don't look like a deer. Don't run." If you run, the lion will think you are lunch. Instead stand tall facing the lion and make yourself look as big as you can. If you have small children with you, pick them up and put them on your shoulders so you look very big. If you are wearing a jacket hold the hem and spread your arms wide. This is sort of the human equivalent of a cat puffing up its fur when it's scared to look bigger. If you hike at night, go with an organized group like the Sierra Club that has knowledgeable leaders who know the park well. The mountain lion will probably notice you and disappear before you notice him. So relax and enjoy your hike.

The future for the mountain lion

P-22 is a young healthy male. He is looking for a mate, but there are no female mountain lions in Griffith Park. Male mountain lions also require a large range and Griffith Park is really too small for him. Since he figured out how to cross two freeways, he may figure out how to cross the Los Angeles River and make his way into the Angeles National Forest.

What you can do

The discovery of P-22 in Griffith Park is a prime example of the need to maintain open space and wildlife corridors throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. That's why the Hillside Federation supported the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) application for Proposition K funding to purchase two of the open space lots at the intersection of Mulholland Dr. and Laurel Canyon. That's why the Federation continues to fight for the preservation of the promised wildlife conservation easement on Stanley Hills Drive in Laurel Canyon. That's why the Federation is working with the Planning Department to establish a Ridgeline Ordinance.

The Wildlife Connectivity Study is one of the projects of the Griffith Park Natural History Survey (GPNHS) and funded by Friends of Griffith Park. For more information about the survey visit their website at www.friendsofgriffithpark.org/GPNHS/Griffith.htm. Donations to continue these studies can be made through Friends of Griffith Park. Checks may be made out to Friends of Griffith Park, a 501(c)(3), note in the memo section GPNHS, and send to P.O. Box 27573, LA, CA 90027. You may also donate by PayPal at www.friendsofgriffithpark.org.



Los Angeles Launches Mobile App for City Services

Want to report a pothole repair in your area or access city of L.A. information on the go? Now you can with LA's first citywide mobile app - [MyLA311](#)



The free app launched April 1 on the heels of the city's recent website overhaul, which brought a major redesign and upgrade to [the city's website, lacity.org](http://thecity.org). The app gives Angelenos the ability to locate city resources like parks and libraries, access city services such as submitting 311 service requests for street repairs and graffiti removal using their smartphone's GPS and camera. Angelenos can also pay their DWP bill via the free smart phone app.

Users can also stay informed about city programs and City Hall news with the app, which integrates with the city's and council districts' social media sites like YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

Billboards are dark now, but will they stay dark?



Cahuenga Pass billboard is dark.

Community groups throughout the city cheered as illegal digital billboard conversions were turned off. Judge Terry Green issued the order in the Summit Media case that Clear Channel and CBS Outdoor digital billboards must be turned off by Monday, April 15 by 5:00 pm. Eager volunteers checked the status of “their” billboards to verify that they were indeed dark, and they were.

But constance vigilance is still the order of the day. The City Attorney Office has asked the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight (CBBB) and others to continue to monitor those billboards. Clear Channel and CBS Outdoor may try to cover the digital billboard with a static sign printed on vinyl. If you see any covered with a vinyl sign, please report them to CBBB.

Our City Council is still seeking ways to make the illegal signs legal.

There are more threats on the state level. SB 31 would increase the number of billboards along state highways. Remember that some of what we think of as city streets are actually designated highways. To learn more and to take action please visit the Scenic America site:

<http://www.scenic.org/SB31>

Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) wants digital billboard ads, currently banned by state law, to be permitted next to Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG)’s proposed new NFL stadium downtown next to the freeway. These ads could include

advertising for alcohol and gambling. CBBB president Dennis Hathaway stated, “This is clearly aimed towards Farmers Field and allowing AEG to get more revenue.” AEG claims it needs the income from billboards to make the stadium “pencil out.”

In 2011 Sen. Padilla initiated legislation that expedited Anshutz stadium’s EIR process. It is no surprise to learn that AEG and Farmers Insurance have given more than \$10,000 to Padilla’s political committees in the last ten years.

So celebrate the victory in the Summit Media case, but stay alert for other attempts to bury the City of Los Angeles in advertising.

Welcome New Member
Organization!
Upper Nichols Canyon Neighborhood
Association

Save these dates for Hillside
Federation meetings

May 1
June 5
July 10
August - no meeting
September 4
October 2
November 6
December 12 Party

**Hillside Federation
April 3, 2013
Draft Minutes**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Charley Mims called meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

City Attorney Candidate Forum

Charley Mims made an opening statement that the questions for candidates were prepared in advance and there would be no questions from the floor. Don Andres served as time keeper. Each candidate for City Attorney, Mike Feuer and Carmen Trutanich, made a 2-minute opening statement. City Attorney Trutanich spoke first about his independence, public trust, protecting the most vulnerable; he wrote 245 ordinances this year; crime is down 23%; 92% success rate and \$285 million saved.

Mr. Feuer spoke about his long time times with the Federation, his contributions while in the Assembly including new open space for the Santa Monica Mountains; new park space; worked on helicopter noise issues; fire safety.

1. Neighborhood Prosecutor:

Mr. Feuer wants to protect neighborhoods and revitalize and elevate the role of the Neighborhood Prosecutors Program. The City Attorney should have a major impact on quality of life issues.

Mr. Trutanich followed up that the Neighborhood Prosecutors office is alive and well. He has combined the meetings between the Neighborhood Prosecutors and the Gang Prosecutors for better co-ordination. The City Attorney's office has met their budget.

2. Voluntary Conditions:

Mr. Trutanich spoke about the problems for the community re: voluntary conditions not being adhered to. He spoke about a fix that when an agreement is made, the nexus agreements should be attached to the record and then the Planning Commission can support the agreements.

Mr. Feuer spoke about discretionary and by-right differences as voluntary conditions are not an issue on discretionary actions. The City Attorney must engage in early intervention; advise City departments more effectively and provide more training of the Planning Department by the City Attorney's office.

3. System of writing ordinances:

Mr. Feuer wants a robust Clean Hands ordinance in place. ACE (Administrative Code Enforcement) Ordinance needs to be a key focus and needs to be adopted.

Mr. Trutanich said the ACE Ordinance was his idea. He pulled it out of Budget and Finance. The City Attorney's office is a law office, not a policy office.

4. Reducing the risk of litigation such as the billboard litigations.

Mr. Trutanich stated that they have won all billboard cases. Supergraphics are down. He can only advise the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Feuer said we should prevent lawsuits from happening in the first place. The City Attorney should be a risk management leader.

5. Hillside quality of life issues:

Mr. Feuer said the revitalization of the Neighborhood Prosecutors office will establish your priorities. The City Attorney's Office is a public interest law firm.

Mr. Trutanich mentioned that as a result of consolidation, all appropriate departments, such as Environmental Justice, Code Enforcement, Building and Safety, meet weekly to discuss issues.

6. Top three priorities:

Mr. Trutanich: It is a law office, not a policy office.

Mr. Feuer: Neighborhood Prosecutor program; gun violence prevention unit; risk management; teamwork with neighbors and city offices.

Closing statements:

Mike Feuer was honored by the primary outcome with broad support. He wants to establish a new set of priorities and wants the office to be respected again. We are in this together.

Carmen Trutanich has been in public service for 3 years and in private practice for 22 years. There are 475 lawyers in the City Attorney's Office. His job is about keeping us safe. The City Attorney's Office is running better. Cell Tower ordinance needs to get done. His office has produced more with less; it is much better today than 4 years ago.

President Dodge thanked the candidates for attending.

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website www.hillsidefederation.org) with documentation and send it to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes of March 13, 2013 were approved as written. President Dodge thanked Lucy Gonzalez for taking the minutes of the March meeting.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian Dodge introduced a new group to the Hillside Federation, Upper Nichols Canyon Neighborhood Association and representing UNCNA, Cyd Zeigler.

Nominating Committee – Election of Officers

Barbara Dohrmann spokesperson for the Nominating Committee which included Lucy Gonzalez and Don Keller announced the slate to Federation members:

- President - Marian Dodge
- Chairman - Charley Mims
- 1st Vice President - Mark Stratton
- 2nd Vice President - Wendy-Sue Rosen
- Secretary - Carol Sidlow
- Treasurer - Don Andres
- Executive Secretary - Donna Messinger

Members in good standing were allowed to nominate from the floor; 39 groups are eligible, each group has 1 vote. Barbara asked for nominations from the floor; there were none made. Barbara asked if anyone preferred a written ballot; no hands raised. Barbara called for a motion to accept the slate by show of hands. The slate was elected unanimously and all stated that they were willing to serve.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don Andres gave an update of funds. Hillside Federation currently has 39 paid members out of 41.

IV. New Business - none

V. Old Business

A. Millennium Hollywood project: Greg Johnson of Hollywood Dell gave an up-date.

The Planning Commission hearing was held and at least 6 groups oppose the project as presented; however, the City Planning Commission moved to approve the project. One of the approvals, the Development Agreement, was found not to be valid as one of the members of the City Planning Commission (Roschen) is a paid consultant. The Commission voted that the project could move ahead without the development agreement. The proposed development will be two towers – 50 and 45 stories.

Councilman LaBonge attended the hearing; Councilman Garcetti sent his representative and both supported reduced height of the buildings.

Marian Dodge stated that at the hearing the Oaks HOA said that there are 57 potential projects in Hollywood; however, none are taller than 30 stories. A sign up sheet for donations to support the appeal was distributed. President Dodge will send information to Federation groups regarding donating.

Dan Wright, whose law firm has been retained to represent some of the groups opposing the project, spoke about additional issues regarding the Millennium development.

B. 1500 Gilcrest update - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The Zoning Administrator's hearing was attended by approximately 60 neighbors who oppose the project. Ron Galperin spoke on behalf of the Crests Neighborhood Association in opposition to the proposed changes. Wendy-Sue Rosen testified that the Hillside Federation also opposed the changes. Jonathan Brand from CD 4 spoke supporting the community in their opposition. The Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council voted to support the Crests Neighborhood Association in their opposition to project changes.

There was a discussion of the policies of the Federation regarding positions taken. President Marian Dodge reminded everyone that if a member group has an issue, the Request for Action form is on the website and all the requirements listed must be provided.

C. Curtis School update - Mark Stratton

The City Planning Commission hearing has been postponed to the end of April. The Hillside Federation, Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association, and Brentwood Residents Coalition have actively opposed the project because, among

other reasons, the applicant is seeking a grading variance from the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO). The requested variance would establish a dangerous precedent that could impair the future integrity of the BHO's grading limitations.

D. Off-site Digital Billboards - Wendy-Sue Rosen

Marian Dodge and Wendy-Sue Rosen were among those invited to participate in a series of meetings organized by the City Planning Department to discuss the future of digital billboards in the City. The group, named the Billboard and Visual Landscape Visioning Group, was led by an outside facilitator retained by the City. On March 26 PLUM asked Planning to prepare a draft ordinance. The group concluded that the City needs more time to consider the many complex issues raised by the use of digital billboards outside of specially designated "sign districts."

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Recording Secretary,
Carol Sidlow

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
	Tom Freeman
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Allian.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Greg Johnson
	Alexa Iles Skarpelos
Hollywoodland HOA	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Tony Tucci
	Jamie Hall
	Jim Nelson
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington HO All	Dan Wright
Oaks Homeowners	Caroline Schweich
Pacific Palisades	Barbara Kohn
	Chris Spitz
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer

Upper Nichols Canyon Cyd Zeigler

Officials Present:

City Attorney	Carmen Trutanich
	Nick Trutanich
	and staff
former Assemblyman	Mike Feuer
	Gail Ruderman Feuer
	Nicole Carcel
	and staff

Guests Present:

Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
thefrontpageonline.com	Ari Noonan
LAPD	Jeff Kiser
Hollywood Dell	Tom Meredith
	George Skarpelos
	David Evans
	Judy Kass
	Mary Leddihy
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Ali Semard
	Skip Haynes
misc.	Bill Kabaker
	Chris Blacksmith

Web Site

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, www.hillsidefederation.org. 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.

You may also visit the web site for letters on positions taken by the Federation and past newsletters and minutes.