

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
July, 2013**



www.hillsidefederation.org

They Paved over Paradise...



Coldwater Canyon near Harvard-Westlake School

Harvard-Westlake Expansion

The Hillside Federation is already engaged in trying to preserve the open space around Curtis School on the western side of the Santa Monica Mountains. Now a similar expansion of Harvard-Westlake School is proposed in Coldwater Canyon.

Neighbors were surprised to learn that the city has begun the process of preparing a Draft EIR for the project. The recently released Initial Study reveals that Harvard-Westlake is proposing the construction of a three-story 750-car parking garage with a lighted athletic field on the top level on the west side of Coldwater Canyon and a skybridge 163 feet long and 13 feet wide across

Agenda July 10, 2013 7:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
Guest Speaker: Tim Pershing, AD 50 rep
 - II. Approval of June 5, 2013 minutes
 - III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - IV. New Business
 - A. Harvard-Westlake School expansion - Sarah Boyd, Jennifer Rothman
 - B. 360 N. Stone Canyon update- Patricia Bell Hearst, Steve Twining
 - C. Mural Ordinance
 - V. Old Business
 - A. Millennium Hollywood update - George Abrahams
 - B. Curtis School update- Mark Stratton
 - C. Amicus Brief - Dan Wright
 - VI. Adjournment
- Next meeting - NO meeting in August
Wed., Sept. 4, 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.*

Coldwater Canyon to connect the parking structure to the main campus.

The land abuts the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Two-thirds of the land is identified as “desirable open space.” The proposed construction would destroy 100 protected oak and walnut trees. The lights on the athletic field would be 85 feet above ground level creating light pollution. The initial Study Checklist indicates numerous “Potentially Significant Impacts,” particularly aesthetic, biological, water quality, land use, noise, and wildlife.

Nearby residents responded to the Initial Study by forming Save Coldwater Canyon! to preserve and protect the scenic beauty, natural environment, health, safety, and welfare of Coldwater Canyon and its neighboring communities. They will be presenting their concerns about the proposed project to the Federation.



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.

Welcome New Member
Organization!
Upper Nichols Canyon Neighborhood
Association

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

**Mural Ordinance
CF# 11-0923**

A new Mural Ordinance would allow murals in all zones, including residential. The ordinance would amend the LA Administrative Code “to allow for the creation of new original art murals and the preservation of existing original art murals on private property.” PLUM has already requested the City Attorney to prepare the ordinance. Among the requests from PLUM was that the current residential restriction be deleted so that there exists no restriction on where murals can be located. Since they cannot dictate what constitutes art, graffiti could be considered art. Some of our hillside neighborhoods are already dealing with homeowners who have painted murals on their walls. Under the new ordinance individual neighborhoods could opt out of allowing murals by going through their local Council Offices, but opting out is a long process. In the meantime many murals could be put up. It would make more sense if mural were not permitted in residential neighborhoods unless the neighborhood opted *in*.

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.

**Save these dates for Hillside
Federation meetings**

August - no meeting
September 4
October 2
November 6
December 12 -
Holiday Party
January 8, 2014

Re:codeLA Listening Sessions

You will have the opportunity to learn about the comprehensive update of the city's Zoning Code and give your input at listening sessions held throughout the city the week of July 8.

More information is available at their website www.recode.la or [facebook.com/recodeLA](https://www.facebook.com/recodeLA).

San Fernando Valley

Tuesday, July 9
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Van Nuys City Hall
14410 Sylvan Street

Metropolitan Area

Wednesday, July 10
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Deaton Civic Auditorium
100 W. First Street

Harbor Area

Thursday, July 11
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Peck Park Auditorium
560 N. Western Ave.

West Los Angeles

Saturday, July 13
10:00 am - noon
Henry Medina Traffic Center
11214 W. Exposition Blvd.

**Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
June 5, 2013**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Helicopter Noise Relief - Bob Anderson of Sherman Oaks encouraged everyone to attend the Helicopter Noise Relief hearing on June 10, 7 - 9 pm at the Autry National Center in Griffith Park. Congressman Adam Schiff will chair the hearing with representatives from government (Congressman Cardenas, Supervisor Yaroslavsky), homeowners (Bob and Gerry Hans from Friends of Griffith Park), and pilots. Schiff is opposed to the FAA report released May 31 which basically says the issue is too complex to solve at this time due in part to the negative impact on the helicopter industry. Even though it does not appear that there will be any changes to the regulation at this time, Bob encouraged everyone to attend the hearing to voice their concern on the record.

Terrorism Awareness Symposium - Officer Danny Pesqueira

Hollywood Division of LAPD is sponsoring a Terrorism Awareness Symposium on June 25. One of the speakers is a woman on the Navy Seals team that located Bin Laden. Chief Downing, LAPD terrorism specialist, will also speak. Officer Pesqueira reminded everyone that we all need to be alert and learn what to watch for and the symposium is a good place to start.

Realignment of the Planning and Building and Safety Departments - Alan Bell, Deputy Director of City Planning

City Council has already approved the consolidation of the Departments of Planning and Building and Safety. The name of this new department will be the Department of Planning and Development. The new department will incorporate staff from other city departments that deal with land use issues, including LADOT, BOE, and LAFD, and have a total of approximately 1200 employees. The consolidation process will begin July 1, 2013. A consulting firm will be brought on board to work with the city and engage in a robust community

outreach process for a six-month planning period in order to work through all the details of the merger. Full implementation is expected to occur by January 1, 2014. Planning staff has looked at other cities with consolidated planning and development services functions, including Denver, San Antonio, Dallas, Atlanta and others.

The city's goal is to provide better services for all residents and applicants. The department will be reorganized to increase efficiency and transparency. Alan described the realignment of city departments. He said the reform strategy will be a three-pronged approach: (1) CERTAINTY will include comprehensive zoning code reform providing consistent interpretation of the code, updated community plans coordinating land use and transportation planning, and robust public outreach. The City of LA is about to launch a five-year, \$15-million-dollar project to comprehensively update the City's zoning code for the first time since 1946. The project is called re:code LA Zoning Reform Initiative. The city has selected the consulting firm Code Studio from Austin, Texas with 15 sub-consultants who are mostly local to head the update. They will kick off the project July 8 with a weeklong listening tour of neighborhood councils, resident groups, and businesses. They will have a new website for the five-year reform of the Zoning Code to keep the community informed; (2) TECHNOLOGY will move the current paper-based system to an internet-based system called BuildLA. The funding and process is already in place for this system. Projects will be filed electronically and the files will be accessible to all city departments and community members at the same time. This means community groups will have instant access to applications and plans making the process more transparent and inclusive; (3) EFFICIENCY will be the result of a realignment of planning and development functions and process improvements bringing all the decision-makers together to address a project. One Planner will be assigned to each project from beginning to end. A surcharge may be added to each permit to provide a steady funding source for code enforcement and compliance through the life of the project, increasing efficiency and bolstering enforcement. The one development services function will resolve

inefficiencies by catching problems on the front end so they don't fall through the cracks.

Alan explained that the devil is always in the details. There is the promise and opportunity to deliver the best service to Los Angeles or risk confusion and chaos if the process is not handled properly. That is why the consulting firm will launch a series of community meetings and form a Stakeholder Advisory Committee to work with them through the process. The ordinances for the new department will include: a mission statement that is designed to achieve the goals of consolidation, the regulatory teeth to assure compliance with the law, technical updates to the code, etc. The City Attorney will begin drafting the package of proposed ordinances for approval by the City Council in October of this year. At that time the City Council could decide not to move forward with the consolidation.

Marian asked if Code Studio could come to the July Federation meeting. Alan said he would send a schedule of community meetings and keep the Federation updated on all aspects of the zoning code update, consolidation, and BuildLA.

**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
1st floor conference room

II. Approval of Minutes - The May 1, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian cautioned everyone about the inappropriate use of the Hillside Federation name. The Federation only speaks on behalf of those issues that have already been formally supported by the Federation. Only authorized officers may speak on behalf of the Federation or use its name.

Marian asked that each member organization show Don the boundaries of their organization so he can complete the large maps depicting the areas that each member group represents.

The January meeting will be changed to Wednesday, January 8 to avoid the New Year's holiday.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don announced that all 41 members have paid their dues. Don added that there has been a rash of home break-ins in the Hollywood Hills. Be watchful.

IV. New Business

A. 8866-72 Wonderland Ave. - Steven Poster

Steven described his concern regarding a project that will include three houses with underground parking on a 75' lot where the existing single-family home was illegally demolished. The property has a long history of problems. The developer is claiming the three houses are by-right projects, but according to Steven they are not. Steven has been unable to find any documentation on the project although the Property Activity Report shows that most aspects of the project have been "cleared." However, the BHO requires a Joint Referral Form with slope density, soils, geology, topo, floor ratio, setbacks, etc. and none have been submitted. Lookout Mountain Alliance has sent a letter supporting the neighbors' opposition to the project.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation oppose the Wonderland Ave. project as by-right and request a review of the project by all relevant city agencies and review compliance with the Baseline Hillside Ordinance because the project would be precedent setting in the area. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. Millennium Hollywood update - George Abrahams

The project went to PLUM yesterday. The applicant asked that it be continued at the last minute. It will be heard at PLUM on Tuesday, June 18 and go to City Council on Wednesday, June 19.

B. Cell tower on Mulholland - Barbara Dohrmann

Barbara thanked the Federation for its support. The cell tower will be located on the north side of Mulholland where it has a lesser impact on residents. The City's new cell tower

ordinance is still in the City Attorney's Office and has not been sent to Council for approval.

C. I-405 Construction - Barbara Dohrmann

The I-405 contractor has withdrawn its request to dump 120,000 cubic yards of soil in Mission Canyon directly below homes in Bel Air Skycrest. The hill they are removing adjacent to Sepulveda Blvd. has landslide problems. The hill had served as a noise buffer to the community protecting it from freeway noise. Now that the hill is being removed, there are new noise issues with sounds bouncing off the retaining walls on the other side of the freeway and into the community.

D. Mulholland/Laurel Canyon property - Wendy-Sue Rosen

CD-5 Deputy David Giron reported by e-mail that the property at Laurel and Mulholland was approved for Prop K funding. Now the city will work with the MRCA to make sure the purchase is completed. Due to redistricting, CD 4 LaBonge will now handle the matter.

E. Amicus Brief - Dan Wright

Dan updated the Federation on his client's case before the state court of appeal where he is arguing that the Department of Recreation and Parks' frequent Special Meetings violates the Brown Act. There was discussion about the Federation getting involved with this type of a case by filing an amicus brief, whether the Federation had done so in the past, would do so now, and what type of precedent it could set.

F. Stanley Hills Drive - Matt Friedman

Matt reported that he had met with City Attorney Jane Usher regarding the conditions of approval for the Stanley Hills project and asked the City Attorney to enforce those that the developer has been violating. Jane told him that she had read the CUP and the conditions were poorly written, vague and unenforceable. According to Matt, Building and Safety has given the City Attorney false information to make it appear that there are no violations. LAFD has not signed off on the project. This continues to be a problem and the community is frustrated at the lack of support from the city.

G. Van de Kamps - Laura Gutierrez

There is supposed to be a community college in the old bakery site. There is a Draft EIR on four different projects. Laura wants people to object to the use of tax payer dollars to support the current tenants and ask for the community college that was promised. Comments are due June 27.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm. The next meeting will be on July 10.

Acting Recording Secretary,
Don Andres

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
Canyon Back Allian.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Kagel Canyon	Linda Hornick
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington All.	Dan Wright
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Oaks Homeowners	Wayne Schlock
Res.of Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Nichols Can.	Cyd Zeigler

Guest Present:

Planning Dept.	Alan Bell
Hollywood LAPD	Danny Pesqueira
Benedict Canyon	Mindy Mann
Laurel Canyon	Ali Semard
	Skip Haynes
	Matt Friedman
Wonderland Ave.	Patric Caird
	Cinba Marder
	Werner Herzog
	Stuart Lichtwau
	Wendel Meldrum
	Judith Pagnam
	Gloria Walther
	Susan Williams
Sherman Oaks	Bob Anderson
Van de Kamps	Laura Gutierrez
Pinz Bowling Center	Scott Frager