

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
January, 2014**



www.hillsidefederation.org

Holiday Party a Huge Success

The Mulholland Tennis Club, aglow in holiday lights, was filled with 116 Hillside Federation members, guests, and officials on December 12.



Talene Dermenjian (46 AD rep), Mike Aguilera (28th Cong. Dist. rep), Joan & Fred Hoffman, Joel Ashley.

Welcome New Member
Organization!
Upper Riviera Neighborhood
Association

Agenda

January 8, 2014

7:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
 - II. Approval of minutes
 - III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - IV. New Business
 - A. Rodenticide motion - Ali Semard
 - B. Area Planning Commissions - Wendy-Sue Rosen
 - C. 11050 N. Bellagio Rd. - Steve Twining
 - D. Zoning Advisory Comm. - Carol Sidlow
 - V. Old Business
 - A. Harvard-Westlake expansion update - Sarah Boyd, Jennifer Rothman
 - B. Hollywood Community Plan update - George Abrahams
 - C. Curtis School update - Mark Stratton
 - VI. Adjournment
- Next meeting - Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014
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.*

Hillside Federation Holiday Party

December 12, 2013



Elke Heitmeyer and Joel Ashley greeted guests.



Barbara Dohrmann heads the Bel Air Skycrest table.



Skip Haynes, Sharon Shapiro (CD 4 rep), Chris Laib, Don Seligman, Marian Dodge.



Joaquin Macias (CD 3 rep), Mark Stratton

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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
Upper Riviera HOA
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS

Shirley Cohen
Jerome C. Daniel
Patricia Bell Hearst
Alan Kishbaugh
Gordon Murley
Steve Twining
Polly Ward
CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM



The Federation honored Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky for his more than three decades of dedication to hillside communities and preserving open space.



Veronica Zendejas (28th Sen. Dist. rep) and Mike Aguilera (28th Cong. Dist. rep). Congressman Adam Schiff was honored for his work on helicopter noise and the Rim of the Valley project.



Federation VP Wendy-Sue Rosen enjoys a chat with Nicole Carcel (City Attorney Mike Feuer’s Community Outreach rep).



Chair Emeritus Jerry Daniel, Darlene, Paul Edelman



Food! Glorious food!



Federation Treasurer Don Andres and Chair Emeritus Patricia Bell Hearst.



Party organizer extraordinaire Don Andres presented Lookout Mountain’s Carol Sidlow and Steven Poster with a gold star for top attendance at the party. Bel Air Skycrest was a close runner up.

Hillside Federation at City Hall



Your Executive Committee at work for you in City Hall. Wendy-Sue Rosen, Carol Sidlow, Marian Dodge, and Mark Stratton met with City officials on behalf of Save Coldwater Canyon.

Ahmanson Ranch Celebrates 10th Anniversary



Hundreds of community leaders and activists gathered at the Ahmanson Ranch on November 17 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the acquisition of the 2900-acre open space on the border of Los Angeles County and Ventura County. It was a massive joint effort that made the dream come true. Actor Rob Reiner, who participated in the bus trip to Sacramento, thanks the politicians who worked together to make the purchase possible: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Governor Gray Davis, and Senator Fran Pavley. Federation VP Wendy-Sue Rosen thanks former Gov. Gray Davis.

Daily Journal

November 8, 2013

Orange County development battle heads to state high court

By Fiona Smith

The state Supreme Court is stepping into a development battle in which residents claim city of Orange officials flouted land use law and ignored the will of the voters when they approved a residential project in designated open space. Project opponents, who lost at the trial and appellate courts, argue that the ruling would shred longstanding planning law in California. At issue is how much leeway governments have to implement their general plans, which set the long-term rules for how cities and counties develop land. *Orange Citizens for Parks and Recreation v. Superior Court of Orange County*, S212800.

It has been almost 20 years since the state Supreme Court has taken up a case focusing on general plans, and city attorneys and land use attorneys will be watching the case closely, said Michael H. Zischke, a San Francisco-based partner with Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP.

The question in *Orange Citizens* is whether officials properly relied on a 1973 city council resolution that designated the 50-acre parcel in dispute as eligible for residential development. Despite that resolution, the city's general plan maps were never changed and the site is labeled as open space.

"If [the case] stands, it creates tremendous uncertainty for everyone involved in the development process in every city and county in California," said Robert "Perl" Perlmutter, a San Francisco-based partner with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP who is representing the Orange Citizens group.



Robert Perlmutter, a San Francisco-based partner at Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, represents opponents of a residential project in Orange planned for designated open space.

"With that ruling, no one will know what the permitted use of a property is, because it would no longer be governed by a general plan, but it could be by a document buried at city hall," Perlmutter added.

When the developer Milan REI IV LLC bought the parcel in 2006 and began seeking project approval, everyone assumed the land was open space and that Milan would need to get a general plan amendment to build. Neighbors of the property began fighting the project, which would build 39 homes on one-acre plots and use the remainder for an equestrian center and riding trails. The land currently has a defunct golf course and tennis courts.

In 2009, Milan unearthed an old city council resolution that stated the land should be designated as both open space and residential. Because there was no mention of the resolution in the general plan, both the city and the developer continued seeking a general plan amendment to clarify the land use designation.

But the developer also argued that the general plan amendment was not necessary to approve the project because the 1973 land use designation had never been rescinded. The city council agreed it was not necessary, but amended the general plan anyway and approved the project in 2011.

Meanwhile, Orange Citizens had been gathering signatures for a referendum on the general plan amendment. Milan sued to try to stop

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.

the referendum and failed. In 2012, voters rejected the general plan amendment that changed the land use designation.

The citizens' group also challenged the project approvals in court, but an Orange County Superior Court judge ruled that the city council did not need to rely on the general plan amendment to approve the project and that it reasonably relied on the 1973 resolution. The 4th District Court of Appeal affirmed. The Supreme Court granted review last week and briefing is underway.

"Just because it's an old law and people weren't aware of it, doesn't mean it's not valid ... and I think that's why we won at every step," said Colin L. Pearce, an attorney with Duane Morris LLP who is representing Milan in the case. "When the Supreme Court looks at the underlying facts and law, I think they'll see they were sold a bill of goods by the petitioners."

The case boils down to whether the courts should overrule a legislative body's interpretation of its own general plan, said David A. DeBerry of Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart PC, who is representing the city. "It's reasonable to assume that over time the city council could have concluded that the existing land use designation was open space, but it was also reasonable to conclude it was open space-residential," DeBerry said. "And the law says the city council's findings need to be upheld if it's found to be reasonable and not arbitrary and capricious based on the evidence before it." The law requires the courts to defer to legislative bodies interpreting their own general plans, and that presents a big hurdle for the citizen group to overcome, said David M. Snow, an attorney with Richards, Watson & Gershon and a former city planner.

He was surprised the Supreme Court took up the case as the facts are somewhat unusual, but the court could have been troubled by the fact that the city council's support for the project went against the voter referendum rejecting the general plan amendment, Snow said.

In one of several amicus letters supporting review of the case, the cities of Berkeley, Brisbane and Menifee wrote that many local governments have old land use resolutions that have been discarded or forgotten, but were never repealed.

"Orange Citizens is unprecedented in holding that the policies in the most current general plan are not controlling but can be superseded by prior designations outside the general plan," the cities wrote. "By declaring that the face of the general plan is no longer a reliable source for determining general plan designations, the decision will make every inquiry into the status of a piece of property a legal quagmire."

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.

**Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
November 6, 2013**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes - The October minutes were approved as written.

III: Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

The Federation received a thank you note from attorney Victor Marmon for our support of the Stone Canyon issue. Another thank you note was received from Arnie Newman for our support of the purchase of 3967 Camino De La Cumbre by the MRCA.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don gave an update of the Federation accounts. He reminded everyone about the upcoming Holiday Party, Thursday, Dec. 12th at the Mulholland Tennis Club where Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Congressman Adam Schiff will be honored.

Guest Speaker: Mike Aguilera representing Congressman Adam Schiff's office introduced himself and spoke about outreach and resources available to the community from Rep. Schiff. He distributed Constituent Service guides. Marian Dodge congratulated Rep. Schiff for his work on the Rim of the Valley and the Helicopter Noise Ordinance which is still in committee and with the FAA. The Congressman is urging the FAA to move it forward.

IV. New Business

A. Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal - Dan Feinberg, CASM

Dan Feinberg from CASM SFV spoke about Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal and the work of CASM. The County has not cleared the sediment from the reservoir for 30 years. The sediment comes from US Forest Service land so it should not be dumped on county land. The County is trying to avoid doing a CEQA review on the project by claiming it is an emergency. They should be working to minimize sediment build-up. The current plan is to fill nearby canyons with the 7.6 million cubic yards of sediment (760,000 truck loads). Santa Ana winds

would blow dust throughout the northern end of the San Fernando Valley. CASM wants to designate those canyons open space. They live in CD 7, Felipe Fuentes, but the project is in LA County Dist. 5, Michael Antonovich. Pacoima Reservoir is on US Forest Service land. We need to put pressure on the county; we should ask Supervisor Antonovich to meet with CASM. Charley Mims suggested that the old rock pits be filled first.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen, MSP. The Federation write a letter to LA County to meet and discuss options for sediment removal.

B. Hollywood Sign Buses - Lucy Gonzalez

Lucy explained the problem created by the traffic from tourists trying to reach the Hollywood Sign. The City Council Transportation Committee recently passed a motion (CF #13-1094-S1) to investigate the feasibility of tour buses to establish shuttle service from Hollywood Blvd. to the top of Beechwood Canyon. Hollywoodland HOA opposes the shuttle service and asks for Federation support.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen, MSP. The Hillside Federation opposes shuttle service including by tourist vans or private vehicles, due to concerns for public safety. The Federation proposes that the City develop a comprehensive plan to deal with these public safety issues and until such time, the Federation opposes any piecemeal policy of transportation to access the sign. MOTION: MSP. The Federation opposes the re-opening of any of the interior roadways within Griffith Park and adjacent open space areas that are currently closed to public motor vehicle traffic.

**Save these dates for Hillside
Federation meetings**

February 5, 2014

March 5

April 2

May 7

June 4

V. Old Business

A. Harvard-Westlake expansion - Jennifer Rothman and Sarah Boyd

Save Coldwater Canyon represents 500 members who oppose the proposed expansion of Harvard-Westlake school with a 3-story, 750-space parking garage with an athletic practice field topping the parking structure and a private bridge to be built across Coldwater Canyon. Opposition to this proposed expansion is growing including the Studio City Residents Assn. and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. There will be a meeting tomorrow, November 7th of the Studio City Neighborhood Council to hear about this proposed expansion. The Draft Environmental Impact Report has been distributed. However, it did not address: lighting impacts; biological resources; the bridge which will establish a precedent for future development and impact an area which is designated as desirable open space; or exemptions from the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen, MSP. The Federation write a letter opposing the Harvard-Westlake project as proposed. The letter will address (1) lighting impacts, (2) the negative precedent set by the bridge, (3) the many land use impacts.

B. Millennium Hollywood - Marian Dodge

At George Abraham’s request Marian read his statement. “The halting of Millennium’s planned fault investigation is a strategy to force litigation to continue, rather than to discover and acknowledge that the presence of a fault kills the project. Our need for financial support is greater than ever.”

C. 1400 Linda Flora Drive - Steve Twining

Steve spoke about the conservation easement, which has yet to be finalized, which was to be donated to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy by the property owner. Assurances were given by Councilman Paul Koretz’s office that as a condition of the development, an easement would be granted; however, nothing has happened although grading has already begun.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen, MSP. The Federation will write a letter to Paul Koretz urging him to follow through on the recording of the conservation easement for 1400 Linda Flora Drive before any further grading or alteration of the land proceeds.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Carol Sidlow,
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills HA	John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Lois Becker
Cahuenga Pass	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Allian.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Res. Assn.	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O’Donnell
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
	Shirley Cohen
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle

Guests Present:

28th Cong. Dist.	Mike Aguilera
Upper Riviera HA	Stacia Thompson
CASM	Dan Feinberg
	Ann Job
Save Coldwater Canyon	Sarah Boyd
	Jennifer Rothman
	Jeff Jacobs
	Susan Jacobs
	Alex Izbicki
NA	R. Foy

What’s happening in your neighborhood?
Please send the Federation news of your activities with photos so we can share them with all our members.