

# THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE & CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.  
POST OFFICE BOX 1041  
STUDIO CITY, CALIFORNIA 91614

MAY 2006

# MINUTES

FOUNDED IN 1952

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION

### PRESIDENT

Polly Ward - (818) 761-4065

### CHAIRMAN

Steve Twining (310)472-6091

### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Patti Negri (323)461-0640

Desmond McDonald

(310)472-1906

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Marilyn Stefano

(310)275-8414

### RECORDING SECRETARY

Ed Raspa (323)223-9934

### TREASURER

Fritz Zeiser (310)472-5183

## MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

BelAir Knolls

BelAir Skycrest

Benedict Canyon

Beverly Crest

Beverly Glen Park

Briarcliff

CahuengaPassNeighborhood

CANDER

Encino Property

Forest Hills

Franklin Hills

Franklin/Hwd. Blvd. West

Friends of Caballero

Glassell Park

Glenridge

Highland's Owners

Hollywood Dell

Hollywood Heights

Hollywoodland

Holmby Hills

Homeowners of Encino

LaTuna Canyon

Laurel Canyon

Los Feliz Improvement

Montecito Hts. Improvement

Mt. Olympus

Mount Washington

Nichols Canyon

No.Beverly Dr./Franklin

Outpost

Pacific Palisades

Residents of Beverly Glen

Roscomare Valley

Sherman Oaks

Studio City

Tarzana

Torreyson-Flynn

Upper Mandeville

Whitley Heights

## CHAIRMEN EMERITUS

Jerome C. Daniel

Patricia Bell Hearst

Gordon Murley

## CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM

Brian Moore

## THE FEDERATION OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

### (DRAFT) MINUTES

### GENERAL MEETING OF May 3, 2006

The Board of Directors of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations met at Tree People headquarters, 12601 Mulholland Drive, Beverly Hills, California. There being a quorum present, President Polly Ward called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm. 14 board members in attendance, 14 voters

Review of minutes was unanimously approved after 3 corrections.

**Gordon Murley**, Chairman Emeritus of the Hillside Federation, in attendance to induct the executive officers of the Hillside Federation who were elected at the last meeting in on April 5. The induction consisted of a brief ceremony and a swearing in of the officers (Vice President Joan Luchs was late-arrived at 8:43 pm-and missed the induction): President Polly Ward, chairman Steve Twining, Treasurer Fritz Zeiser, Vice President Carol Sidlow, Executive Secretary Marilyn Stefano, Recording Secretary Frank Buchanan.

Gordon Murley then gave a brief history of the Hillside Federation, including its purpose, its accomplishments and its leadership through the years.

Discussion of the need for a comprehensive **grading ordinance** because excavators don't need a haul route if they apply for 999 cubic yards or less, and this is unfair to hillside communities with small, winding streets. Comments on water runoff in hillside and canyon areas from individual lots, mention of Jim Slauson and Bob Steinbeck.

Discussion of **FBI building proposal for Westwood site**: Westwood interest groups and hillside groups can counter

each other if they're not careful.

Guest speaker from Laurel Canyon about problems with **developers and hillside excavations**. Desires support from the Hillside Federation for putting together a meeting with "powers that be", hopefully with councilperson Jack Weiss. **Rick Seireeni of Laurel Canyon**: a report filed 1 year ago for geological tests; old 1920's driveways were cut into hillsides in a manner that is causing extensive earth slippage. Gordon Murley suggests a moratorium on the 5-foot soils test that is inappropriate for hillsides, because the middle of the slope is ignored, and the test is conducted only at the top and the bottom of a lot. A particular Laurel Canyon slope is currently showing a 14-foot slip at its top.

**Carol Sidlow (Lookout Mtn. Alliance)** on Laurel Canyon: City has been lax in red-tagging during fire season because the streets are so narrow that it is fruitless to red-tag parking areas because there's no way for rescue vehicles to get in because of their size. A big fire will burn the entire canyon because the road is too small for fire vehicles, and the city has ignored the problem

**Polly Ward**: the Santa Monica mountains are full of water, and ridge cutting causes water to flow, including 2 houses near her home in Studio City, with an underground river. Bill Eick, attorney from Shadow Hills: recommends a letter be sent to the mayor, city council, and all city officials notifying them that Laurel Canyon is a public hazard and that the city is at fault if they don't rectify the problems. This letter will effectively put the city on notice.

Carol Sidlow: made a **MOTION that the Hillside Federation support Laurel Canyon residents who have been affected by the recent slides**, that a dangerous condition exists, and that we should arrange a meeting to explore their options and assure public safety. **Ann Walnum (Mt.**

Washington) suggested possible H.F. subcommittee to examine the ongoing geological problems across the Santa Monicas. **MOTION passes unanimously, 14-0**

Gordon Murley: **Black Walnut trees** are planted where there's been a landslide: their roots hold the hillsides together, and oaks won't do the job. Their current presence is an indicator of past landslides!

**Hoag Canyon**, in West Los Angeles, is for sale by the Singer family for \$35 million for the 265 acres. **Daniel March (Roscomare Valley)** suggested shopping for a developer who agrees to do limited development instead of going to war trying to stop overdevelopment of the very rugged hillside area. Daniel Marsh owns 24 acres, consisting of 4 land parcels, adjacent to Hoag Canyon, and may want to develop his property as well. Gordon Murley: Hoag Canyon won't appraise for the \$35 million asking price, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy won't pay over the appraised value.

**Bill Eick**: discussed the **Slope Density Ordinance** and minimum building allowances (1 house per 20 acres is the minimum allowed when a slope is over 50% grade). He reported that councilperson Wendy Greuel threw out the Interim Control Ordinance on the SDO after promising to do so immediately after last October's Whitebird-Canyon Hills project approval in Sunland/Tujunga. Discussion about rewriting the SDO with Joan Luchs and Bill Eick.

Bill Eick recommended hiring a civil engineer to find the natural slope of Hoag canyon (not counting grading pads already performed) to properly determine SDO building limitations.

Gordon Murley commented on the Oak Tree ordinance and the illegal cutting of oak trees, and how developers have been prevented from building for 10 years as a penalty.

**MOTION by Patricia Hearst: that the Federation appoint a representative to meet with Jim Slauson regarding the SDO on Hoag Canyon**, but objections were made because the H.F. wants the surrounding HOAs to get involved before the H.F. becomes involved. Polly asked March if he could bring other residents who are in favor of his proposal. **MOTION**

tabled, approved 13-1

**Joan Luchs: Oak Tree Ordinance and Street Services**, and important wording of the ordinance and debates in city. She provided supportive hand-outs, which also illustrate how Street Services won't enforce the Ordinance after trees are illegally cut.

Joan Luchs: **Whitley Heights Civic Association** meeting and the Las Palmas and Franklin 9-unit apartment building: resident's house will be dwarfed by 49-foot variance request (45' is the current limit). The extra height is for the elevator shaft, and this allows for a full extra story. Approval for the project came in her mail today. **MOTION for the Hillside Federation to appeal the approval because of the inappropriate variances, passed 12-1-1.**

Joan Luchs mentioned another issue in **Sherman Oaks** regarding a 4-story house of 4,787 square foot on a 9,480 square foot lot.

Joan Luchs advised of May 5th PLUM hearing.

**Steve Twining**: Gail Goldberg Valley Alliance of neighborhood council meeting.

Steve Twining: Pacific Design Center meeting: poll workers needed.

Steve Twining: bridge in newsletter, please send letters.

**Patricia Hearst**: Colfax Elementary school and Clean Money campaigns 310 481-0814 May 9, 2006, 6:30 pm

Patricia Hearst: Westside urban forum \$50 394-0253 may 19 7 am

Patricia Hearst: Newspaper article

Patricia Hearst: Project Votesmart: a website that does analysis on elections

Polly Ward: adjourns meeting at 10:02 pm.