

Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations
September 1, 2010
Minutes

There was no quorum present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by President, Marian Dodge. Members introduced themselves. Shirley Cohen, candidate for Federation Chairman Emeritus was introduced to the Board.

California State Parks Initiative:

Guest Don Robinson, Chair of the CA State Parks Foundation and Chair of the SMMC Advisory Board spoke, as primary initiator, in favor of Prop. 21 on the November ballot. Prop. 21 would increase the vehicle registration fee \$18 per year. Those fees would directly fund State Parks and would save the State \$130 million currently budgeted. In exchange residents will get free day use of the state parks. At this time, no one opposes the proposition.

Minutes: Minor corrections to the July 7 minutes were made.

President's Report:

1. Cell Tower update: Jane Usher will set up a meeting with Chris Spitz and the city attorneys involved.
2. The Dept. of Recreation & Parks sent a letter thanking us for supporting rangers.
3. The Baseline Hillside Ordinance was approved but not adopted by Council. It was sent to the City Attorney. There was much frustration over the eleventh hour changes to the grading as well as the feeling that back door deals were engaged to trump the process leaving the community unrepresented. Wendy-Sue Rosen suggested a letter strongly objecting to this practice. Cassandra Barrère was asked help draft letter which can then be used as Federation outreach to HOA's in Council Districts with hillside areas. It was suggested that we invite Councilmember Koretz to our next meeting so that we can plead our case with grading with him.
4. Walmart did not get its CEQA exemption from the state legislature.
5. Citywide Design Guidelines to insure good design were released by the Planning Dept. Comment is due Sept. 27. Marian will send them to members.
6. Everyone agreed the December holiday party is a good event and volunteers were requested – Cassandra Barrère and Nickie Miner will help Marian with the party plans.
7. Speakers Time Limit - need a motion – that each member be allowed to speak on a topic the first time for 3 minutes. Then, after everyone has had a chance to speak, each member will be allowed to speak for an additional 2 minutes.

New Business:

Widening of the 405 freeway: Mark Stratton of Bel Air Skycrest POA described the 405 widening as a disaster and efforts are being made to keep the ramps at Skirball as they are. There is a window of opportunity if the project runs out of money. Encino is leading the charge to scrap the new on/off ramp which would save money and increase public safety. Irene Sandler was mentioned as a good speaker on the issue.

Bel Air Presbyterian School Expansion: Mark Stratton described the proposed expansion of the school located in the Mulholland corridor. Previous expansion plans were opposed by the SMMC and the Hillside Federation. They want a master plan for the Mulholland Corridor and an EIR. Since the federation has already taken a position on this school, Wendy-Sue Rosen and Mark Stratton will draft a letter regarding the overriding considerations.

Solar Panel Arrays: Dan Wright of Mt. Washington is wondering if solar panel arrays on empty lots are popping up in any other neighborhoods.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Barrère

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest POA	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon Assn.	Nickie Miner
Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood	Joan Luchs
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Cassandra Barrère
Los Feliz Improvement	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Dan Palmer
	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley Assn.	Robin Greenberg
	Shirley Cohen
Upper Mandeville Canyon	Wendy-Sue Rosen

Guests Present:

Calif. State Parks Foundation	Don Robinson
Brentwood Homeowners Assn.	Donald Keller