

Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations
October 6, 2010
Minutes

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President, Marian Dodge. Members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Joan Luchs moved that the July 7 minutes be continued to the next meeting in order to review the rough draft. The motion failed. The minutes for the July 7 meeting were approved with the corrections that were made at the September meeting. The minutes for the September 1 meeting were approved as written.

III. President's Report

A. Comments

1. Marian thanked Cass Barrère for taking the September minutes.
2. Marian received a thank you note from Anita Sokolsky, a volunteer for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, for the Federation letter to Councilmember Koretz thanking him for supporting the open space at Laurel Canyon and Mulholland Drive.
3. The Governor signed the anti-mobile billboard legislation, AB 2756.
4. A UCLA grad student is studying the decline of bobcats in Griffith Park. Bobcats are dying from mange which is not normally fatal. There appears to be a link between ingesting rat poison via eating the rats /mice who eat the poison and the inability to recover from mange. As an alternative to poison, they suggest installing an owl's nest as owls prey on mice and rats.
5. Marian circulated a get well card for Philip Feldman.

B. Chairman Emeritus

1. Marian introduced our special guest Jerry Daniel who is a Past President of the Federation, Chairman Emeritus and on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Jerry spoke on the many accomplishments of Past President Shirley Cohen. Charley Mims moved that Shirley Cohen be named Chairman Emeritus. The motion passed unanimously. Marian presented Shirley with flowers. Joan Pelico, District Director for CD 5, presented Shirley with a city proclamation signed by the City Council and the Mayor. Shirley thanked Jerry, the Federation and Joan Pelico for making this happen.
2. Marian asked Joan Pelico what the Federation can do to help expedite the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. She suggested making phone calls to the City Attorney's office and writing letters. We should contact Erick Lopez, Carmen Trutanich, and Jane Usher.

Joan Pelico reported that there have been cutbacks on cleaning, street services and transportation. Her contact information is Joan.Pelico@lacity.org. New Planning Director Michael LoGrande really wants to get together with the community.

Donna Messinger invited members to the Hollywood Heights Association cleanup on Nov. 6.

Joan Pelico read the memo regarding the purchase of open space at Laurel Canyon and Mulholland Dr. CD 5 Legislative Deputy Emily Kane worked hard to complete the \$1.5 million deal which will also put \$750,000 into the general fund.

C. Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

Cassandra moved to approve the appointment of Charley Mims, Mark Stratton, and Wendy-Sue Rosen to an ad hoc committee to address the issue of getting a quorum to meetings and how to respond to emergencies that occur between regular Federation meetings. Dan Wright offered to share the language they use in Mt. Washington to address emergency issues. Joan Luchs moved to add Dan Wright to the committee but withdrew the motion when Dan declined. The committee membership motion passed.

IV. Old Business

A. Widening of the 405 freeway impact on traffic

Mark Stratton reported that because of the Hillside Federation letter regarding the expansion of the Bel Air Presbyterian School, there is now going to be an EIR done.

Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners and Encino are against the proposed changes to the Skirball ramps on the 405 freeway. Mark would like us to send a letter to keep the ramps as they are since the change would only save 30 seconds to 1 min maximum. The freeway is a Metro project but is controlled by LADOT. They are also concerned with lack of sidewalks to the Park and Ride. The letter should be sent to Bill Rosenthal, CalTrans, Metro, and LADOT. Mark moved that the Federation oppose the moving of the on and off ramps on the southbound 405 at the Skirball Bridge. The motion passed.

B. Van de Kamps Bakery

Dan Wright clarified that the Van De Kamp's Bakery issue is a Hillside Federation issue because it is in our boundaries. He handed out copies of a draft letter. It affects taxpayers because the Board of Trustees is denying the educational opportunity of a satellite campus to serve a largely low income immigrant population. The \$72 million dollar facility was leased to a Charter high school. The Community College District destroyed six classrooms, which were built with state bond money, to create offices for non profits. \$7.1 million was spent to renovate the building for tenants.

Dan moved that the Federation send the letter to the Board of Trustees. Charley Mims proposed an amendment that the Hillside Federation support the use of the Van de Kamps facility as a satellite of LACC (Los Angeles City College) for community college instruction, and oppose its use as leased space. The motion passed unanimously.

C. BHO grading changes update

Homeowners groups were not invited to the meeting of the Planning Department and architects at which the grading restrictions were removed. The Federation objects to the process. Niles Chapman suggested sending a letter to the editor of the LA Times. Charley Mims suggested that the President communicate with appropriate people and figure out who to send letter to.

V. New Business

A. Core Findings

Dan Wright brought to our attention that the Core Findings ordinance is going to the City Planning Commission next Thursday at 8:30 am. They streamlined the findings too much. The project must be consistent with the intent of the Specific Plan. Exceptions can be made if the project provides a benefit. The Core Findings are too vague. Planners will be making decisions usually made by City Council.

Charley Mims moved that the Federation is opposed to the Core Finding ordinance as currently written and in particular opposes the inclusion of “intent” in the ordinance. Dan will send Cary Brazeman’s letter from LA Neighbors United and the Core Findings to Marian. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Rehabilitation of wildlife

Madeleine O’Donnell asked if there was any news on the rehabilitation of wildlife.

C. Holiday party

The Federation holiday party will be Wednesday, December 1st (since changed to Dec.8) with a buffet dinner at the Mulholland Tennis Club like 2 years ago when many public officials turned out. Cass Barrère and Nickie Miner will be working on this. Please email Marian the names of officials you would like to invite. We will ask Dawneen Lorange to do the invitations.

D. Marian announced that KCET – SoCal connected will show an investigative report on Money/Politics in Los Angeles on October 20th.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17.

Donna Messinger
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

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| Bel Air Knolls | Dan Gold |
| Bel Air Skycrest | Mark Stratton |
| | Lois Becker |
| Benedict Canyon | Nickie Miner |
| Cahuenga Pass Neigh | Joan Luchs |
| Franklin Hills R A. | Charley Mims |
| Hollywood Heights | Donna Messinger |
| Hollywoodland | Jeanne Clark |
| Kagel Canyon | Marlene Rader |
| Laurel Canyon | Cassandra Barrère |
| Los Feliz Improv. | Marian Dodge |
| Mt. Washington | Dan Wright |
| Nichols Canyon | Madeline O’Donnell |
| Res. of Beverly Glen | Dan Palmer |
| | Gillian Calof |
| Roscomare Valley | Phyllis Gottlieb |
| | Shirley Cohen |
| Sherman Oaks | Niles Chapman |

Guests Present:

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| CD 5 | Joan Pelico |
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