

Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations
Draft Minutes
September 7, 2011

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Members introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker: Sign Ordinance - Dennis Hathaway, Dave Garfinkle

The Sign Ordinance is still with the PLUM Committee. Sign company lobbyists have had it modified since it was approved by the City Planning Commission. Twenty-one lobbyists spoke at the PLUM meeting on August 9; they got everything they wanted. Provisions would allow signage in city parks and on any city property. The Comprehensive Sign Program originally permitted only on-site signage; it now allows for 10% off-site signage. Existing on-site business signs can be converted to digital. The size of signs can be increased by 20% by the Zoning Administrator without a hearing. The ordinance removes protections for communities. Marian showed a map that illustrated the impact of signage on city property in her Los Feliz neighborhood. She urged everyone to make a similar map of their neighborhood. Berry Sanders, President of the Rec & Parks Commission, wants signs in city parks exempt from land use regulatory controls. Egregious lobbying is bypassing the public process. The City Attorney has removed 700 illegal billboards.

Action Item: Dennis and the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight (CBBB) are seeking Community Impact Statements from every neighborhood council and letters from homeowner associations before the Oct. 18 meeting of PLUM. Marian will disseminate the CBBB flyer to the Federation.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation oppose the Sign Ordinance as currently written and support the recommendations of the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight. The motion passed.

II. Approval of July 6, 2011 minutes: The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Three organizations have joined the Federation since the last meeting: Lookout Mountain Alliance, Pacific Palisades Residents Association, and Canyon Back Alliance.

The Community Alliance for Open Space sued the city for granting a zoning variance to allow a truck driving school in the Lopez Canyon Open Space in violation of CEQA and won. The City Council voted not to appeal the decision on Aug. 10.

Last year the Federation voted to tell the state legislature not to grant AEG stadium a waiver from CEQA. The same issue was raised in the new legislature so she sent a letter to the legislative leadership. After reading about all the pressure on our politicians, she sent a copy of that letter to Sen. Pavley, and Assemblymembers Feuer and Gatto so they would know our position.

Marian received a thank you note from Anita Sokolsky for attending the SMMC meeting to support the continued acquisition of open space around Mulholland Dr. and Laurel Canyon Bl.

The Hollywood Bowl Overlook on Mulholland Dr. will be renamed the Jerome C. Daniel Overlook on Sat., Nov. 12. Jerry is Past President of the Federation.

Marian thanked Mark Stratton for providing refreshments.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

With the new members the Federation now has 33 paid member organizations. If we have more paying guests attend the holiday party, expenses will come in under income this year. He encouraged everyone to promote the holiday party.

IV. Old Business - none

V. New Business

A. Stanley Hills Drive - Ali Simard, Tony Tucci

Marian explained that Tony Tucci contacted her shortly after the July meeting to ask for Federation support for the Stanley Hills Dr. appeal of the loss of a wildlife corridor in their Laurel Canyon neighborhood. The hearing was not scheduled until Sept. 13; however Tony discovered that they needed

to submit all documents for their appeal before Sept. 6. Marian then contacted the Executive Committee, who had already seen the documentation on the Stanley Hills Dr. project, to ask if they would approve submitting a letter in support of the appeal. Because the Federation had taken a position on the project in Jan., 2009, and because it involves the preservation of a wildlife corridor, the Executive Committee approved sending a letter of support for the appeal.

Ali Simard and Tony Tucci, who live adjacent to the project, stated that in 2009 the Zoning Administrator Sue Chang listed the conditions for building three large homes at 2234, 2240, and 2244 Stanley Hills Dr. The developer had an agreement with the neighbors that he would provide a wildlife corridor on the 2244 property in exchange for a waiver on improving the substandard road. The SMMC submitted a map describing the location of the 20-foot-wide conservation easement which became part of Chang's Condition 19. The developer had two weeks to appeal the decision; he did not. One a half years later the developer went to Chief ZA Linn Wyatt and convinced her to issue a Letter of Clarification which changed the wildlife corridor's location to Merrywood, a paper street.

MOTION: Charley Mims moved that the Federation confirm the decision of the Executive Committee to write a letter supporting Concerned Citizens of Stanley Hills appeal. The motion passed.

B. Bus Bench Ads - Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy explained the new contract with Martin Outdoor Media for molded plastic bus benches with advertising on the back. After explaining the problem of advertising in Scenic Corridors to Councilmember Rosendahl, he introduced motion CF# 11-1068 to amend the motion so that the advertising is "consistent with all local zoning codes, including restrictions on off-site advertising set forth in the General Plan, Community Plans, Specific Plans as enacted by ordinance, the California Coastal Act, and all other applicable law." The contractor agreed to no ads for alcohol. Andrea Alarcon, new President of the Public Works Commission, got the contractor to agree. They need a list of protected areas so that Zoning & Public Works can coordinate.

This is a different contract from the one with CBS/Decaux for street furniture, the type with a metal shelter and lighted ads on the side of the shelter.

MOTION: Wendy moved that the Federation establish a policy to protect Scenic Plans and Corridors from all advertising. The motion passed.

C. Other New Business

Patricia Bell Hearst suggested that "dirt Mulholland" be put on the national historic register.

Sarajane Schwartz saw CD 4 deputies digging what appeared to be an overlook for the Hollywood Sign along Mulholland Highway. She took pictures of them digging and was told by CD 4 Chief of Operations David Ahern that it was illegal for her to take such pictures. She asked if anyone knew if it was illegal to take pictures of public employees on public land. No one thought so.

Cassandra Barrère suggested that the Federation personally contact all of our neighborhood councils to make them aware of the Federation and what it does.

VI. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Acting Secretary,
Don Andres

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Brentwood Resid. Coal.	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland HOA	Sarajane Schwartz
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Cassandra Barrère
	Jim Nelson
Lookout Mountain All.	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge

Nichols Canyon
Pacific Palisades Resid.
Resid. of Beverly Glen
Studio City Resid.
Tarzana POA

Madeline O'Donnell
Bob Locker
Gillian Calof
Claudia Freedle
Dave Garfinkle

Guests Present:

Chair Emeritus
Cahuenga Pass POA
Concerned Citizens of
Stanley Hills Dr.

Patricia Bell Hearst
Bryce Lowery
Alison Simard
Tony Tucci