

**Draft Minutes
February 1, 2012**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Telecommunication Tower on San Vicente Peak - Ole Barré, Ultra Systems

The LA Bureau of Engineering (BOE) has received a Justice Assistance Grant to upgrade its telecommunications towers on San Vicente Peak, Mt. Lee, Mt. Lukens, Verdugo Peak, and Baldwin Hills. The purpose is to upgrade police, fire, voice and emergency radio systems. The San Vicente site is at 17500 Mulholland Dr. where there is an existing small communications tower atop the abandoned Nike missile site which is now a SMMC Cold War interpretive site. LAFD Capt. Nida explained that they have uneven and in some cases no radio coverage in the seven canyons near the peak. The new 180-foot tower would be within the fenced area of the current tower. The city is preparing a CEQA Initial Study which would be available in March. Sonia Alvarez of BOE said they would take the project to the Mulholland Design Review Board where they need an exemption because of the height of the new tower and because they will be impacting a Prominent Ridge. There is already a 180-foot tower in Elysian Park.

The Federation board members discussed the negative significant impacts on surrounding trails, open space, Mulholland Scenic Parkway with its Prominent Ridge and Major Vista Point due to such a large structure towering over the area. The Board wanted assurances that reasonable alternatives would be considered and that the selected alternative would meet the Project's safety objectives and would have the minimum impact on the surrounding environment and neighbors.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation request an EIR for the San Vicente Peak Communications Tower and that the Mulholland Design Review process be followed in the manner mandated by the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan. The motion passed. BOE will send Marian a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

Guest Speaker: Dennis Zine - "Clean Hands"

Councilmember Dennis Zine stated that the Dept. of City Planning and the Dept. of Building and Safety do not coordinate well. He cited the example that Don Keller submitted about illegal grading. Zine's "Clean Hands" Ordinance would connect the city departments so that if a person has an outstanding building code violation, he will not be allowed to get any permits until the violation is cured. Zine seeks letters of support. (Reference CF #11-1072) He also needs people to show up to support his motion. He also requested the Federation be the eyes and ears of the city; when you see construction activity on a property, check the city web site to see that it is properly permitted, if not report it.

II. Approval of Jan. 4, 2012 minutes

The minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Hollywood Dell had a wonderful celebration of the acquisition of open space properties for the La Rocha Trail.

There will be public meetings regarding Congressman Howard Berman's bill HR 2677 for helicopter noise reduction in the residential areas of Los Angeles County. He needs public support because the helicopter pilots associations are fighting the bill. HR 2677 is supported by Senators Feinstein and Boxer, Assemblymember Mike Feuer and other state officials and by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Yaroslavsky wrote a letter expressing his concerns over the proposed housing element of the NBC Universal Evolution Plan. He is requesting that they abandon the residential portion of the plan in order to concentrate on being a full-service motion picture and television production company.

B. Treasurer's Report

Don gave to current status of the federation accounts. He reported that 19 of our 34 member organizations have already paid their dues.

IV. New Business

A. Removal of tree canopy - Gillian Calof & Travis Longcore

The LA Fire Dept. has a contractor who is drastically trimming street trees in Laurel Canyon, including protected oaks, forcing clearance to blue sky over all roads. This tree trimming is coming to other canyons. A similar situation occurred in Malibu where the county developed a policy of 1) removal of dead and dying limbs; 2) removal of ladder fuels (brush); 3) raising the clearance of oak trees to 13 ½ feet; 4) raising the clearance of other trees to 16 feet. There is a meeting with LAFD on Feb. 8, 10:00 am, at Station 99 to discuss both the safety and aesthetic issues of tree trimming.

Many in Laurel Canyon worked with the Fire Dept. and were pleased with the results. Travis Longcore, a resident of Beverly Glen and a professor of environmental sciences at UCLA and USC, stated that such trimming does not meet horticulture standards.

MOTION: Gillian Calof moved that the Hillside Federation request to participate in a meeting with the City of Los Angeles Fire Dept. regarding tree canopy removal over streets with the purpose of securing an approach that protects healthy native tree growth while achieving fire safety. The motion passed.

B. Open Space for Laurel Canyon/Mulholland - Paul Edelman (SMMC), David Giron (CD 5)

The MRCA is working with the Dept. of Rec. & Parks to apply jointly for \$1.5 M in Prop. K funding for the purchase of additional open space property at the intersection of Mulholland Dr. and Laurel Canyon Blvd for the MRCA. It is a competitive bid. The property is the top lot at Laurel Canyon and Mulholland, which is appraised for less. The purchase is supported by the Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council and Councilmember Koretz. The Federation has supported previous purchases of open space land in this area.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation strongly support the MRCA and Rec. and Parks joint Prop. K application to purchase the top lot at Laurel Canyon Bl. and Mulholland Dr. The motion passed. Barbara Kohn suggested that Federation members attend a Prop K meeting to see how the city works.

C. 9115 Wonderland Ave. - Carol Sidlow

The property owner is proposing a remodel that would triple the size of the existing home. He is requesting numerous exemptions to the code including a waiver of the requirement that the

substandard road be upgraded to legal width. This would set a bad precedent. The Zoning Administrator says it is a public safety issue. The Federation has consistently required improvement of substandard roads, for example the Crescent Dr. project.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation, consistent with its own policy, support the position of the neighborhood council and neighbors in opposing waivers from the code with respect to roadway widening as it would be precedent setting. Attach Koretz letter. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. Sign Ordinance update - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The Sign Ordinance will probably not return to PLUM until early April. Marian's article on the Sign Ordinance in the newsletter was phenomenal.

B. Brush Clearance safety - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The Koretz fire safety motion CF # 09-1977 S1 does not go far enough. It only addresses brush clearance equipment and does not include fires caused by construction equipment. Pacific Palisades' motion is more comprehensive by adding brush clearance by government agencies, and construction. MOTION: Carol Sidlow moved that the Hillside Federation support the Koretz motion as amended by Pacific Palisades. The motion passed. It goes to the Public Safety meeting at 8:30 tomorrow morning.

Announcements:

Carol Sidlow - Haul Routes are now posted on the Building & Safety web site although it's hard to find. Search "haul routes."

60th Anniversary Party - The party will be in May, maybe 5:00 to 9:00 pm, 100 people. We need a good site for the party and celebrities. We will run a slide show featuring your neighborhoods. Please send us photos that showcase your neighborhood.

Nile Chapman - Barbara Fine Overlook - A neighbor's landscaping is blocking the view. Ask SMMC to check.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Hollywoodland	Jeanne Clark
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow

Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Pacific Palisades	Barbara Kohn
	Chris Spitz
Res. of Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Sherman Oaks	Niles Chapman
Studio City Resid.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	John Given

Elected Officials Present:

CD 3	Dennis Zine
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Guests Present:

CD 3	Jennifer Rivera
CD 5	David Giron
Santa Monica Mts Cons.	Paul Edelman
LAFD	Kevin Nida
LAPD	Greg Doyle
Bureau of Engineering	Sonia Alvarez
LA/Information Tech.	Lina Mach-Leung
Agency	Tho Tran
Ultra Systems	Ole Barré
Environmental	Jim Aidukas
	Gregory Ziolkowski
Sparano Mooney Arch.	Ludwing Juarez
Res. of Beverly Glen	Travis Longcore
Laurel/Mulholland	Anita Sokolsky