

Hillside Federation Newsletter November, 2011



www.hillsidefederation.org

Jerry Daniel to Be Honored



Hillside Federation Past President and Chair Emeritus Jerry Daniel will be honored by having a Mulholland overlook named in his honor.

Jerry started his community activities as a member of the Roscomare Valley Association Board in 1976. He joined the Hillside Federation as a rep from the RVA. Mayor Tom Bradley appointed him the city's rep to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee in 1983. He served as Chair of the Advisory Committee for nine years before being appointed to Board of the Conservancy by the County of Los Angeles. He also served on the Board of Directors of Tree People for 26 years. He served on the Citizens Committee for Mulholland Drive, which eventually became the Mulholland Drive Specific Plan Design Review Board, the Valley Leadership Institute and various other environmental organizations.

His connection to the Hollywood Bowl Overlook goes back to 1984 when the Conservancy built the first two Mulholland Drive

Agenda

November 2, 2011

7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

Guest Speaker:

Strip Mining - Ellie Brooks

II. Approval of Oct. 5, 2011 minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Consideration of Alan Kishbaugh for Chair Emeritus

B. Treasurer's Report

IV. New Business

A. 8875 Thrasher Ave. - Beth Fogarty

B. Farmers Markets in residential areas

C. Holiday Party

V. Old Business

A. Stanley Hills Dr. appeal - Tony Tucci
Ali Simard

B. Sign Ordinance

C. Lopez Canyon update - Marlene Rader

D. Van De Kamps - Dan Wright,
Laura Gutierrez

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli

12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604

101 between Coldwater Canyon exit
and Laurel Canyon exit

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be: To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

overlooks in conjunction with the Olympics. The first was the Hollywood Bowl Overlook and the other was the Universal City Overlook. As a fledgling Conservancy member and an avid Mulholland devotee, he joined with Joe Edmiston in fighting back stiff opposition at both overlooks to their being built at all. They've been built and all the opposition has melted away.

The Hollywood Bowl Overlook will be renamed the Jerome C. Daniel Overlook in a ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 2:00 pm at the overlook. Come celebrate with him.

Congratulations, Jerry!

Strip Mining in the Valley

Ellie Brooks



A strip/surface mine is being planned for the mountains just above Sylmar. The privately owned land sits just below Pacoima Dam, west of the Lopez Canyon Open Space, and east of the Pacoima Wash. It is surrounded by privately owned lands as well as the dam area controlled by the County Departments of Public Works and Flood Control and Army Corps of Engineers. It is also part of the Angeles National Forest. It is accessed through the road to the dam, Pacoima Canyon Road, and city streets.

Sakaida and Sons plan to take aggregate material (sand and gravel) out of a mountain, destroying the land forever. It will never be the same, even though their plan is to replant the newly stair-stepped mountain. Sakaida says that they will improve the mountain by replanting with vegetation that should have been there in the first place, as opposed to what is there now. They state that their disturbing and destroying the section of

*Hillside Federation
Holiday Party*

*Wednesday
December 7, 2010
6:30 - 9:00
Mulholland Tennis Club
2595 Crestview Dr.*

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 323-663-1031 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	ORGANIZATIONS: Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Skycrest POA Bel Air Ridge Association Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Residents Coalition Canyon Back Alliance Crests Neighborhood Assn. Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn. Hollywoodland Homeowners Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. Laurel Canyon Assn. Lookout Mountain Assn. Los Feliz Improvement Assn.	Mt. Olympus Property Owners Mt. Washington Homeowners Nichols Canyon Assn. N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon Oak Forest Canyon Assn. Outpost Estates Homeowners Pacific Palisades Residents Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn. Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.	CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Gordon Murley Polly Ward CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore
PRESIDENT Marian Dodge CHAIRMAN Charley Mims VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARY Donna Messinger TREASURER Don Andres			

mountain from top to bottom will stabilize the mountain. The project is slated to take seven years although Sakaida states that they would like to mine it for 14 years.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy cited the fact that the project would cut through the proposed Rim of the Valley Trail (Pacoima Canyon Trail), destroy a ridgeline, and impact the wash ecosystem which currently supports a full range of wildlife.

Concerns and objections to this project include:

- The destruction of a section of the San Gabriel Mountains;
- The setting of precedent regarding the acceptable use of privately owned land in the San Gabriel mountains that edge the northeast section of the San Fernando Valley;
- The dust and particles raised in the process of removing the mountain;
- The truck emissions from up to 230 diesel truck trips per day through city streets;
- The heavy winds that occur in Sylmar during almost half the year will carry particulate matter into a large section of the Valley spreading the impact to thousands of people far beyond the immediate locale.

Attached is a link to the Notice of Preparation from 2007, as well as a flyer, which summarizes the project.

http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/case/smp_01-154_notice-of-preparation.pdf

More information is available at www.casm-sfv.org/

Mulholland Scenic Parkway Design Review Board

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month,
6:30 pm

Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center
6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys, CA
1st floor conference room

Sign Ordinance Gutted

John Given



The Planning Department released its report and current revision of the citywide Sign Ordinance to the LA City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) on October 5. The latest revision includes many dramatic changes, including:

- a large increase in the number of sign district applications eligible for grandfathering (from the original 2 proposed in March 2009 to 14);
- a new "Community Benefits Program" that would allow trading off things such as streetscape improvements in lieu of the requirement to remove old signs on a greater than one-to-one basis;
- an interior sign exception that does not unequivocally spell out that city parks are to be protected from the impacts of comprehensive sign programs.

The last of these issues is particularly troubling in light of Councilmember Jan Perry's letter to PLUM dated October 18, asking PLUM to modify the Sign Ordinance to allow commercial advertising in City parks and other facilities. Councilmember Perry warns that the City will be "missing a critical opportunity to create possible revenue through signage at city facilities" if the change is not made.

The PLUM hearing on October 18 was very well attended. Sixty-nine speaker cards were collected, with the overwhelming majority of speakers opposed to the ordinance. Federation President Marian Dodge was among the many speakers opposed, and no community council, neighborhood council, or group representing homeowners supported the ordinance

as written. Numerous media and sign industry representatives also expressed their opposition, apparently believing that the current revision remains too restrictive. Deputy Planning Director Alan Bell was asked to return to PLUM November 1 to discuss a schedule to report back on numerous topics discussed by PLUM, with further hearings expected toward the end of the year.

For the most up to date information, please visit: <http://banbillboardblight.org/> .



The Federation was well represented at PLUM on October 18 with Lois Becker and VPs Mark Stratton and Wendy-Sue Rosen. Sandy Brown of the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight is in the foreground.

Motions:

If you are planning on making a motion at the meeting, please prepare your motion ahead of time and bring enough copies for all member associations. This will make it easier for the directors to consider the merits of the motion and easier for the secretary to record it.

Holiday Party



Assemblymember Mike Feuer

Mark your calendars and save the date! The Hillside Federation will have its Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 7.

Our guest of honor will be Assemblymember Mike Feuer of the 42nd District which serves most of the Hillside Federation communities. Feuer has a long record of protecting the environment. He was one of the first to support the LA River Natural Park in Studio City (October newsletter). In October he was honored to receive the Byron Sher Award for Achievement in Environmental Protection by a Public Official from the Sierra Club. The award recognizes his support for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and his work to pass landmark green chemistry legislation to diminish the threats posed to Californians by toxic substances.

Many city officials and their deputies will also be invited. It's a great opportunity for you to meet with them on a casual social basis. Your pet project will probably sound much more interesting with a glass of wine.

The party will be held at the Mulholland Tennis Club with its spectacular view of the city from the top of Mulholland Drive. The tennis club has a fabulous buffet and an incredible dessert selection to put you in a cheerful mood. Spouses and guests are invited to share in the festivities.

MULHOLLAND TENNIS CLUB
2595 CRESTVIEW DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.

\$40/PERSON – INCLUDES BUFFET DINNER AND WINE.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
HILLSIDE FEDERATION

Draft Minutes October 5, 2011

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Members introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker: LA River Natural Park - Alan Dymond

Federation member from Studio City Alan Dymond established a 501(c)(3) called Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) to preserve 16 acres of open space along the LA River between Coldwater Canyon and Whitsett. There is currently a golf driving range and tennis courts on the site. A developer has proposed a 200-unit condo project. The land is currently zoned agricultural. SLAROS has designed a park with oak woodland, stream and wetlands landscaping that would capture storm water runoff for 160 acres. The polluted water coming off of nearby city streets would be naturally filtered, keeping the pollutants out of the river, nourishing plants with its hydrocarbons, and replenishing the aquifer. In the old model of water management, dirty water flowed into the river and down to the ocean. 40 million gallons of water goes into the LA River every day. The new model recognizes that we have a water shortage. So instead of dumping the water, let's clean it and store it.

The LA River Natural Park will create a 16-acre park. Mia Lehrer and Associates and Blue Green Consulting developed the feasibility plan and visual concept for the park. They will retain the golf driving range and tennis courts because they are recreational facilities that generate revenue to maintain the park. Solar panels along the walking path will make the park "grid neutral." SLAROS is funding a grant application for Prop. 84 funds for a river parkway. There are mitigation funds available from CalTrans because of the 405 widening. If they can get Prop. O funding it will trigger private funding. The park has the support of Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR), Joe Edmiston of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA), Senator Fran Pavley, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

II. Approval of Sept. 7, 2011 minutes - delayed for lack of quorum. The minutes were approved as corrected when a quorum was achieved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian attended a meeting with Councilmember Paul Koretz at the request of Roscomare Valley to discuss the options for covering Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir. The concrete cover with native landscaping on top is the option preferred by the community. Although the initial price is more expensive, because it lasts so much longer, in reality the cost is about the same as the rubber cover. Because there is a new DWP Commission, the community has to go back and lobby the new members.

The Executive Committee has been discussing the criteria for Chair Emeritus. The bylaws only state that the person must have provided outstanding service to the Federation. There have been only six Chair Emeriti in 60 years. The Committee will review the characteristics they demonstrated in order to establish criteria for the designation. So far they have proposed three criteria: provided a specific service; played a leadership role; fostered a team environment. If anyone has any additional suggestions for criteria, please send them to Marian.

The Hollywood Bowl Overlook on Mulholland Drive will be renamed the Jerome C. Daniel Overlook, for Federation Past President Jerry Daniel on Sat., Nov. 2 at 2:00 pm.

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments is sponsoring a Valley Mobility Summit conference on Nov. 10, 9:00 - noon in Van Nuys to discuss improvement projects, challenges of the Panama Canal expansion.

Studio City Neighborhood Council will have Wendy Greuel and Brad Sherman speaking at their Oct. 19 meeting at 7:00 pm, CBS Studio Center lot.

B. Treasurer's Report

Marian read the report sent by Don Andres. All bills are paid. We now have 33 paid members.

IV. Old Business

A. Stanley Hills Dr. appeal

Marian attended the appeal hearing on Sept. 13. Chief Zoning Administrator Lynn Wyatt read the definition of a Letter of Clarification in her defense, but it actually proved that she was not clarifying. The homeowners have a private agreement with the developer to waive the requirement to upgrade the substandard road in exchange for a wildlife corridor. He later got the

Chief ZA to move the wildlife corridor from his property to a paper street. Several alternative wildlife corridors were presented. Eric Bruins of the MRCA presented one that the homeowners liked. The Area Planning Commission asked the two parties to meet and come to a compromise. Eric Bruins has not met with the home owners since then.

B. Sign Ordinance - Wendy Rosen

The City Planning Commission held three lengthy meetings 20 months ago to take public input on the Sign Ordinance. The result was a compromise; no one was happy, but everyone got something. However sign company lobbyists have ruled the day at the PLUM hearing on August 9. They got 12 additional Sign Districts “grandfathered” in, signs in parks and on city properties, digital sign conversions.

The city is not following the process established in the City Charter. If substantive changes are made to an ordinance after it has been approved by the City Planning Commission, it must go back to the City Planning Commission. This was stated by a City Attorney and a City Planner at a meeting on the Wilshire Grand project. Claudia Freedle suggested that since there was no quorum, that we email members so we can take a position. That is not permitted in the Federation bylaws. The Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight will send a legal memo to follow the City Charter.

Charley said they should not permit digital billboards until a study has been completed regarding their safety, impact on traffic congestion, and energy consumption. Wendy said that Councilmember Paul Koretz wrote a motion for an Interim Control Ordinance to prohibit digital signs in CD 5 until they have been studied; however Councilmember Reyes has not put it on the PLUM agenda so it is going nowhere.

Signs in city parks are out but they are still permitted in rec centers. Charley Mims stated that Barry Sanders favors signs in parks. He reported seeing a Lakers logo on the basketball court at Lafayette Park. Los Angeles proposes brighter digital signs than New York City. There is now a “Community Benefit Measure” instead of sign reduction.

We need to get a large turnout from our member organizations for the PLUM hearing on Oct. 18.

C. Redistricting - Nickie Miner

Hundreds of people attended the hearings on the redistricting of the LA County Supervisorial

Districts. One of the plans would have moved 3.5 million people out of District 3 and split the Santa Monica Mountains. Gloria Molina brought in lots of Latinos to try to create a largely Latino district. Mark Ridley-Thomas changed his vote at the last minute to support plan A3 which keeps the Santa Monica Mountains together. Nickie cautioned that in the next ten years we may not be so lucky. Now that there are many Latinos in office in LA County, they could probably not sue on the basis of racial discrimination.

D. Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE)

Marian, Mark Stratton, Lois Becker, David Garfinkle, and Diane Rosen of Encino attended the Budget & Finance Committee meeting on Sept. 26 and spoke in favor, as did many others. One person brought in half a dozen homeowners who have been cited under the current law, to testify how bad ACE is. The Legislative Analyst presented some technical changes he wants made to the ordinance so it had to go back to committee the following Monday. City Attorney Tina Hess expected it to pass Budget & Finance and go to Council on Oct. 5. However Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, who was absent at the Sept. 26 meeting where everything was explained, asked ten questions. It’s going back to Budget & Finance in thirty days.

E. La Rocha Trail update

They are only \$14,000 short of the money they need to purchase the lots to preserve the trail. Checks may be made payable to the MRCA.

It was at this point in the meeting that a quorum was achieved. The minutes were approved as corrected. MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support the LA River Natural Park. The motion passed.

F. 16100 Mulholland Drive - Mark Stratton

The Mirman School for Gifted bought the property for an athletic field and open space, but it is now a preschool for Bel Air Presbyterian. Bel Air Presbyterian is claiming that they have a vested right there. They have tripled the number of students enrolled. An EIR said the Bel Air Presbyterian preschool had to move out of the Mirman property two years ago, but they have not. They have no Certificate of Occupancy. The Federation has supported an EIR for the the project. The City Attorney supports the position of Bel Air Skycrest. Wendy said we can send the 2009 letter requesting an EIR. They are expecting a hearing on Nov. 4 and a final hearing in December.

V. New Business

A. Holiday Party - Marian Dodge

The Federation Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 pm at the Mulholland Tennis Club. We are thinking of having Senator Fran Pavley as our guest of honor.

B. Tower Lane project - Nickie Miner

Work was started on the project in Benedict Canyon on expired permits. Councilmember Paul Koretz issued a stop order. Wendy-Sue Rosen commented that the Clean Hands policy has become a priority for the city; it is currently in the Planning Department.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Donna Messinger,
Resording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Lookout Mountain	Lois Becker
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Outpost Estates	Ray Schuldenfrei
Studio City Resid.	Claudia Freedle

Guest Present:

Studio City Resid.	Alan Dymond
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