

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
July, 2012**



www.hillsidefederation.org

**Founder of Santa Monica
Mountains National
Recreation Area**



*Margot Feuer, 1922 - 2012
March, 2011 at King Gillette Ranch*

Margot Feuer, the last of the three inspiring women who fought for the preservation of the Santa Monica Mountains has died. Margot, Jill Swift, and Sue Nelson campaigned and lobbied Congress to protect the mountains and open space

**Agenda
July 11, 2012
7:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order
 - II. Approval of June 6, 2012 minutes,
 - III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - IV. New Business
 - A. Lawsuit against Hollywood Community Plan - George Abrahams
 - V. Old Business
 - A. Mulholland Institutional Corridor - Mark Stratton
 - B. Mulholland DRB/Curtis School - Mark Stratton
 - C. Curtis School Conservation Easement - Wendy-Sue Rosen
 - D. Linda Flora - Steve Twining
 - VI. Adjournment
- Next meeting - Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012
No meeting in August

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604
CA 101 between Coldwater Canyon exit
and Laurel Canyon exit

Hillside Federation mission: *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.*

they loved so much.

Margot began her career as an environmentalist in the 1950s when she helped found Stamp Out Smog. She served on the South Coast Regional Commission of the California Coastal Commission and founded Save Open Space Santa Monica Mountains. Later she joined the Sierra Club where she lobbied on behalf of National Parks. In 1978 she was the Co-chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force which worked at the county, state and federal levels to establish the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area thus preserving 150,000 acres of open space from a proposed nuclear power plant, a freeway through Malibu Canyon, and other development. She argued for a visitor center because “there’s no there there.” That wish was fulfilled on June 9 when the new visitor center at King Gillette Ranch was opened.

The federation is grateful for women like Margot, Jill, and Sue for the role they played in the protection of the environment and in the preservation of open space.

Linda Flora Hearing Aug. 14

In September, 2011 the Hillside Federation joined Roscomare Valley Assn. and Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council in opposing the proposed development at 1400 Linda Flora Drive. The project consists of a 43,000 square foot residence with accessory buildings, pool, spa, lit tennis court and two 10-foot high retaining walls that are each 1600 feet in length. The proposed project is twenty times the size of existing homes in the area. The 20 ft. vertical drop of the retaining walls would severely impact the existing wildlife connectivity in Hoag Canyon. CEQA review was required under the City’s Building Code because the project requires more than 20,000 cubic yards of grading on a project site with a steeper than 10% grade. It would disturb three acres of ridgeline and hillside area and direct drainage of the area to Hoag Canyon, a biologically sensitive area.

The applicant is requesting a permit to export 18,405 cubic yards of earth from the site. The Building and Safety Commissioners will hear the matter on Tuesday, August 14, 9:30 am, 201 N. Figueroa St., Room 900. Roscomare Valley Association requests attendees to support their position at the hearing.

**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

<p>P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 323-663-1031 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org</p>	<p>ORGANIZATIONS: Beachwood Canyon Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Ridge Association Bel Air Skycrest POA Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Hills Homeowners Brentwood Residents Coalition Cahuenga Pass Property Owner 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.</p>	<p>Lake Hollywood HOA 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. Oaks Homeowners 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 HOA</p>	<p>Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Polly Ward</p> <p>CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore</p>
<p>PRESIDENT Marian Dodge CHAIRMAN Charley Mims VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARY Donna Messinger TREASURER Don Andres</p>			

Hillside Federation
June 6, 2012
Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker – Condition Compliance Unit

Jeff Ebenstein (CD 5) spoke about the proposed Condition Compliance Unit in the Planning Department to enforce planning and zoning regulations to protect neighborhood quality of life. It is to be funded through permit fees and will start with a staff of three. He noted that this is considered an administrative change and should be faster to implement. Wendy-Sue Rosen voiced concern that both the City Attorney and CD-5 Planning Deputy Chris Koonz have stated on several occasions that Voluntary Conditions are not enforceable, but those are the conditions often-times negotiated between applicants/developers and community members and they are the conditions that the community would most need the City to enforce. Wendy asked how the new unit would handle enforcement of these conditions. Anita Sokolsky offered the concept of a City waiver among the City, developer, and the residents to document an agreed to negotiated position. This new unit should be in place by August 1 and will be announced on the City website. Jeff Ebenstein said that he would inquire about the enforceability of Voluntary Conditions and get back to the Federation with the answer. He also suggested the formation of a committee to explore the idea of a waiver or other mechanism to ensure negotiated conditions are enforceable.

II. Approval of April 4, 2012 and May 2, 2012 meeting minutes

The minutes are correct as written and were approved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian welcomed new members Cahuenga Pass Property Owners, Oaks Homeowners, and Lake Hollywood Homeowners.

Chris Spitz (Pacific Palisades) sent an update on cell towers. The Public Works Committee and PLUM Committee approved revisions for the Cell Tower Ordinance which will go to full City

Council. The recommendations include expanded notice, eliminating the exemption for utility poles, aesthetics, and setting time limits. Marian thanked Chris for her years of efforts on this project.

CLEAN – Community Leaders Educating and Assisting Neighborhoods (CLEAN) 213-847-6000 is looking for volunteers from neighborhoods to assist the City in reporting illegal signs, illegal vending, illegal yard sales, and graffiti.

The Bureau of Street Services is looking for volunteers to serve as Reserve Enforcement Officers 213-847-6000. Applicants have a thorough background investigation and have mandatory monthly meetings on arrest, search and seizure.

Mountain lion and Sign Ordinance information is contained in the Friends of Griffith Park newsletter, and handouts were provided. On Tuesday, June 19th there will be a meeting on ecology and mountain lions. Friends of Griffith Park is doing a study on how to restore Fern Dell.

The Department of Building and Safety has been automatically extending permits on expired permits with no adherence to the Baseline Hillside Ordinance rules and regulations.

MOTION: HF to send a letter to Bud Ovrom (with cc to relative Council Districts) asking him to adhere to the time constraints relative to the Baseline Hillside Ordinance with respect to not extending expiring permits. The motion passed.

Marian reported that the Federation's recommendations to the Hollywood Community Plan have been included in the revision to the plan. The Plan went to PLUM recently and will go to City Council on June 19, 2012 for approval.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don reported that all the dues have been collected and we now have a 40 member organization with the recent addition of two new organizations. This represents the largest membership in the Hillside Federation during the last decade. He emphasized the need to encourage additional organizations to join the Federation. Don also provided the financial status as of month-end May, 2012.

IV. New Business

A. Voluntary Conditions – The discussion consisted of the concept of a waiver or contract as discussed above which should be drafted by a committee.

B. 6459 Innsdale Drive -- Tom Workman (Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association) is asking for a letter from the Federation to the City concerning proposed 2-story, 9,000 sq. ft. home to be built below the Hollywood Sign on land that currently has a vineyard. Sheila Irani (CD 4) provided additional information on the plans for the site.

MOTION: Move that the Federation write a letter to CD 4 conveying that we were very supportive of the purchase of Cahuenga Peak to protect the vista of the iconic Hollywood Sign, and we are concerned that the subject property will adversely impact those views, and we ask the Councilmember's office to do everything legally possible to protect those views. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. 9941 Tower Lane – Nickie Miner stated that the property owner is suing the City to avoid complying with CEQA rules. The applicant's grading permit would involve the destruction of numerous protected trees.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, CD 5, and Benedict Canyon Association regarding their concerns with the Tower Lane Project. The motion passed.

B. 2244 Stanley Hills Drive – Ali Simard discussed the current issues with the project and stated that they are represented legally. The Zoning Administrator Linn Wyatt has allowed the recording of a wildlife easement that differs from what the Area Planning Commission approved as an Exhibit provided by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. It is imperative that the City support the decision of the Area Planning Commission in order to protect wildlife habitat and connectivity.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter to Michael LoGrande, Alan Bell, and CD 5 that the easement that the Central Area Planning Commission approved and represented by formal survey is the easement that must be preserved on the ground, and further, that no permits be issued for this house until this issue is resolved. The motion passed.

C. Helicopter Noise Relief - Marian reported that Rep. Howard L. Berman's act is facing opposition from the helicopter lobby. Therefore Sen. Dianne Feinstein added language to a Senate Appropriations Committee report to direct the FAA to solicit views of neighborhood groups and helicopter operators, study the problem, and report back to Congress within a year.

D. 8401 Grandview Drive – Tony Tucci reported that the property owner received a Notice to Stop All Work on April 2 because the permits were signed in error; Building & Safety did not approve the construction of an additional dwelling and pool on the adjacent lots. The applicant is now requesting waivers for set backs and driveways to construct a pool, deck, and new 3-story 2,640 sq. ft. accessory building on a substandard street.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support Laurel Canyon Assn. and CD 5's position with respect to Grandview Drive and oppose any deviations from code. The motion passed.

E. Van De Kamps – Dan Wright reported that two judgments have been made by Judge Ann Jones and a supplemental EIR has been required because the new charter high school is a significant change in the use of the facility. Los Angeles City College is considering its options. One may be to continue to allow Eli Broad's Alliance Charter School to continue instead of the community college satellite that was to have been on the site.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Don Andres – Acting Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
Hollywoodland	Jim Van Dusen
Lake Hollywood	Tom Workman
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
	Ali Semard
Lookout Mountain	Anita Sokolsky
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington	Dan Wright
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Pacific Palisades	Bob Locker
Studio City	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	Lois Becker

Officials Present:

CD 4	Sheila Irani
CD 5	Jeff Ebenstein

Save these dates for Hillside
Federation meetings

August - NO meeting

September 5

October 3

November 7

December 5