

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
September, 2012**



www.hillsidefederation.org

**A Firestorm On
Stanley Hills**

from Canyon News



It's a knock down, drag out fight, with no clear winner – yet. The battle for the Wildlife Corridor through Laurel Canyon and Mulholland as spelled out by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) is on the chopping block.

The dispute between locals and an interloping developer proposing to cram 3 large houses on three lots at 2234, 2240, and 2244 Stanley Hills has set off a firestorm. Laurel Canyon residents have a reputation for their rabid compassion for the creatures with which they share the hillside. They feel they owe a duty to the local wildlife. They act on their commitment, even when no one else is looking. This time, however, everyone is looking, watching, and waiting with baited breath

**Agenda
September 5, 2012
7:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order
- Guest Speakers:
 - Props. HH and MM - Paul Edelman
 - Jackie Hunsacker - “No Litter Zone”
- II. Approval of July 11, 2012 minutes
- III. Officers’ Reports
 - A. President’s Report
 - B. Treasurer’s Report
- IV. New Business
 - A. Community Care Facilities - Maria Fisk , Chris Spitz
- V. Old Business
 - A. 9169 W. Crescent Dr. - Carol Sidlow
 - B. Stanley Hills Dr. lawsuit - Tony Tucci
 - C. NBC Universal expansion
 - D. Cell Towers update - Chris Spitz
 - E. Grand View Drive update
 - F. Tower Lane update - Nickie Miner
 - G. Linda Flora update - Steve Twining

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012
Mayoral Candidate Forum

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry’s Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604
CA 101 between Coldwater 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.*

to see who steps up to the plate.

It's not unusual for developers to come into the hillsides trying to make a fast buck. They plunk down money without doing their homework. They look at the land and focus exclusively on how to maximize the dollar return, without any consideration for other local interests. They're speculators. In this instance, the community is fighting to have the buildings' square footage give way to a Wildlife Corridor which has been in place for years. The community feels that city administrators should side with the SMMC Wildlife Corridor, which bisects the property. They claim that an interrupted corridor effectively extinguishes the value of the entire corridor.

This debate, cradled in the heart of a movie industry community, is relying on its technical know-how to manage a campaign to save the canyons from "greedy developers." The Canyon Defenders have linked arms with www.docuprotest.com/ (DocYouProtest) which has taken its lead from the Occupy Movement. "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it!" practically shouts at you when you watch their youtube video. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvePqGGltXA>

At the heart of this issue is whether the work of various citizen advisory boards can be summarily dismissed in the city's formal decision making process. The advisory boards are set up by agencies, City Council members, or the Mayor. The politicians are seeking guidance on how to meet the needs of the electorate. The citizen

advisory boards usually make recommendations by consensus, collaborating with departmental advisors. It's a mechanism to avoid spending valuable public dollars and time over and over again on a case-by-case basis which revisit the same issues.

Canyon Defenders are frustrated by public agency employees who grant developers the right to skirt rules in a willy-nilly fashion, especially in the area of planning and zoning which governs private and commercial development in Los Angeles. Exemptions and exceptions should be just that: rarely given rather than handed out blithely and without articulated benchmarks. "It will cost me a fortune to comply," from the developer just shouldn't cut it. They are speculators. They know the risk, they just want to unload it onto the community, which they city should not sanction.

It is equally frustrating to the community when only 1% of Angelinos live in the hills. Those imposing their visions for the city usually have no concept of the unique challenges life in the hills presents. "Do you know where your emergency evacuation route is?" "Do you know what to do on a Red Flag Day?"

The unique characteristics of the hills surrounding Los Angeles are part of the allure for millions of tourist dollars. So let's just make them look like any other big city in the U.S. Sound like a plan?

[Editor's note: The author of this column in the Canyon News is noted for her sarcasm.]

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 323-663-1031 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	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.	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	Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn. CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Polly Ward CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore
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Hannah Carter Japanese Gardens Sale Halted



The Hannah Carter Japanese Garden received a reprieve July 27 through a preliminary injunction halting the sale of the garden. This ruling buys valuable time to seek a preservation solution. Please contact UCLA to reinforce that it should keep its promise to maintain the garden in perpetuity. For more information go to <http://www.hannahcarterjapanesegarden.com> or to the LA Conservancy website

[▶ Hannah Carter Japanese Garden: How You Can Help](#)

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

Hillside Federation July 11, 2012 Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm. Members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes The minutes for June 6, 2012 meeting were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian announced that there will be an exhibit of tree photographer Dan Shephard's work at Bergamot Station on July 14. It will be followed by a photography workshop at TreePeople on July 21.

The Helicopter Noise Relief Act hearing will be held on August 6, 6:30 pm in Sherman Oaks.

Because of the 2013 New Years holiday, everyone agreed to hold the January meeting on January 9 instead of January 2.

The website has been updated. The neighborhood slide show that Gillian Calof created for the anniversary party is now on the website. Photographs from the 40th anniversary including chair emeritus and from the 60th anniversary party are now posted on the website. The Request For Action form is now available in .doc format so you can type into it, save it and send it back via email. It is in the lower right corner of the home page.

B. Treasurer's Report

Don Andres, who is on east coast for the summer, sent his report with the current accounts.

IV. New Business

A. Lawsuit against the Hollywood Community Plan - George Abrahams

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Assn., People for Livable Communities, and others are suing the City of Los Angeles over the Hollywood Community Plan because it will allow too much development in Hollywood and cause congestion from the Valley to downtown. According to George, the smaller suits will be consolidated into one large lawsuit. George said the Plan should be based on facts not on predictions because the population in Hollywood has been decreasing. The community wants all alternatives such as down-zoning to be considered and a new EIR conducted. Marian asked where in

the Plan it showed up-zoning. George said it appeared in the matrix, but he did not have a copy of the matrix. He will send it to Marian with the up-zoning highlighted.

George asked the Federation and its member organizations to support the lawsuit. The Federation requested that the community groups provide more information about the issue before taking any position.

V. Old Business

A. Mulholland Institutional Corridor - Mark Stratton

Mark explained that the institutions continue to make requests for changes to their operations, including expansions to their sites along the Mulholland Corridor. Both Mirman and Curtis Schools are requesting new Conditional Use Permits to add square footage and expanded uses in this very low density residential zone. The community has been working with Council District 11 Bill Rosendahl to create a policy to coordinate the events from all of the institutions in the Corridor.

Save these dates for Hillside Federation meetings

**October 3
Mayoral Candidate Forum
November 7
December 5 Holiday Party
January 9
February 6
March 6**

MOTION: Mark Stratton moved that until a Master Plan is adopted for the Mulholland Institutional Corridor, the Federation adopt, as a policy matter, a request for the following condition, to be included in every institutional corridor entitlement document: "All Special Events shall be coordinated among the

Mulholland Institutional Corridor educational, religious and cultural institutions and staggered to minimize impacts on neighboring residential areas." and "Said institutions shall provide annual notice of these events in the form of a calendar distributed to the affected Council Offices (CD 11 & CD 5), Neighborhood and Community Councils (Encino, Brentwood & Bel Air/Beverly Crest), and local HOAs at the beginning of each school year." The motion passed.

B. Mulholland Design Review Board/Curtis School - Mark Stratton

Mark reported that many of the school have been submitting proposed expansion and renovation plans to the MDRB in a piecemeal fashion so that it is impossible for the MDRB to accurately determine the true impact of the projects on the Mulholland Corridor. Curtis School is currently planning a 20-year build out and has requested that it bring each phase of its plan back for approval. The Van Nuys office Planning staff has been advising the MDRB incorrectly and telling the MDRB to make decisions based on incomplete applications. Staff is telling the MDRB that they are only advisory, but they are mandated to be the first level of review. A DRB recommendation must be approved by a majority of all the members, not by a majority of those present; however the planner has been passing along votes that did not have a majority of all members.

MOTION: Mark Stratton moved that the Federation write a letter to the City that they need to follow their own codes and regulations with regard to Mulholland Design Review Board procedures. The motion passed.

C. Curtis School Conservation Easement - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has suggested a conservation easement as part of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Curtis School project. It is important to provide contiguous open space for wildlife connectivity. The remaining open space on the manufactured slopes should be turned over to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) as a wildlife corridor.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support a very specifically worded condition that requires DRB review for every aspect/phase of the Curtis School Project prior to any other approval by the City. I further move that the Federation support a condition, via Mulholland Design Review Board approval, to

dedicate a conservation easement on existing manufactured slopes on Curtis School property to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and that any additional approved development by the school be subject to a condition of approval and MND mitigation measure that requires, and only allows, wildlife permeable fencing, or no fencing, and no additional campus lighting within the Mulholland Drive right-of-way. The motion passed.

D. Linda Flora Dr. - Steve Twining

In September, 2011 the Federation opposed the 46,659 sq. ft. residence proposed on one of the last open spaces available. The project includes two 1,000-foot retaining walls ten feet high in order to connect Upper Linda Flora with Lower Lind Flora. The grading will cut off the top of a ridgeline. The 75,000 cubic yards of dirt will go into the adjacent Hoag Canyon which the applicant does not own. A hearing with the Dept. of Building & Safety will be held on August 14 regarding the export of 18,405 cubic yards of earth from the site. The Mitigated Negative Declaration is inadequate, not certified, and does not address issues raised by the Regional Water Quality Board and the Dept. of Fish & Game.

MOTION: Steve Twining moved that the Hillside Federation support the Roscomare Valley Association's request that the haul route hearing of August 14, 2012 for the grading of over 18,000 cubic yards be put in abeyance until all of the mandatory requirements imposed on the property owner by the State Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Fish and Game have been completed. The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared in 2007 (ENV-2007-1030), which is referenced for the haul route hearing currently scheduled, must be vacated as the mitigations presented in the document are incomplete, do not address the potentially significant environmental impacts presented by the proposed development, and have not taken into account State jurisdictional agencies requests for recirculation. The motion passed.

E. Tower Lane update - Nickie Miner thanked the Federation for the wonderful letter.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Donna Messinger, Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Resid.	Don Keller
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Oaks Homeowners	Bob Young
Pacific Palisades	Bob Locker
Res. of Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks	Niles Chapman
Studio City	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	James Provenzano

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website www.hillsidefederation.org) with documentation and send it to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.