

email: president@hillsidefederation.org
website: www.hillsidefederation.org

FOUNDED IN 1952

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Briarcliff Improvement
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Franklin Ave/Hwd.Blvd.West
Franklin Hills Residents
Glassell Park Improvement
Glenridge Homeowners
Highlands Owners Association
Hollywood Dell Civic
Hollywood Heights Association
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners
La Tuna Canyon Community
Laurel Canyon Association
Los Feliz Improvement
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
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Mt. Wash. Homeowners Alliance
Nichols Canyon Association
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Oak Forest Canyon Association
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Association
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks Homeowners
Tarzana Property Owners
Torreyson-Flynn Association
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MAJOR LOOPHOLES STILL EXIST IN NEW SIGN ORDINANCE

At last week's initial hearing on a new city-wide sign ordinance, the City Planning Commission (CPC) heard from dozens of speakers with various points of view, but postponed final action until a special meeting on Feb. 19. If the commission adopts the ordinance at that time, it's expected to go to the city council at the end of the month.

Representatives of homeowner's associations, anti-blight activists, and others argued that provisions limiting the overall amount of signage and banning digital signs were important, but that removing the distinction between off-site and on-site signs, and allowing digital and other kinds of large-scale signs in special sign districts could undermine the goal of halting the degrading of the city's visual environment.

A number of lobbyists and attorneys representing development interests argued that the limits on the amounts of signage and the restrictions of sign districts to zoning areas designated as regional commercial centers could stifle development and business and damage the city's economy. Representatives of several large sign companies also argued against the digital sign ban and limits on amount of allowed signage.

...Continued on page 2



*Important
Information
Enclosed*

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 2009
Social Hour at 7 PM/Meeting at 7:30 PM

Meeting to start promptly at 7:30 pm

UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

**3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West between
Lankershim-Universal Drive bridge off
ramps; park underground garage/street;
take elevator to 2nd floor conference room**

AGENDA

Introductions: Members/Guests

Minutes: January

President's Report:

- A. Getting out the vote**
- B. Benedict Canyon Association:
CD 5 Candidate Forum**
- C. Nominating Committee**
- D. Billboard Sign Ordinance**

Treasurer's Report:

- A. Annual Report**
- B. Federation dues become
delinquent March 15th**

Old Business:

- A. Solar Energy Plan:**
- Proposition B: Motion & Vote**

Adjournment:

Those who believe that a strict, enforceable sign ordinance without loopholes is needed to protect the city's visual environment from being filled with more and more commercial advertising must make their voices heard to the CPC and their city council representatives. There are powerful interests who want to make it impossible for us to avoid advertising wherever we walk and drive in the city, and these interests will prevail at city hall unless significant numbers of citizens tell their representatives that the visual landscape belongs to everyone, not just those who want to sell products and services.

The actual text of the new ordinance, along with supporting material, can be read from <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/>. On the right-hand menu, click on Plans & Ordinances, Proposed Ordinances, and Sign Code Revisions. To read analysis of these sign code revisions, go to the following link <http://banbillboardblight.org/?p=1144>. Send comments to the City Planning Commission at cpc@lacity.org.

Dennis Hathaway
Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight



**BENEDICT CANYON
 ASSOCIATION
 PRESENTS**

**62nd ANNUAL BCA
 TOWN HALL MEETING &
 COUNCIL DISTRICT 5
 CANDIDATES FORUM**

BCA will host a debate among the following candidates running for City Council representing District 5:

- Adeena Bleich – Ron Galperin
- Paul Koretz – Robin Ritter Simon
- Robert Schwartz – David T. Vahedi

Moderated by:

**LARRY ELDER &
 MARCIA SELZ, Ph.D.**

**Monday, February 9th, 2009
 Beverly Hills Hotel Rodeo Room
 7:00 pm
 Free Refreshments**

DUES REMINDER



**2009 Hillside Federation
 Membership fees of
 \$150 are now due**

**Please bring your check to the
 February 4th meeting or mail it in time
 to be received by March 1, 2009. Dues
 become delinquent on March 15, 2009**

**Mail checks to Dan Palmer
 10415 Corfu Lane
 Los Angeles, CA 90077**

SOLAR ENERGY PLAN NEEDS HARD DATA AND COMPREHENSIVE DEBATE BEFORE BEING ASKED TO VOTE ON IT

Everyone wants Los Angeles to finally join the solar energy movement but Measure B on the March 3 ballot has become the hottest election issue in a dispute over whether it's worth any price to get it or whether there's a better, faster and cheaper way to get clean power in the city.

Supporters admit there have been no studies of costs or planning for the nation's largest Solar Energy initiative but it's worth whatever it costs to get the Department of Water and Power DWP to move forward aggressively to get rooftop solar units on government, commercial and industrial buildings.

They acknowledge that the process that led to the City Council putting it on the ballot was flawed and that the DWP has delivered only 12 megawatts of solar over the last decade and will fall far short of its goal of 100 megawatts by 2010. But, they say, if we don't do it now, when will we?

Critics say the failure is entirely City Hall's fault and to mandate that DWP and its workers get a monopoly on ownership, installation and maintenance of large rooftop units will actually drive electricity rates up sharply because of DWP's high labor costs, stifling development of a private sector solar industry and resulting in the delivery of less power in the long run.

The heart of the issue is that the DWP and its union, IBEW Local 18, have resisted solar energy efforts because of their demand for a monopoly on electricity generation.

They gave discounts in long-term contracts to LAUSD and other large energy users to keep them from installing solar units and took other steps that blocked solar energy efforts.

Now, City Hall is asking voters to approve Measure B to grant DWP its monopoly because our elected officials lacked the will to mandate that the city-owned utility adopt clean energy policies.

Is Measure B worth the price?

No one can say for sure because Measure/Proposition B doesn't really spell out a policy and isn't based on any hard data.

That's what Superior Court Judge Yaffe ruled when the "Yes on B" campaign sued opponents who wrote the "No" argument for the ballot pamphlet, claiming it contained "false and misleading" statements. That lawsuit against the 'Solar 8' defendants was dismissed on all counts January 8th.

"What all this is going to result in is anybody's guess," Judge David Yaffe said.

DWP is now scrambling in the middle of the campaign to come up with some cost estimates but the analysis isn't due to release a full proposal on implementing Measure B until after the March 3rd primary election. Even then, the plan can be changed in any way at any time by a simple majority vote of the City Council.

Shouldn't voters have this information before they have to vote on it? That's why opponents call it a blank check that could send rates soaring and lead to graft and corruption.

The other side of Prop B that supporters never talk about is an unprecedented Charter reform that allows City Council, and the mayor, to directly involve themselves on all aspects of the Solar Energy proposal permitting them to influence who gets contracts that will cost an estimated \$3.6 billion to produce 400 megawatts of solar power in the next five years.

There is a better way to achieve the goal everyone wants.

Defeat Measure B and force the DWP to conduct comprehensive studies and offer a proposal that is clear and detailed for homeowner groups, Neighborhood Councils and others to examine and debate

Instead of the three weeks that Measure B was rammed through City Council without meaningful public debate, taking a few months to move a concrete plan to the DWP Board of Commissioners and City Council would be considerably more productive.

Maybe the end result would look something like the rough outline of Measure B. Maybe it will look entirely different, but the important thing is it will be an open and transparent public discussion based on solid information that will raise everyone's awareness of the need to conserve all resources and to live more environmentally sensitive lives.

The important thing is we will have a better opportunity to know where we are going, how much it will cost and what it will achieve.

**We can have clean energy and clean government.
Vote No on Measure B. Let's do Solar Energy right.**

**Ron Kaye
Former Editor Daily News**



REMINDERS: ISSUES & MOTIONS

Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 7:30 PM and end by 9:30 PM. In order to end on time, issues to be brought to the Board require a complete outline and a background, including what is being requested, then emailed to president@hillsidefederation.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting along with a direct phone and fax number or phone and email address if available.

MOTIONS to be made at the meeting should be well thought out and printed so that they are clear and concise, with enough copies for all member associations. Each presenter will be given 5 minutes to make a presentation so that meetings can be kept on time. All requests to agendize an issue **MUST** be approved in writing by the President before the item will be placed on the Agenda.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2009-2010 ELECTION

The Nominating Committee is in the process of being organized, and those who wish to place their names in nomination for the Hillside Federation Executive Committee may do so at the February meeting and thereafter.

The slate of nominees will be printed in the March newsletter, and at the regular Board of Directors meeting on March 4th, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The Nominating Committee slate for the HF Executive Committee will be noticed in the March newsletter and the election will be held at the April 1st Board of Directors meeting.

Names of the elected officers will appear in the May newsletter, and the induction of those newly elected officers will be held at the May 6th meeting.



VIEW FEDERATION WEBSITE

at

www.hillsidefederation.org

**Latest Newsletters, News and Update Links
are available**

**If there is something else you'd like to
see, or if you want to send an article for
the newsletter, let us hear from you.**

**Call Joan Luchs at (213) 368-6120
with your suggestions.**

MULHOLLAND SCENIC PARKWAY DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM

**MARVIN BRAUDE
CONSTITUENTS SERVICE CENTER**

6262 Van Nuys Blvd.,

Van Nuys, CA

First Floor Conference Room

**Free parking under the building:
Entrance just east of Van Nuys Blvd. on Sylvan Street**

JANUARY MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES HILLSIDE FEDERATION

General Membership Meeting January 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. at Universal City Nissan. **President Joan Luchs** distributed a January, 2009 roster of affiliated organizations, presidents and representatives. Self-introductions of members and guests included **Doug Carstens of Chatten-Brown and Carstens, Frank Bush**, Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety Code Enforcement Bureau, and **Dennis Hathaway** of 'Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight'.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

Parking meters in Studio City have been replaced with pay stations with extended fees and extended hours. The system should work well once the public becomes accustomed to it.

Coldwater Canyon Blvd. is being resurfaced from Mulholland to Belden on the next three consecutive weekends. Please make your plans accordingly and avoid this area.

The next hearing regarding the Griffith Park historic monument nomination will be held at the Plan Land Use Management PLUM committee on January 13 followed with the City Council hearing on January 27th.

Primary election forums will be held on January 10th for City Attorney Candidates and January 18th for Council District 5 Candidates.

A lawsuit is pending against opponents of Prop B on January 8th with Noel Weiss representing the defendants as counsel. Joan Luchs stated we need to become familiar with the facts about the proposed Solar Energy Bill, not just the rhetoric.

MINUTES

November, 2008 minutes were approved with the following correction: in paragraph 6. regarding the Autry Expansion, the exhibition space should be described as being 12,500 square feet, not 12,5000.

DENSIFICATION ORDINANCE LAWSUIT

Doug Carstens of Chatten-Brown and Carstens summarized the main issues in the **Densification Ordinance (EAHCLA)** complaint against the City and spoke about the City's rejection to EAHCLA's settlement offer as well as to the soon to be filed Opposition Brief to the City's Petition for a Writ of Mandate. He also spoke about proposed changes to the Hollywoodland Specific Plan ordinance relating to a House-to-Lot Ratio as a guide to the size of homes.

SPECIFIC PLAN ORDINANCE:

Christine O'Brien, one of the authors who wrote the Hollywoodland Specific Plan and a past president of Hollywoodland Homeowners Association submitted an article for the HF newsletter bringing to the Federation's attention her concern that hillside homes are growing out of proportion and there is a need for updating their Specific Plan Ordinance approved in 1992.

"Each hillside neighborhood needs to establish the plane relationship to the house composition or, in other words, establish a house to lot square footage ratio." she said. It was moved and seconded that President Joan Luchs be authorized to represent the Federation at the Hollywood Design Review Board meeting January 8th.

BILLBOARD BLIGHT

Dennis Hathaway founder of The Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight, whose wife says he works 14 hours a day on this issue, used visual displays in his presentation to demonstrate the seriousness of Billboard Blight, especially Super Graphics.

The proliferation of permitted and illegal billboards continues its visual assault on the community, changing us from citizens to consumers and destroying incentives for good architecture.

JANUARY MINUTES

The City Council’s three-month moratorium starting December 26th along with a favorable court decision released the previous day brought hope.

However, a new Sign Ordinance due to be presented to the City Planning Commission on January 22, ostensibly to address outmoded regulations, is proposing to eliminate the distinction between on-site and off-site signs, create a criteria to permit designated sign districts and ban all digital billboards and signs. Hathaway suggested the billboard issue be injected into the upcoming city elections.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the Hillside Federation contribute \$500 to the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight along with \$60 collected in cash from attendees for a total of \$560.

Frank Bush, Department of Building and Safety Deputy Chief in charge of Code Enforcement for all signs and billboards, informed our members what LADBS has recently been doing now that City Council voted for a 3-month moratorium plus another 3-months if the extension is approved.

In October 2002, thirteen inspectors were hired for billboard enforcement, but those positions were quickly eliminated by a court injunction against LADBS enforcement or inspections. Mr. Bush said, “Everyone is looking to our department in the controversy over digital billboards, but the City Council and Mayor approved the settlement agreement made by the City Attorney which has made enforcement impossible and off limits to many existing sites.”

Now that City Council voted for what could be a 6-month moratorium as well as to provide funding to LADBS to do a complete inventory on all signs and billboards, owners will be assessed a fee to pay for these inspections and inventory. Illegal signs and billboards will either come into compliance or will be prosecuted and fined daily with a hefty penalty.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Ann Walnum, Recording Secretary

FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT

President	Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass
Vice President	Charley Mims, Franklin Hills Residents
Treasurer	Dan Palmer, Residents of Beverly Glen
Recording Secretary	Ann Walnum, Mount Washington
Exec. Secretary	Liz Tigar, Tarzana Property Owners

FEDERATION DIRECTORS PRESENT

Nickie Miner	Benedict Canyon Assoc.
Laura Gutierrez	Glassell Park Improvement
Patti Negri	Hollywood Dell Civic
Daniel Wright	Mt. Washington Alliance
Madeline O’Donnell	Nichols Canyon
Robert Levy	No.Beverly/Franklin Cyn.
Ray Schuldenfrei	Outpost Estates
Alison Connell	Whitley Heights Civic

NON-VOTING DIRECTORS PRESENT

George Skarpelos	Hollywood Dell Civic
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GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Frank Bush	LADBS, Code Enforcement
Doug Carstens	Chatten Brown & Carstens
Isabel Cohen	Beachwood Canyon
Dennis Hathaway	Ban Billboard Blight
Fran Reichenback	Beachwood Canyon

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Social Hour at 7 PM - Meeting at 7:30 PM

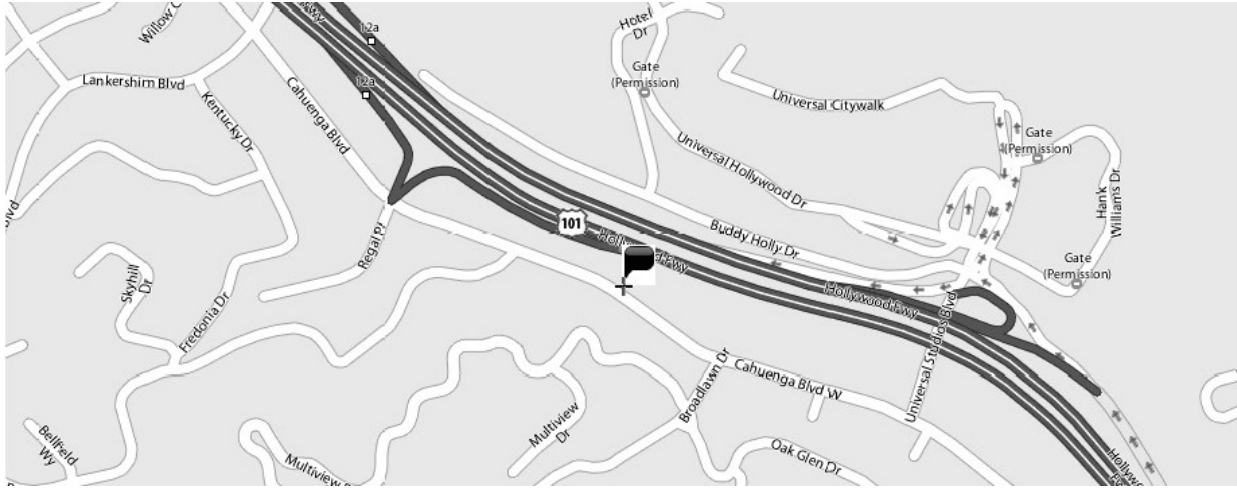
UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West

Los Angeles, CA 90068

Between Lankershim and Universal Drive bridge off ramps:

Park on street or in underground garage; take elevator to "S" street level or enter through showroom, turn left, follow signs to 2nd floor conference room



THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

PO BOX 1673

HOLLYWOOD HILLS, CA 90078

213-368-6120



*Important Information
Enclosed*

