

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

FOUNDED IN 1952

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Crests Neighborhood Association
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Forest Hills Homeowners
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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Residents of Beverly Glen
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Brian Moore

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

EDITOR RON KAYE TO ADDRESS FEDERATION

Ron Kaye is no stranger to speaking out. Now retired, he says, he will do just that at the November meeting on November 5 and comment on major issues of concern to us all.

His background is extensive. During his 21 years at the Daily News, Ron Kaye helped make the paper the Voice of the Valley, fighting for respect for an under-served community and a fair share of city resources.

He started in journalism as a police reporter in his hometown at the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Over the next two decades, he worked in nine news organizations from Alaska to Alabama, from New York City to Australia where his most significant contribution was leading a strike by 600 journalists against media mogul Rupert Murdoch for slanting stories during the constitutional crisis of 1975.

He came to Los Angeles in 1980 and took a job on the city desk at the Herald Examiner where he led coverage of big stories like the "Twilight Zone" tragedy and bright stories like "Bus Riders turn Crime Fighters. After the death of John Belushi, he produced a series called "Overdose: Hollywood, drugs and the LAPD."

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*Important
Information
Enclosed*

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 5, 2008
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: September and October

President's Report:

**A. Holiday Party- December 3rd
Mulholland Tennis Club**

**B. City lost challenge to Brown Act
Violations 10/6/08/Dan Wright**

**New Business: Special Guest Speaker
Ron Kaye/former Editor Daily News**

A. Densification Ordinance/SB1818

**B. MTA Universal Studios @
Lankershim**

**C. Billboard Conversions-
CPC Moratorium**

D. Election-Local results

Old Business: Discussion and motions

A. Northeast Hillside Ordinance

**B. Metro Universal Studio @
Lankershim project**

C. Hillside Film Permit Ordinance

D. Autry/SW Museum Expansion

Adjournment:

Ron came to the Daily News in 1985 as an assistant city editor, later became city editor and in 1993 managing editor. In 2004, he was named editor, a post he held until he retired in May.

Some retirement! Kaye has continued to speak out and has been blogging about city politics as ronkayela.com and founded the non-profit Saving L.A. Project as a loose knit organization with the goal of getting community groups of all types across the city to work together to chain the political culture.

He will soon launch a new website OURLA.ORG which has the goal of reinventing journalism on the Internet by providing news and information and a forum for discussion of issues important to the people of Los Angeles.

The Federation extends a hearty welcome.

JOAN LUCHS

President

METRO NBC/UNIVERSAL TOWN HALL MEETING

Wednesday, November 12, 2008

6 PM to 8 PM

East Valley High School

5525 Vineland Avenue

North Hollywood, CA

**Comment period for Draft EIR expires
November 24th**

**WANT to know more about MASSIVE NBC
development on Lankershim:
DETAILS BURIED IN THE DEIR????**

**AND, more importantly what YOU
can do about it.**

For more information, Call 213 368-6120

October 17, 2008

LaBonge fights large METRO project for new NBC home

By Rick Orlov, Daily News

Protesting the size of a proposed commercial project in Universal City, Councilman Tom LaBonge on Thursday said he will use whatever powers he has on the City Council to significantly scale back the development. "This project will absolutely overwhelm this area and ruin a park space," LaBonge said at a news conference at the Red Line station on the project site at Lankershim and Camp de Cahuenga.

He was joined by more than a dozen neighborhood council and homeowner groups opposed to the development. "What they are talking about is just too big for the area and there is not enough mitigation required to deal with the traffic." The \$800 million project, in the planning stage for more than two years, calls for the construction of twin 24-story towers 390 and 362 feet tall, plus a five-story studio complex and a 34-story high-rise to be built over the next eight years.

The project will serve as the new home for NBC, which is leaving its Burbank headquarters. It is proposed for Metropolitan Transportation Authority land. LaBonge sent a letter to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who chairs the MTA board, asking that the plan be significantly scaled back or moved to the Universal Studios lot, which has more than 400 acres of land available.

Among other things, LaBonge said he believes that the developer, Thomas Properties Group TPG, should be required to provide an access ramp from the 101 Freeway to the eastbound 134 Freeway, in addition to a southbound ramp directly from Universal Studios to the Hollywood Freeway.

Councils and Homeowner/Resident groups from Cahuenga Pass, Studio City and Toluca Lake have formed the **Committee United for Smart Growth, headed by Roy Disney**, which has negotiated with the MTA and the developer to try to scale back the project, without any success. "Every time we meet with them, they come back with an even bigger plan," said Richard Bogy of the Toluca Lake Chamber of Commerce and a member of the committee.

MTA officials said they will try to address LaBonge's issues. "We do understand his concern and we all want to make sure we are doing the right thing," said Roger Moliere, who is negotiating the MTA contract. "This is an important project, one we see as an opportunity to do transit-oriented development in an area where we have transit options." Moliere said the plans call for millions of dollars of mitigation, but the final contract is still being negotiated. Final action is expected in December.

"Thomas Properties spokesman Rob Stutzman said the project must be large to be economically viable."

(So who's responsibility is it to make a project viable? Isn't that the developer's problem? Proposing an oversized, incompatible and unmitigated project in order to be economically viable should not be born at the expense of the surrounding communities.) Public Comment Disclaimer: Not written by Rick Orlov

"I think once the councilman is made aware of that, he will understand what we are doing," Stutzman said. "Also, we think this is a moderate-sized project when it's compared to some of the others the MTA is looking at." LaBonge said he is looking at what powers the City Council has as far as zoning and land use that could slow down and scale back the development.

Villaraigosa, however, is standing by the project. "It will provide a shot in the arm to L.A.'s signature industry, generate thousands of jobs and promote the use of mass transit, said the mayor. "At a time when the economy is hemorrhaging jobs and traffic is grinding to a halt, we would hope that the councilman would understand that this is exactly the kind of smart, transit-friendly project we need."

rick.orlov@dailynews.com 213-978-039



CITY FOUND GUILTY OF BROWN ACT VIOLATIONS



A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has issued a decision agreeing with the LaMirada Avenue Neighborhood Association of Hollywood that the mere listing of a project environmental number on a meeting agenda violates California's Opening Meeting Law, known as the Brown Act. LaMirada challenged the validity of certain California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) decisions made by the City Planning Commission regarding the Paseo Plaza mixed use project proposed for the old Sears Roebuck site on Santa Monica Boulevard.

LaMirada argued that the average person looking at a meeting agenda would have no idea what an environmental case number meant or that the Planning Commission was proposing to take actions to approve environmental documents. The Court condemned the City's practice of just listing a number like: "ENV-2007-9348-MND" as providing any hint that a committee or Council was intending to take proposed actions to adopt an environmental document.

Although LaMirada had already settled with the City and Developer over the Paseo Plaza project, the Court went forward on the remaining question in the case of whether the City had a "pattern and practice" of routinely violating the Brown Act and CEQA with no agenda description of proposed environmental action. Having found the practice to be a blatant violation of law, the Court will now consider issuing a permanent injunction requiring the City to put into place policies to end this decades long practice. LaMirada was represented by the Silverstein Law firm and the City will also likely pay substantial attorneys fees for forcing the community to litigate the case all the way to trial.

Daniel Wright

Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance



IT'S Holiday Time So Save The Date

Come Celebrate with the Hillside Federation

at

Mulholland Tennis Club

2595 Crestview Drive

Los Angeles, California

On

December 3, 2008

Surprise Guest of Honor! And Awards!



**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



Support for Griffith Park/Historic Cultural Monument Nomination

October 21, 2008

Dear Mr. Barron and Cultural Heritage Commissioners:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, representing thirty-six residents' organizations from Glassell Park to Pacific Palisades, strongly supports the nomination of the entire Griffith Park as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

Griffith Park is without a doubt one of the most historic of all the City parks. It was the Christmas gift of Griffith J. Griffith to the people of Los Angeles in 1896. Griffith understood the need for sunlight and fresh air and recognized public parks as "the safety valve of great cities."

Griffith Park is intrinsically linked to other prominent figures in Los Angeles history, Jose Vicente Feliz and Don Antonio Colonel. The park contains thirty-six identified historic resources including the Gabrielino Indian site in Fern Dell. Its largest historic resource is the urban wilderness area which fulfills Col. Griffith's vision of a place for the plain people to escape from the hustle and bustle of the big city. It is this vast urban wilderness in the midst of this sprawling metropolis that makes Griffith Park unique among the great parks in the United States.

While it may seem unusual to designate a park as an Historic-Cultural Monument, it is not without precedent. Indeed, eight City parks already enjoy the protection afforded by Historic-Cultural Monument status. Appropriate modifications can be made. City Hall, the Griffith Observatory and Barnsdall Art Park have all gone through extensive renovations.

City parks that are monuments continue to function successfully and thrive without any problems maintaining their infrastructure.

City Council now has the opportunity to preserve and protect our incredible Griffith Park for future generations to enjoy. What greater gift could the Council members give to their constituents. The Federation urges you to support Griffith Park's nomination as an Historic-Cultural Monument.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Luchs, President
The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations"

Note: The above eloquent letter was actually composed by Marian Dodge, President and energetic leader of the Los Feliz Improvement Association, one of the twelve founders of the Hillside Federation



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.**

OCTOBER MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES HILLSIDE FEDERATION

General Membership Meeting October 7, 2008

The meeting convened at 7:47 p.m. at Universal City Nissan with self introduction of members and guests. A quorum being absent, approval of minutes and action items were postponed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION:

A hearing regarding Griffith Park's Nomination for Historic-Cultural Monument status will be held on Thursday, October 30. Attendance was urged.

DENSIFICATION ORDINANCE LAWSUIT:

EAHCLA offer was rejected by City Attorney at a Mandatory Settlement Conference. Another hearing is now set for March.

NORTHEAST HILLSIDE ORDINANCE:

Planning Associates Gabriela Juarez and Nick Marincich presented details of this zone change, noting that it is not technically a zone change, but the addition of Q and D conditions. A 12 page ordinance with 61 pages of explanation was made available. The ordinance would take effect as the current Interim Control Ordinance expires on January 12, 2009. Community sentiment is mixed. October 14th PLUM hearing date was postponed to November 18th.

METRO STUDIO @ LANKERSHIM:

This is the second presentation by the development team of Thomas Properties, Vice President Ayalushum Hammond, Traffic Planner Pat Gibson and Architect Paul Danna. Comments on the E.I.R. are due November 24. The green aspects of the project were stressed as well as increased sensitivity to the cultural/historical significance of Campo de Cahuenga. Pat Gibson discussed exhaustive intersection analysis --- 164 intersections with many signal improvements and landscaping. Reduction of 20% employee traffic is a goal to be met by free transportation passes, ride shares, showers for

bicyclists and provision of flex cars. The creation of pedestrian/auto grade separation is being considered. The mammoth impact of the first phase and the additional residential phase was lamented by President Luchs as "having nothing to do with affordable housing. Cahuenga Blvd West can not accommodate more traffic without ruining the Cahuenga Pass community." Other local residents indicated, "Right now, even before the project is a reality, we can't get in or out of our local streets. We do not have safe access."

BRUSH CLEARANCE:

MRCA Chief Ranger Walt Young reported 100% brush clearance on their properties. 24 hour patrols are maintained on Red Flag days. MRCA is testing "force multipliers" --- technology devices to alert rangers and law enforcement to intrusions, vandalism or fire. "Spec" sheets on two of these devices were provided.

FILM PERMITS IN FIRE AREAS:

Benedict Canyon President Nickie Miner requested support for a strengthened Hillside Fire Zone ordinance. She stated that current film permits are being approved allowing outdoor smoking without requiring Fire Marshals to be present, thus creating hazards that put their community at great risk which must be stopped. A more detailed discussion of this problem was deferred to the November meeting.

MULHOLLAND CORRIDOR:

Director Barbara Dohrmann reported that contrary to previous commitments by Stephen S. Wise Temple and Bel Air Presbyterian Church, current building plans and facilities uses are inconsistent with those commitments, resulting in a negative impact on nearby residents.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Walnum, Recording Secretary

FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT

President	Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass
Vice President	Charley Mims, Franklin Hills
Recording Secretary	Ann Walnum, Mount Washington
Executive Secretary	Liz Tigar, Tarzana Property Owners

FEDERATION DIRECTORS PRESENT

Barbara Dohrmann	Belair Skycrest
Nickie Miner	Benedict Canyon
Laura Gutierrez	Glassell Park
Patti Negri	Hollywood Dell
Daniel Wright	Mt. Washington Alliance
Robert Levy	No. Beverly/Franklin Cyn.
Pam Cooke	Residents of Beverly Glen

NON-VOTING DIRECTORS PRESENT

Alan Fine	Benedict Canyon
Lois Becker	Belair Skycrest
Mark Stratton	Belair Skycrest
Hilda Hoesli	Cahuenga Pass
Helene Schpak	Glassell Park

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Anderson	Sherman Oaks
Arthur Golding, AIA	
Walt Young	MRCA
Nick Maricich	City Planning
Gabriela Juarez	City Planning
David T. Vahcor	WNC
Ben Saltsman	Board/Supervisors
Patrick Gibson	Fehr & Peers
Geehka Makesman	Fehr & Peers
Paul Danna	DMJM Design



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 agendaize an issue **MUST** be approved in writing by the President before the item will be placed on the Agenda.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

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

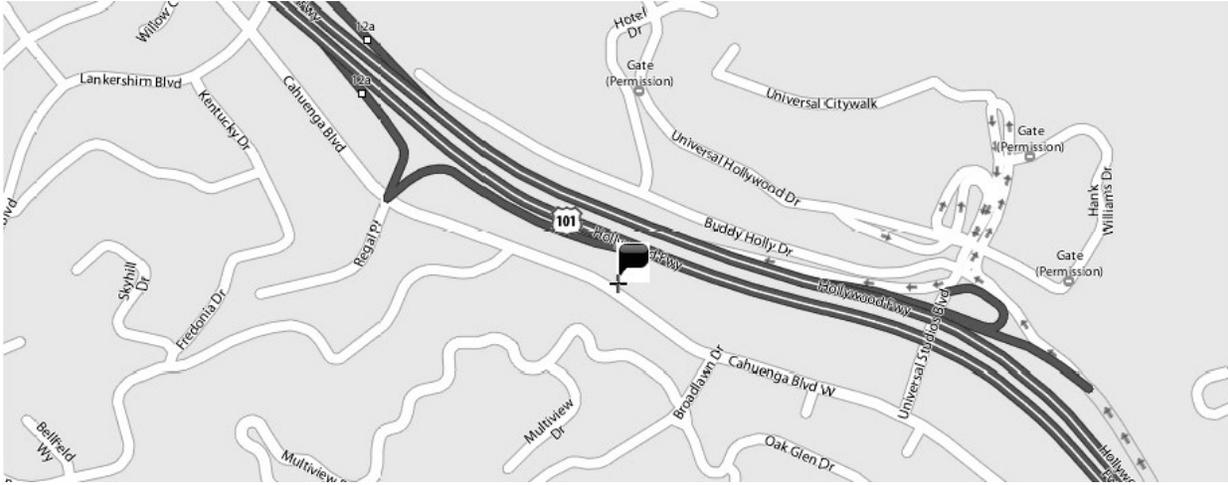
UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

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*

