

FEDERATION OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS
MAY 5, 2010
MINUTES

President Joan Luchs called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM at Universal City Nissan. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES:

Board members introduced themselves and the minutes of April 7th were approved as corrected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- The new Recording Secretary was not present at this meeting to be nominated.
- President's comments: Joan updated everyone about the Baseline Hillside Ordinance meeting. At the April meeting it was decided to be continued on May 13th so that they could review the following: comparison of regulations from other jurisdictions, look at issues of flat roofs, ridgeline protection, retaining walls and are considering creating a single-family home user manual. Additional comments to follow later in the meeting.

Induction of new Executive Committee by Lynette Berg Robe.

President: Marian Dodge

Chairman: Joan Luchs

Vice President 1: Charley Mims

Vice President 2: Cassandra Barrère

Treasurer: Dan Palmer

Continued President's Report from Joan Luchs:

The Studio City Neighborhood Council addressed the bus shelter issue one year ago and have heard that the billboard lights on the kiosk will be shut off. It is not clear if that has happened. Joan presented a letter from the Studio City organization and suggested that we send a similar letter in time for the Studio City Neighborhood Council Board meeting on May 19th. This letter will also be sent to the Mulholland Scenic Plan Design Review Board, Paul Krekorian, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich and LA City Planning Director Gail Goldberg, Contract Administrator for the City Bureau of Street Services Lance Oishi and President of the City Planning Commission.

Charley Mims moved that the Hillside Federation oppose all commercial advertising within the corridors of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan, as these are in opposition to both the spirit and intent of that Specific Plan (ordinance 167,943 adopted May 13, 1992). We are specifically concerned about not establishing a precedent for commercial advertising along the Mulholland Scenic Parkway and therefore request that the city remove the advertising signs from MTA Bus Stop No. 218's bus shelter at the intersection of Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Mulholland Drive, which is located within the Mulholland Specific Plan inner corridor. The Hillside Federation also proposes that this installation and any further installations within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway corridor be sent to the Mulholland Design Review Board for their review and approval prior to installation. After discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

Joan also announced the Land Use Committee meeting of the Studio City Neighborhood Council on Wednesday, May 12th at 7:00 with guests, Gail Goldberg and Bud Ovrom.

Joan thanked the Federation for all of their support the past three years and passed the gavel to Marian.

Marian thanked everyone and looks forward to carrying out the mission of the Federation. She invited each member to mark on a map the area of their organization and to complete a sign in sheet with how many households they represent, their neighborhood council, and Council District.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Baseline Hillside Ordinance:

Marian Dodge and Nicole Miner added to Joan's earlier comments that the developers want additional bonuses to build larger homes on substandard lots. This is a concern to the Federation re: wildlife corridors, impaired views and lack of natural space. The Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO) will not replace the previous Hillside Ordinance. These are to be "sister" ordinances with each addressing concerns. Marian suggested the Federation send a letter of support for the staff report with additional comments opposing giving additional bonuses for substandard lots and that they need to include the first 400 sq. ft. of garage in the base calculations of square footage. After discussion Charley Mims moved that the federation support the BHO with the above suggestions. The motion was unanimously approved. It was mentioned that the deadline for additional comments has passed. Joan will call Erick Lopez to see if she can get this added to the report for the meeting of 5/13.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Charging parking fee in Griffith Park:

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl suggested charging parking fees as a means of increasing city revenues and it is being proposed specifically for the zoo parking lot. Discussion ensued regarding the long-term impact, the precedent it would set for charging fees at every Griffith Park parking lot, and the original gift of Colonel Griffith that stated the park provide free access to the people. If this is denied the gift can revert from the city back to the Griffith estate. It was moved that the federation send a letter to City Council against charging for parking anywhere in the park and strongly mentioning Colonel Griffith's condition of his gift. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Cuts in Park Rangers:

Kristin C. Sabo, park volunteer, presented her report that park rangers as peace officers are being eliminated and/or moved to other positions in the Department of Recreation and Parks. Ten rangers are currently assigned to do only interpretative work. This has resulted in public safety issues. People will be calling the LAPD to maintain order in the parks. One impact is that there is currently only one park ranger in Griffith Park all the time. The new procedures go against the Park Ranger Strategic Plan and the MOU with the union defining Park Ranger duties. Dan Wright moved that the Federation adopt the resolution as outlined by Kristin and send a letter to the Recreation and Parks Commission. The motion was approved unanimously. The Federation will also send a separate letter on this issue to the City Council, the Mayor, the Budget and Finance Committee and the CAO.

Kristin's Resolution:

For the department of Recreation and Parks to:

1. Immediately restore and enforce the following two meet-and-confer documents:
 - a. MOU document between Recreation and Parks non-peace officer park rangers and the Union (2002).
 - b. The Delineation of Duties document (2002).
2. Restore the California state-required POST Chain of Command structure with one Chief who has control of all Park Rangers under their command. Revoke the specialized, inefficient, bifurcated structure (Nov., 2009) that decreases efficiency and tactical activities, as well as destroys the required chain of command.

3. Adopt and follow the Park Ranger Five Year Strategic Plan (April, 2009) and implement immediately.
4. Implement hiring of full peace officer Park Rangers immediately to fill all positions available in the budget by July 1, 2010.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS:

Marian asked that we review SB1818, an act to amend section 65915 of the Government code relating to housing and discuss it at the next meeting. Barbara Broide sent copies of two motions going to City Council committees to modify SB1818. Barbara is seeking community support for the two motions.

Nickie Miner asked about homeowners' responsibility to repair their own sidewalks before they can sell their home. Charley Mims responded that the law states that the homeowner is responsible. When the city had plenty of money in the 70s they offered to do some sidewalk repair relative to tree roots. Those funds are no longer available.

Guest, Kristin Sabo mentioned that the city is requiring everyone who has septic tanks to have an inspection. If your system is older than five years, you need to replace or hook in to the city sewer system.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dawneen Lorange

Acting Recording Secretary

Federation Officers Present:

Outgoing President/Chair:	Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood Assn.
Incoming President:	Marian Dodge, Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Outgoing Chair:	Lynette Berg Robe, Studio City Residents Association
Vice President 1:	Charley Mims, Franklin Hills Residents Association
Vice President 2:	Cassandra Barrère, Laurel Canyon Association
Treasurer:	Dan Palmer, Residents of Beverly Glen

Federation Directors Present:

Don Andres	Franklin/Hollywood Blvd. West HOA
Mark Stratton	Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Assn.
Gillian Calof	Residents of Beverly Glen
Dawneen Lorange	Hollywood Heights Neighborhood. Assn.
Nicole Miner	Benedict Canyon Assn.
Madeline O'Donnell	Nichols Canyon Assn.
Daniel Wright	Mt. Washington Homeowners Association

Guests:

Barry Johnson	Studio City Residents Association Studio City Neighborhood Council
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Kristin C. Sabo	Recreation and Parks Volunteer
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