

Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations
July 7, 2010
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President, Marian Dodge.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Marian thanked Cassandra for doing double duty last month and taking the minutes in June.

Marian announced the nomination of Donna Messinger for Recording Secretary. Her nomination was approved unanimously.

Past Executive Secretary Liz Tigar sends a warm hello and her best wishes.

Marian asked the Board about the start time for meetings. Is 7 pm too difficult for people with long drives? Would it be better if we started at 7:30? Past President Shirley Cohen suggested that from her experience if you move the start to 7:30, then the meeting won't actually start until 8:00. Marian asked if anyone is aware of a free venue for us where they have the space to accommodate all members and visitors for the meeting in addition to parking. The Board will consider the change if it helps.

Each Board Member was asked to fill in their organization's area on a map so we can keep it in mind for potential new venue for the monthly meetings.

In order to keep the meetings flowing Marian proposed a time limit of 3 minutes for speakers who are not on agenda since there are many who need to discuss their individual organization's concerns. After the presentation each person will have opportunity of 2 minutes to discuss the topic. After each person who wishes to speak has done so, those who have additional comments will have another two minutes. It was agreed by consensus to try the plan.

America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Federal environmental officials will have a 'listening session' tomorrow (July 8) at Occidental College, 3-7pm.

Wendy-Sue Rosen described The California State Parks ballot initiative which would provide funding for state parks whose funding has been reduced due to the financial crisis. They are proposing an \$18 fee for non-commercial vehicles with an estimated potential of over \$500 million to be raised. She's asking organizations to get involved and will invite a guest speaker to talk about this at our September 1st meeting. Marian will forward their newsletter to directors.

We don't meet in August, but in September we will meet on September 1st.

Matt Epstein has been named to serve on City Planning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir - Shirley Cohen

(Shirley is a past president of the Federation, including the 25th anniversary of Hillside at Al Bodine's house, a gala event which included Mayor Bradley.)

Upper Stone Canyon is a man-made reservoir, and falls under the federal requirement that all reservoirs need to be covered. The issue is how to cover it. She distributed a hand out of potential solutions for covering: a buried concrete cover, an aluminum cover, or a floating cover. Local residents want to preserve the scenic view with its native habitat and vegetation. The preferred solution is the buried cover which is more expensive. It would be covered with soil and native plants preserving the natural environment of the area. A discussion followed regarding the safety of earth dams, the impact of construction on the wildlife, security.

Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support the buried concrete cover because it would retain the natural environment of the area, it is the safest alternative, and it would allow for limited public access. The motion passed.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 5 and June 2 meetings were approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. Van de Kamps Bakery - Laura Gutierrez and Miki Jackson, Van de Kamps Coalition

Van de Kamps Bakery, modeled after Dutch architecture, was built in the 1930s. After the bakery closed, the building was preserved and was supposed to become a satellite campus of Los Angeles City College. In 1999 the VdK Coalition went out to communities for support, including the Hillside Federation. Proposition A and AA bond measures funded the construction of the campus. They devised an 80/20 plan where fee classes would support the college credit classes so that the campus would not be dependent on state funding. Then in April, 2009, citing lack of funding to run the campus, LACC handed the property over to the Los Angeles Community College District to become commercial rental property. School bond money (\$7.1 million) was being spent illegally for tenant improvements. The Van de Kamps Coalition has hired an attorney to pursue the CEQA violations for changing the use of the site. More information is available at: www.vandekamps.org.

Wendy-Sue Rosen made a motion to: Continue gathering information with supportive documents and revisit it at our next meeting with attorney Dan Wright. The motion passed.

C. Amend bylaws to allow voting by e-mail; quorum

Our organization needs to have some manner to respond promptly if there's something urgent that needs addressing between monthly Board meetings. Additionally there is the problem of

being unable to act because of a lack of a quorum. According to Federation bylaws, a quorum is 1/3 of 32 members.

Wendy-Sue Rosen: Other professional boards she sits on have allowed for voting by e-mail in unique cases such as between board meetings if necessary.

Joan Luchs: There was a discussion before meeting about amending bylaws. The July 7 agenda specifically says amend bylaws. Joan cited the definition of the term 'previous notice' in Robert's Rules: please refer to p.118-119 of *Robert's Rules of Order*; Newly Revised, 1990 – 9th Edition (Scott, Foresman)

Shirley Cohen: I don't think you should decrease the number of quorum.

Madeleine O'Donnell: Suggested a phone tree to get people to go to City Hall when necessary.

Philip Feldman: Noted the lack of enthusiasm of people not showing up. Instead of e-mail he suggested a list serve... not that expensive but lasts about a year. He did not think there were many emergencies.

Marian Dodge: Clarified that the Exec Committee needs an alternative solution in the event that there is something urgent to be taken care of before the next monthly meeting.

Marian read Nickie Miner's comments that she received by e-mail: To lower an organization's standards for a quorum is the beginning of that organization's downfall. 33% is already lowered. E-mail voting can be abused; you can't tell if people are actually voting or someone else in their place.

Michael Chasteen: Agreed, e-mails can be abused.

Mark Stratton noted the importance of the Lopez Canyon presentation last month, but because we didn't have a quorum no position could be taken.

Wendy-Sue Rosen: Every board has an emergency procedures. She belongs to a number of professional organizations which have such an alternative in place for rare urgencies. She recommends a straw vote.

Joan Luchs: Reread Roberts Rules aloud. Joan Luchs objected to Marian Dodge telling board member Michael Meyer from Outpost Homeowners that there would not be a vote taken on the Bylaws although they were listed on the 7/7/10 agenda. Michael Meyer came to the meeting because the Bylaws were listed on the agenda, but after the president told him the bylaws would not be voted on he left the meeting before it started. No vote was taken to amend the bylaws.

Marian Dodge: Thanked members for all their comments. The point of this discussion is to create conversation and share ideas to see where we all stand in the thought process here.

Philip Feldman: Moved that the President appoints a committee to discuss the two distinct issues: 1. Low attendance at a monthly Board meeting so an alternative is needed to make a motion. 2. Emergency votes/matters that need to be answered in between monthly scheduled board meetings. Niles Chapman made a friendly amendment that votes between meetings be only in case of urgency. The motion passed 13 - 0.

D. EIR for AEG's NFL Stadium

AEG is seeking an CEQA exemption for their proposed new NFL stadium in downtown Los Angeles. This would set a terrible precedent for other large projects. The Planning and Conservation League in Sacramento is making a list of groups who oppose the exemption.

Wendy-Sue: There is a move to completely gut CEQA, and we have had numerous emergency e-mails. We need to get public input; that's the only way to get them help. She proposed a general policy statement so that the Federation will not have to take a position on each specific case that arises.

Wendy-Sue Rosen: I move that we adopt a policy to oppose the weakening of CEQA. The motion passed 11 - 3. Marian will add the Federation's name to the list of organizations who oppose the exemption.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Baseline Hillside Ordinance

Wendy-Sue Rosen: Limits on grading have been removed from the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Paul Koretz' office is working with Wendy-Sue and Mark Stratton to see if we can get unified modifications to present to PLUM. Wendy-Sue will send a memo and will invite a guest speaker to the September meeting to discuss this further.

B. Lopez Canyon Update - Marlene Rader

The Lopez Canyon Alliance has retained an attorney and will file a lawsuit appealing the decision to allow a truck driving school to be built on the Open Space landfill. Dan Wright was great but they have had to go to another attorney who is part of a charitable organization and she has negotiated a flat rate to work with them. The next step is holding fundraisers and bake sales etc. to help fund the next step of the lawsuit.

Also, Lopez Canyon was grateful for the support of the Hillside Federation. Kagel Canyon took a vote and will officially rejoin the Hillside Federation to respectfully support us in return. They will have payment in for the next Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Donna Messinger, Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest POA	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon Assn.	Michael Chasteen
Cahuenga Pass Neigh.	Joan Luchs
Hollywood Heights Assn.	Donna Messinger
Hollywoodland HOA	Jeanne Clark
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
No. Beverly/Franklin Canyon	Robert Levy
Outpost Estates	Michael Meyer

Residents of Beverly Glen

Dan Palmer

Roscomare Valley Assn.

Tensie Palmer

Shirley Cohen

Sherman Oaks HOA

Phyllis Gottlieb

Studio City Residents Assn.

Dr. Niles Chapman

Upper Mandeville Canyon

Philip Feldman

Wendy-Sue Rosen

Guests:

Van de Kamps Coalition

Laura Gutierrez, Miki Jackson

Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.

Marlene Rader

No. Beverly/Franklin Canyon

Connie Levy