

Draft Minutes
February 2, 2011

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

Guest Speakers: Friends of Griffith Park - Gerry Hans, Sarah Napier

President of Friends of Griffith Park, Gerry Hans, and Director Sarah Napier brought posters to illustrate the assets, wildlife, flora, activities and threats in Griffith Park. This is a new charitable organization (501(c)(3) status pending) to advocate for and support all of Griffith Park. The organization evolved out of neighborhood councils, homeowner associations, the Sierra Club and Griffith Park Master Plan Working group members who care about the park and want to keep Griffith's dream alive. Marian Dodge is on the Board of Directors. They are working on surveys of mammals, plants, bats, and wildlife corridors. They want to refurbish and maintain the Park Style walls, water fountains and channels that were built in the 1930s by the WPA. They have the full support of Recreation & Parks.

One of the issues facing the park now is the NBC Universal Evolution Plan which proposes widening Forest Lawn Drive through Griffith Park to four lanes. Increased traffic creates more wildlife road kill and restricts access to the LA River. Members discussed various aspects of the NBC Universal project. Marian urged members to submit letters by the deadline this Friday.

II. Approval of January 5, 2011 minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

III. President's Report

The Community Alliance for Open Space filed a law suit January 10 over the City Council's decision to build a truck driving school in Lopez Canyon.

Alan Kishbaugh and Jerry Daniel checked the construction near the Barbara Fine Overlook on Mulholland. The construction is mostly hidden by foliage and does not appear to be blocking the view.

Marian would like to expand the Hillside Federation's presence on Facebook. Lois Becker sent her some photos of wildlife she would like to post, but she needs to become an administrator of the account. Joan Luchs did not remember who helped her set up the account. Marian will ask Cara Rule.

Marian repeated the invitation to attend a CD 4 candidate forum hosted by the Los Feliz Improvement Association at the Autry Museum on Feb. 16 at 6:30 pm. Irene Sandler offered that LA Clean Sweep has endorsed Stephen Box who supports the ideas of the people and has been working with a bicycle group.

Marian urged organizations to participate in SurveyLA, a joint project with the city's Office of Historic Preservation and the Getty Museum to identify historic homes in Los Angeles. They seek assistance from local groups to identify architectural homes, homes where famous people lived or where significant organizations were founded. They are holding a series of orientation meetings throughout the city.

The Planning Department is holding meetings on reforming the Development Review Process which would simplify the permitting process. Joan Luchs said it would dilute our codes by permitting projects that comply with the General Plan. Wendy-Sue Rosen said it was important to attend the meeting.

IV. Old Business

A. Mulholland Bridge reconstruction - Mark Stratton

Mark explained that with the widening of the 405 freeway the Mulholland Bridge needs to be modified. This project has multiple agencies involved, Caltrans, Metro and LADOT. The original plan to rebuild the Sunset, Skirball and Mulholland Bridges in place was certified through an EIR in 2008 after a lengthy public process. The plan was to demolish half of each bridge, restripe the remaining half for two-way traffic, rebuild and replace the half of the bridge removed and then repeat the process for the other half of the bridge. Commuters and the institutions in the area of Mulholland were concerned about the narrowing of the bridge during the construction phase causing them traffic delays and requested that Metro consider a temporary bridge during construction so the original bridge could remain open with all lanes operational. Late last year Metro announced that it had found a solution to the problem and would build a completely new, but parallel bridge. However, upon closer review, the newly proposed bridge turned out not to resemble the original bridge in any way. The new bridge would divert Mulholland from its continuous scenic ridgeline roadway ending on the east side at Skirball Center Drive, which would be widened to accommodate additional traffic lanes. The project is a design-build project, which Charley Mims explained means that as they build the project they may find conditions which require them to change the plan as they build. Wendy-Sue Rosen said that we should not support the realignment without an adequate environmental review because of the potential for significant adverse impacts including: grading, retaining walls, drainage, aesthetic and recreational resources, wildlife connectivity, changes to the Specific Plan boundary and changes to the scenic ridgeline alignment. Lois Becker has been asking unsuccessfully to see the studies from Metro for months. Following a public records request, the documents revealed that the new plan includes 1,400 feet of retaining walls 10 to 15 feet high built into the Skirball Center Drive eastern hillside and massive amounts of grading. There are issues of aesthetics and hauling. Changes such as this without review would establish a dangerous precedent. Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that: The Hillside Federation opposes realignment of the Mulholland Bridge above the I-405 freeway because the project has not been subject to the CEQA-mandated level of environmental review, which is a full EIR, allowing for meaningful public notice, review and comment, and containing a thorough assessment of the potentially significant environmental impacts of realigning the Mulholland Bridge, including the Scenic Highway, Core Trail, and altering the boundary of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Baseline Hillside Ordinance

Nickie Miner stated that the BHO is still on the City Attorney's desk. Meanwhile an 80,000-square foot house plus auxiliary houses has been permitted above Tower Lane in CD 5 (Koretz). She is concerned that approval of the BHO is deliberately being delayed so these mansions can be grandfathered in.

V. New Business

A. Possible new locations for HF meetings

The ad hoc committee working on improving attendance has been looking for new meeting locations that would be more centrally located. The Federation used to meet at Tree People where we paid \$50/meeting plus food. They have suggested Pinz Bowling Center in the same building as Jerry's Deli on Ventura Blvd. between Coldwater and Laurel Canyon. They charge \$75/meeting. Pinz has plenty of free parking and easy handicapped access. People can come early and eat at Jerry's Deli. The locations were discussed. It was decided to try the Pinz location for the March meeting.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Recording Secretary,
Donna Messinger

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Cahuenga Pass Neigh.	Joan Luchs
Franklin Ave/Hlwd.	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Hollywoodland HOA	Jeanne Clark
Laurel Canyon	Jim Nelson
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
N. Beverly/Franklin	Robert Levy
Res. of Beverly Glen	Tensie Palmer
	Dan Palmer
Sherman Oaks	Niles Chapman
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	Wendy-Sue Rosen

Guests Present:

BABCNC,	Irene Sandler
Bel Air Crest	
Chairman Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
Laurel Canyon,	Monica Weil
BABCNC	