

**Hillside Federation  
Minutes  
June 1, 2011**

**I. Call to Order**

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest Speaker: Ben Saltsman**

Ben Saltsman, a deputy from Zev Yaroslavsky's office explained LA County's "Clean Hands" ordinance. If your property is under the jurisdiction of LA County, you will be unable to get any building permit if you have an existing violation on the property. For example if you open a group home for 10 people in a single family neighborhood, that's illegal. If you want to add another room to the home, you will be unable to get a building permit. So it gives the county a tool to go after the property owner.

This policy has been in effect for about 25 years; it's something that is working well in the Santa Monica Mountains. The only thing that gets property owners to comply with the zoning code is this tool. The non-compliance fee goes up to \$1000 per day. For example, illegal marijuana dispensaries are fined up to \$1000. The policy only applies to land uses. For example, if the property owner has a retaining wall that is longer or higher than code, he will not be able to get any permits. They have provisions for waivers for minor violations like a small addition to the house; they are not after the innocent homeowner. The violations are attached to the property and continue to subsequent owners.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation urge the City to adopt an ordinance similar to Los Angeles County's Clean Hands policy. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Approval minutes**

The minutes of May 4, 2011 were approved as written.

**III. Officers' Reports**

A. President's Report

Lopez Canyon Open Space - The judge granted Community Alliance For Open Space's petition. The court ruled in CAFOS' favor on both major points, first that the City's adoption of the MND violated CEQA, and second that the variance was improper. The court concluded that an EIR must be prepared before a truck driving school can be built in the open space. Wendy said the judge scolded the City for not understanding and complying with CEQA. CAFOS thanks the Federation for their support and invited everyone to a Victory Pot Luck on June 11, 2011 4:00-6:30 pm.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don announced that the CD has been renewed and gave current account balances. He also responded to 8 IRS quarterly requests for information on Federation employees (We have none!).

**IV. Old Business**

A. Ads in Parks - Marian Dodge, Friends of Griffith Park

Marian gave an update on the proposal to place ads in city parks. The Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners tried to approve a plan by the LA Parks Foundation, both headed by retired Latham & Watkins attorney Barry Sanders, to sell advertising in city parks. At the recent City Budget Committee meeting Barry Sanders made a 15-minute presentation on why we need advertising to make up for

park budget cut backs. The only councilmember who stood up and said no was Paul Koretz so if you're in his district, call and thank him for having the courage to object. It is very unusual for the President of the Commission, Barry Sanders, to attend the meeting and to be seated next to the General Manager. Sanders claimed it was not advertising, but "government speech." Also unusual was that they took public comment at the beginning of the meeting before some speakers arrived instead of at the end as agendized.

Wendy suggested that if you're not in Koretz's district, you should send letters to your councilmember and tell them to not subsidize park budgets with advertising. Several members suggested various ways of tastefully thanking donors such as naming benches or donor walls.

MOTION: Wendy moved that the Hillside Federation oppose advertising in city parks and recreation centers and recommend alternative ways of recognizing donors such as donor walls and naming rights. Donna pointed out the fact that advertising is also over stimulating for autistic children; we should get autism organizations involved. The motion passed.

#### B. Cell phone towers

Marian announced that the cell phone tower ordinance report is still in the City Attorney Office. Chris Spitz will be here next month to update us. She urges us to write letters to the City Attorney thanking them for the work they have done on the report and requesting that they move the report to the Public Works Committee as soon as possible.

Wendy added that the City Attorney's entire budget was renewed. Today they battled and restored \$1.2 million.

#### **V. New Business**

##### A. 9118-9229 Crescent Dr. - Carol Sidlow, Steve Poster

The Federation was involved in 2007 with another applicant on same substandard street visible from Sunset and Doheny. The applicant sued city and lost. Now a new applicant is filing further down the road. They are working with the previous applicant who lost their filing. They are applying for a B permit for roadway improvements which doesn't require a public hearing or any public input. Part of Crescent Drive is a dirt road only 9 feet wide, well below fire regulations. A turnaround for fire vehicles is also an issue. The proposal is to build the largest single-family residence, 12,000 square feet, in the area. The applicant can legally build 5 houses; he wants to open up the area for more large homes. Only 3 houses of 1,000 - 3,000 square feet were built on that part of Crescent Drive in the 1950s.

Poster is asking that an EIR be undertaken to ascertain the impact on the narrow street and surrounding area and not allow a piecemeal B permit at a time. The applicant is requesting 4 retaining walls (out of compliance with retaining walls ordinance). What they are not revealing is that they are applying for 5 retaining wall 18 feet high. There are 28 homes that lie below this project. Bel Air, Upper Wonderland Avenue, and Sunset /Doheny are all unanimous in opposition to the project. Charlie suggested we look at it practically – they have the right to build, but they have to do it according to the law.

MOTION: Charley Mims moved that the Hillside Federation support the construction of a home at 9183 Crescent Drive that conforms to the character and scale of the neighborhood only if the owner develops Crescent Drive and Wonderland Avenue to the nearest improved 20-foot-wide roadway and that such improvements, including retaining walls for private developments and the public roadways conform to all hillside ordinances for retaining walls. The motion passed.

Jane Usher was shocked at how many permit applications were received right before the Baseline Hillside Ordinance took effect.

B. Modified Parking Requirement Districts - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The City is recommending a new ordinance to modify public parking requirements in certain districts. Specific Plan areas were supposed to be exempt, but they are not. Hillside areas are not exempted. There are already a number of ordinances that exist to protect the community. The new ordinance requires no findings. The City Planning Commission is very concerned about why they need a new ordinance. Councilmember Koretz wrote a very serious letter requesting additional studies. We need to put on pressure on the Planning Department.

MOTION: Wendy moved that the Hillside Federation request additional protections in the ordinance. The motion passed.

Senate Bill SB-375 asks the municipalities to reduce traffic with development concentrated around transit corridors to get people out of their cars.

**VI. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Submitted,  
Donna Messinger  
Recording Secretary

**Members Present:**

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
	Barbara Dohrmann
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Jim Nelson
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
N. Beverly/Franklin	Bob Levy
Resid. Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley	Shirley Cohen
	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks	Niles Chapman
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	James Provenzano
	Wendy-Sue Rosen

**Guests Present:**

Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
N. Beverly/Franklin	Connie Levy
Save Franklin Canyon	Rob Wagner

	Audrey Gallant
Lookout Mt. Alliance	Carol Sidlow
	Steven Poster
Citizens Against	Ellie Brooks
Strip Mining	Mr. Brooks