

Hillside Federation
Minutes
October 5, 2011
7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Members introduced themselves.
Guest Speaker: LA River Natural Park - Alan Dymond

Federation member from Studio City Alan Dymond established a 501(c)(3) called Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) to preserve 16 acres of open space along the LA River between Coldwater Canyon and Whitsett. There is currently a golf driving range and tennis courts on the site. A developer has proposed a 200-unit condo project. The land is currently zoned agricultural. SLAROS has designed a park with oak woodland, stream and wetlands landscaping that would capture storm water run-off for 160 acres. The polluted water coming off of nearby city streets would be naturally filtered, keeping the pollutants out of the river, nourishing plants with its hydrocarbons, and replenishing the aquifer. In the old model of water management, dirty water flowed into the river and down to the ocean. 40 million gallons of water goes into the LA River every day. The new model recognizes that we have a water shortage. So instead of dumping the water, let's clean it and store it.

The LA River Natural Park will create a 16-acre park. Mia Lehrer and Associates and Blue Green Consulting developed the feasibility plan and visual concept for the park. They will retain the golf driving range and tennis courts because they are recreational facilities that generate revenue to maintain the park. Solar panels along the walking path will make the park "grid neutral." SLAROS is funding a grant application for Prop. 84 funds for a river parkway. There are mitigation funds available from CalTrans because of the 405 widening. If they can get Prop. O funding it will trigger private funding. The park has the support of Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR), Joe Edmiston of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA), Senator Fran Pavley, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

II. Approval of Sept. 7, 2011 minutes - delayed for lack of quorum. The minutes were approved as corrected when a quorum was achieved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian attended a meeting with Councilmember Paul Koretz at the request of Roscomare Valley to discuss the options for covering Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir. The concrete cover with native landscaping on top is the option preferred by the community. Although the initial price is more expensive, because it lasts so much longer, in reality the cost is about the same as the rubber cover. Because there is a new DWP Commission, the community has to go back and lobby the new members.

The Executive Committee has been discussing the criteria for Chair Emeritus. The bylaws only state that the person must have provided outstanding service to the Federation. There have been only six Chair Emeriti in 60 years. The Committee will review the characteristics they demonstrated in order to establish criteria for the designation. So far they have proposed three criteria: provided a specific service; played a leadership role; fostered a team environment. If anyone has any additional suggestions for criteria, please send them to Marian.

The Hollywood Bowl Overlook on Mulholland Drive will be renamed the Jerome C. Daniel Overlook, for Federation Past President Jerry Daniel on Sat., Nov. 2 at 2:00 pm.

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments is sponsoring a Valley Mobility Summit conference on Nov. 10, 9:00 - noon in Van Nuys to discuss improvement projects, challenges of the Panama Canal expansion.

Studio City Neighborhood Council will have Wendy Greuel and Brad Sherman speaking at their Oct. 19 meeting at 7:00 pm, CBS Studio Center lot.

B. Treasurer's Report

Marian read the report sent by Don Andres. All bills are paid. We now have 33 paid members.

IV. Old Business

A. Stanley Hills Dr. appeal

Marian attended the appeal hearing on Sept. 13. Chief Zoning Administrator Lynn Wyatt read the definition of a Letter of Clarification in her defense, but it actually proved that she was not clarifying. The homeowners have a private agreement with the developer to waive the requirement to upgrade the substandard road in exchange for a wildlife corridor. He later got the Chief ZA to move the wildlife corridor from his property to a paper street. Several alternative wildlife corridors were presented. Eric Bruins of the MRCA presented one that the homeowners liked. the Area Planning Commission asked the two parties to meet and come to a compromise. Eric Bruins has not met with the home owners since then.

B. Sign Ordinance - Wendy Rosen

The City Planning Commission held three lengthy meetings 20 months ago to take public input on the Sign Ordinance. The result was a compromise; no one was happy, but everyone got something. However sign company lobbyists have ruled the day at the PLUM hearing on August 9. They got 12 additional Sign Districts “grandfathered” in, signs in parks and on city properties, digital sign conversions.

The city is not following the process established in the City Charter. If substantive changes are made to an ordinance after it has been approved by the City Planning Commission, it must go back to the City Planning Commission. This was stated by a City Attorney and a City Planner at a meeting on the Wilshire Grand project. Claudia Freedle suggested that since there was no quorum, that we email members so we can take a position. That is not permitted in the Federation bylaws. The Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight will send a legal memo to follow the City Charter.

Charley said they should not permit digital billboards until a study has been completed regarding their safety, impact on traffic congestion, and energy consumption. Wendy said that Councilmember Paul Koretz wrote a motion for an Interim Control Ordinance to prohibit digital signs in CD 5 until they have been studied; however Councilmember Reyes has not put it on the PLUM agenda so it is going nowhere.

Signs in city parks are out but they are still permitted in rec centers. Charley Mims stated that Barry Sanders favors signs in parks. He reported seeing a Lakers logo on the basketball court at Lafayette Park. Los Angeles proposes brighter digital signs than New York City. There is now a “Community Benefit Measure” instead of sign reduction.

We need to get a large turnout from our member organizations for the PLUM hearing on Oct. 18.

C. Redistricting - Nickie Miner

Hundreds of people attended the hearings on the redistricting of the LA County Supervisorial Districts. One of the plans would have moved 3.5 million people out of District 3 and split the Santa Monica Mountains. Gloria Molina brought in lots of Latinos to try to create a largely Latino district. Mark Ridley-Thomas changed his vote at the last minute to support plan A3 which keeps the Santa Monica Mountains together. Nickie cautioned that in the next ten years we may not be so lucky. Now that there are many Latinos in office in LA County, they could probably not sue on the basis of racial discrimination.

D. Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE)

Marian, Mark Stratton, Lois Becker, David Garfinkle, and Diane Rosen of Encino attended the Budget & Finance Committee meeting on Sept. 26 and spoke in favor, as did many others. One person brought in half a dozen homeowners who have been cited under the current law, to testify how bad ACE is. The Legislative Analyst presented some technical changes he wants made to the ordinance so it had to go back to committee the following Monday. City Attorney Tina Hess expected it to pass Budget & Finance and go to Council on Oct. 5. However Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, who was absent at the Sept. 26 meeting where everything was explained, asked ten questions. It's going back to Budget & Finance in thirty days.

E. La Rocha Trail update

They are only \$14,000 short of the money they need to purchase the lots to preserve the trail. Checks may be made payable to the MRCA.

It was at this point in the meeting that a quorum was achieved. The minutes were approved as corrected.
MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support the LA River Natural Park. The motion passed.

F. 16100 Mulholland Drive - Mark Stratton

Mirman School for Gifted Children bought the property in 2009 and has plans to take down the 20-year-old temporary structures and return it to open space/athletic field, as required by a 2003 EIR. Unfortunately, Bel Air Presbyterian Church, which had a lease with the previous owner (Wise Temple), now continues the arrangement with Mirman and remains on the property, operating a preschool with no Certificate of Occupancy or valid CUP, in violation of City code. Now Mirman has an application in for renewal of the 2006 athletic field CUP, while at the same time they are trying to legitimize the ongoing preschool presence under a separate application. The Federation has taken a stand in the past that the preschool needs to leave and the temporary structures be taken down, and will reiterate this position in a letter. There will be a hearing before a hearing officer in Van Nuys on Friday, Nov. 4th. A decision hearing was scheduled for December but that date has now been moved to January 26th.

V. New Business

A. Holiday Party - Marian Dodge

The Federation Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 pm at the Mulholland Tennis Club. We are thinking of having Senator Fran Pavley as our guest of honor.

B. Tower Lane project - Nickie Miner

Work was started on the project in Benedict Canyon on expired permits. Councilmember Paul Koretz issued a stop order. Wendy-Sue Rosen commented that the Clean Hands policy has become a priority for the city; it is currently in the Planning Department.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Donna Messinger,
Resording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Lookout Mountain	Lois Becker
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Outpost Estates	Ray Schuldenfrei
Studio City Resid.	Claudia Freedle

Guest Present:

Studio City Resid.	Alan Dymond
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