

Hillside Federation
November 5, 2011
Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

Guest Speaker: Strip Mining - Ellie Brooks

Ellie Brooks of Citizens Against Strip Mining in the San Fernando Valley (CASM) described the proposed strip mine on private land next to the Angeles National Forest southeast of Sylmar. Don and Ted Sakaida plan to mine the parcel, currently zoned A-22 heavy agriculture, for sand and gravel aggregate for a period of 7 years although they really want to operate for 14 years. The mine will operate 230 diesel truck trips a day through residential neighborhoods with schools and parks. Santa Ana winds will carry the dust across the north end of the San Fernando Valley. The project includes generators and above ground fuel tanks which are a fire safety issue in an area with only one fire station. Sakaida has already received a Notice of Violation for grading without a permit which has not been cured. After they have cut down the mountain, they plan to stair-step and plant with "species that should have been there in the first place" to stabilize the mountain.

The concern is that approval of a Conditional Use Permit for this project in Richard Alarcon's district will set a precedent for more strip mining in the hills. CASM has 1,000 signatures on a petition opposing the strip mine. The project is opposed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Rim of the Valley Trail. Supervisor Yaroslavsky has stated that he opposes the project but has not written a letter. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council is waiting until the proposal is official; they are hoping for mitigation. CASM is seeking the support of the Hillside Federation because of its track record in protecting the mountains.

MOTION: Don Keller moved that the Hillside Federation support CASM's efforts to oppose the strip mining project proposed for land in the Sylmar area of the San Gabriel Mountains, the County of Los Angeles, adjacent to the Pacoima Dam and the Angeles National Forest. The motion passed.

II. Approval of minutes - The Oct. 5, 2011 minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

1. Consideration of Alan Kishbaugh for Chair Emeritus - The Hillside Federation has designated only six members as Chair Emeritus in the 59 years of its existence. The Executive Committee reviewed their characteristics in order to establish five criteria for the designation.

- A. Provides a specific service/achievement to the Hillside Federation;
- B. Performs in a Hillside Federation leadership role;
- C. Fosters Hillside Federation team environment;
- D. Enhances the image of the Hillside Federation externally;
- E. Remains active in continuing the mission of the Hillside Federation.

Marian cited Alan's qualifications in each area. He excelled in all, especially his 20 years of service to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, his years on the Mulholland Design Review Board, and his continued efforts to preserve open spaces. Alan Kishbaugh was approved as Chair Emeritus.

2. Jerry Daniel will be honored by having the Hollywood Bowl Overlook on Mulholland Drive renamed for him on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 2:00 pm. All are invited.

3. The Holiday Party will be on Wed., Dec. 7 at the Mulholland Tennis Club. Our honored guests will be Assemblymember Mike Feuer and newly designated Chair Emeritus Alan Kishbaugh.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don gave the current status of Federation accounts. We have 34 paid member groups. He encouraged everyone to attend the Holiday Party and accepted checks.

IV. New Business

A. 8875 Thrasher Ave. - Beth Fogarty

A Miami developer who owns a vacant lot on Thrasher Ave. is trying to get language in the Hollywood Community Plan that would change the slope density requirement for his property so that he can build a subdivision. The developer is very persistent.

There are meetings on Hollywood Community Plan on Nov. 7 and 10. Carol Sidlow encouraged everyone to read the Hollywood Community Plan, which is available in local libraries and online, and to attend one of the meetings and speak for the current protections for the hillsides. The current plan does not mention the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, Slope Density Ordinance, Ridgeline Protection Ordinance, or Retaining Wall Ordinance. You should send your written comments to Mary Richardson in Planning.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue moved that the Hillside Federation write a strong letter addressing the weaknesses of Hillside regulations and policies in the proposed Hollywood Community plan. The motion passed.

B. Farmers Markets in residential areas

Jane Usher of the City Attorney's Office asked homeowner groups how they feel about having farmers markets allowed in residential areas. Chris Spritz explained that Councilmember Wesson made the motion because he wants to provide more outlets for fresh food. They are already allowed in church parking lots, public parks, and schools. It would be limited to certified farmers markets. Currently they are only required to notify residents within 300 feet of the site. The neighborhood council is not notified. The impact on a neighborhood could be appreciable. There is no evaluation of the impact of traffic in the neighborhood.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation request more notice and a transparent process, including notification of the local neighborhood council, for the establishment of farmers markets in residential neighborhoods. The motion passed.

C. Holiday Party - The party was discussed under the Treasurer's Report.

V. Old Business

A. Stanley Hills Dr. appeal - No one attended to give an update.

B. Sign Ordinance - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The current version of the Sign Ordinance is a disaster because many of the provisions of the 2009 version that was approved by the City Planning Commission have been weakened. Previously you had to take down a billboard for every new billboard you put up. Under the latest version you may plant a tree or widen a sidewalk instead. Signs were supposed to be prohibited in parks, but now they are permitting signs in parks if they are in a Sign District. More specific information on the ordinance is available at www.banbillboardblight.org. Wendy encouraged everyone to attend the next PLUM hearing on Nov. 18.

C. Lopez Canyon update - Marlene Rader

The Community Alliance for Open Space won its lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles to prohibit a truck driving school in the Lopez Canyon Open Space. It was a pet project for Councilmember Alarcon although he had promised them it would be open space. The City chose not to appeal Judge Anne Jones' decision. The city had to pay for their legal fees plus 10% interest per year, \$379,000. Marlene credited perseverance, tenacity, the law, Supervisor Antonovich, and Hillside Federation support for their victory.

D. Van De Kamps Bakery - Dan Wright, Laura Gutierrez

The community filed a CEQA lawsuit over the Community College District's leasing of the Van De Kamps Bakery to a charter school and jobs training program instead of the satellite campus it was supposed to be. The ruling was made by Judge Jones, the same one as in the Lopez Canyon lawsuit. A forensic audit by Controller Chang showed poor management, misappropriations, and improper bidding on the part of the Community College District. They are now launching a criminal investigation that may involve the FBI. Dan and Laura are looking for people to join them in a tax payer lawsuit claiming it was an illegal use of bond funds. More information is available at www.vandekamps.org. You may contact them at vdkcoalition@gmail.com.

Barking Dogs - Nickie Miner announced that City Council will now fine people for barking dogs.

VI. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Donna Messinger, Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Ave./Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Hollywood Dell	Patti Negri
	Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Kagel Canyon	Marlene Rader
	Linda Hornick
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Imprmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington	Dan Wright
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Pacific Palisades	Chris Spitz
Res. of Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley	Shirley Cohen
	Steve Twining
Studio City	Claudia Freedle
Sunset Hills	Beth Fogarty
	Lynn Roth

Guests Present:

Citizens Against Strip Mining - San Fernando Valley	Ellie Brooks
	John Hames
	Joe Greblo
	Darrell Vivian
	Craig Smith
Friends of LaRocha	Judy Dowden
Sunset Hills	Patrick Fogarty
Van De Kamps Coal.	Laura Gutierrez