

Hillside Federation
April 4, 2012
Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

Guest Speaker - Stephanie Romero from Assemblymember Betsy Butler's Office spoke about Ms. Butler's accomplishments and her focus on energy, health, aging, and education endeavors. She is introducing legislation on environmental and health issues, use of electric vehicles, veteran's assistance, and reducing senior citizen abuse. Some examples of the legislative items include: AB 2644 to create ways to charge electric vehicles, AB 2149 to try to avoid financial or physical abuse for seniors, and AB 2427 to enable taking required courses during extended programs

II. Approval of March 7, 2012 minutes

The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian Dodge welcomed new members and spoke on the Memorial for Fritz Zeiser. She also told of the sighting of a mountain lion that was able to cross the Hollywood Freeway into Griffith Park. There is a move to get more cameras to monitor the wild animals in their wildlife corridors. She also told of several studies of animal surveys at www.friendsofgriffithpark.org. Wendy-Sue Rosen suggested a report by the National Parks Service and having Brenda from Valley Wildlife Care at a future meeting regarding living with wildlife and rehabilitation.

With respect to the proposed San Vicente Tower, an appropriate CEQA review will be performed.

The Sign Ordinance is still in the City Attorney's Office for a few months more.

She handed out the Request for Action/Information Form which is intended to simplify and expedite the issue process, and make us more efficient, as well as provide a database of issues for future reference.

Marian reported that the Federation's recommendations to the Hollywood Community Plan have been included in the revision to the plan. In 2006 the Federation opposed the upzoning of streets west of the Hollywood Freeway. The Plan went to PLUM March 27 and will go back to the PLUM Committee on April 17, 2012 for review.

B. The Nominating Committee composed of Claudia Freedle, Carol Sidlow, and Nickie Miner met to select a slate of Hillside Federation officers for the April elections. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

- President – Marian Dodge
- Chairman – Charley Mims
- Vice Presidents – Mark Stratton and Wendy Sue Rosen
- Secretary – Donna Messinger
- Treasurer – Don Andres

Tony Tucci moved that we accept the slate by acclamation. The motion passed.

C. Treasurer's Report

Don Andres reported that all the dues have been collected as of the end of March 2012 and we have 38 member associations; this is the largest number of member associations in the past five years. He also reviewed the financial status of the organization.

The 60th Anniversary Party will be held on April 28, 3:00 - 7:00 pm at TreePeople with a ticket price of \$60. All members of your organization are invited to attend. Don provided a flyer for the event showing our set of sponsors, highlighting our honorees, the Del Casher Band and catering by Food Fetish. Tours of the TreePeople site will also be available and there will be a slide show of the members' neighborhoods and past Hillside events. Gillian Calof is putting together the slideshow and .jpg photos should be sent to hillside@beverlyglen.org. The following honorees and guests have confirmed

attendance: Honorees: Architect and author Alan Hess, Architect Eric Lloyd Wright, Landscape Architect Melinda Taylor, Actor Kent McCord, LAPD Captain Bea Girmala; Guests: Assemblymember Betsy Butler, Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Eric Garcetti

IV. New Business

A. Griffith Park Master Plan – Don Seligman (Los Feliz Improvement Assn.)

Griffith Park does not have a Master Plan. In 2005, Tom LaBonge formed a group under Recreation & Parks to produce a plan and a finalized plan was developed in 2009 which was redlined several times. There has been very little progress in the master plan since then. Los Feliz Improvement Assn. (LFIA) has pressured the City to bring it to conclusion. Several risks exist without a master plan including the displacement of park users, destruction of wildlife corridors, traffic congestion, encroachment of commercialization into the Park, multiple new projects, etc. He also spoke of grandfathering the LA Zoo as a Sign District under the Sign Ordinance. LFIA is asking for the Master Plan process to be completed within 10 months.

MOTION: Don Seligman moved that the Hillside Federation urge the City Councilmembers and the Department of Recreation & Parks to finalize the Master Plan for Griffith Park within the next 10 months. The motion passed.

B. 8401 Grandview Drive - Bill McMillan and Skip Haynes (Laurel Canyon Assn.)

The developer, who has a history of violations, plans to built on the substandard street without improving it and illegally connect two lots. They just learned that the current permits have been revoked. He recommended that people mobilize early and be tenacious in fighting issues. They are making a movie about the issues with 60 neighbors on the lack of notice, violation of permits, etc. to show all of the laws and mandates that are being ignored and not enforced.

C. 9116 Cordell Dr. - Beth Fogarty (Sunset Hills HOA)

The property is on a steep lot and the proposed remodel will nearly double the size of the existing residence. Their HOA is objecting to the variances for more retaining walls, over-height building, over-height fence, narrower set backs, etc.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support the Sunset Hills HOA, the Bel Air/ Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, and CD 5, to oppose all requests for variances, adjustments, and determinations and that the applicant be required to build to the Hillside Baseline Ordinance with no deviations from the code. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. Helicopter Noise Reduction Update - Marian Dodge

There are too many media helicopters, and there should not be exemption for these helicopters as proposed by Sen. Schumer (NY). Fran Reichenbach has offered assistance to any organization that needs help in establishing a Special Aviation Regulation to reduce helicopter noise in their area.

B. Hollywood Community Plan – Fran Reichenbach and George Abrahams (Beachwood Canyon)

The new Plan will reduce the quality of life in the neighborhoods by increasing density. They recommended looking at Census figures for population projections since the data previously presented appeared to be incorrect. The services and infrastructures will be overwhelmed if the development is allowed to be pursued as planned. They are looking for responsible growth and planning based on a new EIR. Shawn Bayliss and Charley Mims stated that cities are required to use SCAG population projections. Carol Sidlow stated that the protections of hillside neighborhoods is the strongest in the country thanks to the work of the Hillside Federation. Planner Kevin Keller suggested a Specific Plan for Central Hollywood. Marian explained the triggers that take a project out of the by-right category and makes it discretionary; one is if a project's FAR is greater than 4.5:1.

MOTION: Charley Mims moved the Hillside Federation iterate our support of the Hollywood Community Plan elements in the hillside areas, and that we request the City Council to take a close look at the amount of densification proposed for the transit corridors. The motion passed.

C. Support for Park Rangers – Marian Dodge

As a result of budget reductions the City is proposing to layoff Park Rangers. The line item of Chief Ranger has been deleted from the budget. Discussion pursued on the need for Rangers for public safety especially in Griffith Park and Runyon Canyon Park due to the popularity of those sites.

MOTION: Charley Mims moved that the Hillside Federation support the retention of Park Rangers.
The motion passed.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Don Andres – Acting Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	Fran Reichenbach George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton Lois Becker
Brentwood Hills	Eric Edmonds
Brentwood Residents	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Patti Negri
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci Skip Haynes Bill McMillan
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge Don Seligman
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Sherman Oaks	Niles Chapman
Studio City	Claudia Freedle

Guests Present:

Assemblymember	Stephanie Romero
Betsy Butler	
CD 5	Shawn Bayliss Jeff Ebenstein
Park Rangers	Pete Steur
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber