

Hillside Federation
July 11, 2012
Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes The minutes for June 6, 2012 meeting were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian announced that there will be an exhibit of tree photographer Dan Shephard's work at Bergamot Station on July 14. It will be followed by a photography workshop at TreePeople on July 21.

The Helicopter Noise Relief Act hearing will be held on August 6, 6:30 pm in Sherman Oaks.

Because of the 2013 New Years holiday, everyone agreed to hold the January meeting on January 9 instead of January 2.

The website has been updated. The neighborhood slide show that Gillian Calof created for the anniversary party is now on the website. Photographs from the 40th anniversary including chair emeritus and from the 60th anniversary party are now posted on the website. The Request For Action form is now available in .doc format so you can type into it, save it and send it back via email. It is in the lower right corner of the home page.

B. Treasurer's Report

Don Andres, who is on east coast for the summer, sent his report with the current accounts.

IV. New Business

A. Lawsuit against the Hollywood Community Plan - George Abrahams

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association, People for Livable Communities, and others are suing the City of Los Angeles over the Hollywood Community Plan because it will allow too much development in Hollywood and cause congestion from the Valley to downtown. According to George, the smaller suits will be consolidated into one large lawsuit. George said the Plan should be based on facts not on predictions because the population in Hollywood has been decreasing. The community wants all alternatives such as down-zoning to be considered and a new EIR conducted. Marian asked where in the Plan it showed up-zoning. George said it appeared in the matrix, but he did not have a copy of the matrix. He will send it to Marian with the up-zoning highlighted.

George asked the Federation and its member organizations to support the lawsuit. The Federation requested that the community groups provide more information about the issue before taking any position.

V. Old Business

A. Mulholland Institutional Corridor - Mark Stratton

Mark explained that the institutions continue to make requests for changes to their operations, including expansions to their sites along the Mulholland Corridor. Both Mirman and Curtis Schools are requesting new Conditional Use Permits to add square footage and expanded uses in this very low density residential zone. The community has been working with Council District 11 Bill Rosendahl to create a policy to coordinate the events from all of the institutions in the Corridor.

MOTION: Mark Stratton moved that until a Master Plan is adopted for the Mulholland Institutional Corridor, the Federation adopt, as a policy matter, a request for the following condition, to be included in every institutional corridor entitlement document: "All Special Events shall be coordinated among the Mulholland Institutional Corridor educational, religious and cultural institutions and staggered to minimize impacts on neighboring residential areas." and

“Said institutions shall provide annual notice of these events in the form of a calendar distributed to the affected Council Offices (CD 11 & CD 5), Neighborhood and Community Councils (Encino, Brentwood & Bel Air/Beverly Crest), and local HOAs at the beginning of each school year.” The motion passed.

B. Mulholland Design Review Board/Curtis School - Mark Stratton

Mark reported that many of the school have been submitting proposed expansion and renovation plans to the MDRB in a piecemeal fashion so that it is impossible for the MDRB to accurately determine the true impact of the projects on the Mulholland Corridor. Curtis School is currently planning a 20-year build out and has requested that it bring each phase of its plan back for approval. The Van Nuys office Planning staff has been advising the MDRB incorrectly and telling the MDRB to make decisions based on incomplete applications. Staff is telling the MDRB that they are only advisory, but they are mandated to be the first level of review. A DRB recommendation must be approved by a majority of all the members, not by a majority of those present; however the planner has been passing along votes that did not have a majority of all members.

MOTION: Mark Stratton moved that the Federation write a letter to the City that they need to follow their own codes and regulations with regard to Mulholland Design Review Board procedures. The motion passed.

C. Curtis School Conservation Easement - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has suggested a conservation easement as part of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Curtis School project. It is important to provide contiguous open space for wildlife connectivity. The remaining open space on the manufactured slopes should be turned over to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) as a wildlife corridor.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support a very specifically worded condition that requires DRB review for every aspect/phase of the Curtis School Project prior to any other approval by the City. I further move that the Federation support a condition, via Mulholland Design Review Board approval, to dedicate a conservation easement on existing manufactured slopes on Curtis School property to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and that any additional approved development by the school be subject to a condition of approval and MND mitigation measure that requires, and only allows, wildlife permeable fencing, or no fencing, and no additional campus lighting within the Mulholland Drive right-of-way. The motion passed.

D. Linda Flora Dr. - Steve Twining

In September, 2011 the Federation opposed the 46,659 sq. ft. residence proposed on one of the last open spaces available. The project includes two 1,000-foot retaining walls ten feet high in order to connect Upper Linda Flora with Lower Lind Flora. The grading will cut off the top of a ridgeline. The 75,000 cubic yards of dirt will go into the adjacent Hoag Canyon which the applicant does not own. A hearing with the Dept. of Building & Safety will be held on August 14 regarding the export of 18,405 cubic yards of earth from the site. The Mitigated Negative Declaration is inadequate, not certified, and does not address issues raised by the Regional Water Quality Board and the Dept. of Fish & Game.

MOTION: Steve Twining moved that the Hillside Federation support the Roscomare Valley Association's request that the haul route hearing of August 14, 2012 for the grading of over 18,000 cubic yards be put in abeyance until all of the mandatory requirements imposed on the property owner by the State Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Fish and Game have been completed. The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared in 2007 (ENV-2007-1030), which is referenced for the haul route hearing currently scheduled, must be vacated as the mitigations presented in the document are incomplete, do not address the potentially significant environmental impacts presented by the proposed development, and have not taken into account State jurisdictional agencies requests for recirculation. The motion passed.

E. Tower Lane update - Nickie Miner thanked the Federation for the wonderful letter.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Donna Messinger, Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Resid.	Don Keller
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Oaks Homeowners	Bob Young
Pacific Palisades	Bob Locker
Res. of Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks	Niles Chapman
Studio City	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	James Provenzano