

email: president@hillsidefederation.org
website: www.hillsidefederation.org

FOUNDED IN 1952

President
Joan Luchs
CHAIRMAN
Lynette Berg Robe
VICE PRESIDENT
Charley Mims
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Liz Tigar
RECORDING SECRETARY
Ann Walnum
TREASURER
Dan Palmer

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS
BelAir Knolls Property
BelAir Skycrest Property
Benedict Canyon Association
Briarcliff Improvement
Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood
Crests Neighborhood Association
Encino Property Owners
Forest Hills Homeowners
Franklin Ave/Hwd.Blvd.West
Franklin Hills Residents
Glassell Park Improvement
Glenridge Homeowners
Highlands Owners Association
Hollywood Dell Civic
Hollywood Heights Association
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners
La Tuna Canyon Community
Laurel Canyon Association
Los Feliz Improvement
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mount Washington Association
Mt. Wash. Homeowners Alliance
Nichols Canyon Association
No.Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Association
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Association
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks Home Owners
Studio City Residents
Tarzana Property Owners
Torreyson-Flynn Association
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic

CHAIRMEN EMERITUS
Jerome C. Daniel
Patricia Bell Hearst
Gordon Murley
Polly Ward

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM
Brian Moore

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE GET OUT THE VOTE!



*Important
Information
Enclosed*

In less than a week from the time you receive this newsletter, elections will be held for the City of Los Angeles. A large turnout is our best insurance that the choices of the public are accurately represented, and that's where we play our part by being sure to vote.

Of particular interest to the Federation is Council District #5 because it represents a substantial number of our organizations, and of course the same may be said about the office of the City Attorney whose decisions affect everyone. A run-off for these two offices has been forecast. If that does occur, it is our intent to invite the candidates to appear at our May 6th meeting.

While the Mayor has some opposition, the closest candidate running against him has raised less than 10% of the campaign chest the Mayor will have to spend, so his winning seems to some a foregone conclusion.

You might ask then, "why should I bother to vote?" Well, how about the fact that we fought and won a revolution, fought and won a civil war and defeated fascist countries in World War II to maintain that right. How about the races that may become competitive? What about Charter amendments that will help survivors of our brave police and fire services to survive?

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NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, March 4, 2009
Social Hour at 7 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM

Meeting to start promptly at 7:30 pm

UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN
3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West between
Lankershim-Universal Drive bridge
off ramps; park underground garage/street;
take elevator to 2nd floor conference room

AGENDA

Introductions: Members/Guests

Minutes: February

President's Report:

A. City Election Results

B. HF Election Slate for April 1st

C. Solar Energy Results/Measure B

Treasurer's Report:

A. Membership Dues Update

Sign Ordinance: Guest Speakers

Barbara Broide – Coalition to

Ban Billboard Blight

Alan Bell- Senior City Planner

Adjournment:

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What about Charter amendments that if approved will commit rate payers to a solar energy program without first conducting a comprehensive study, giving City Council and the Mayor instead of the DWP Board of Commissioners direct authority and influence over who gets contracts costing billions? **Only a high turnout will assure us that the public is truly represented.**

Remember Florida in 2000 and Minnesota today. There are times when it is clear that every vote really counts and we never know in what election that will occur. But most of all, think of it as our duty. In our democracy we have a duty to exercise our right to vote. Our friends and family members have fought and sometimes died to preserve this right. We cannot let them down. Let's follow the example set in the recent national election that drew the highest turnout in recent memory. Make sure you spread the word and ask everyone to vote...

IMPORTANT DUES REMINDER



**2009
MEMBERSHIP FEES OF \$150
NEED TO BE PAID BY MARCH 15TH
TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN
APRIL 1ST ELECTION**

**Please bring your check to the March 4th
meeting or mail it in time to be received
by March 15, 2009**

THANK -YOU

**Mail checks to Dan Palmer
10415 Corfu Lane**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE
SLATE**

Nominating Committee Chair Dr. Niles Chapman presents the following slate for the Executive Committee election to be held April 1st:

Nominees are as follows:

- Chairman: Lynette Berg Robe
- President: Joan Luchs
- Vice President: Charley Mims
- Executive Secretary: Laura Gutierrez
- Treasurer: Dan Palmer
- Recording Secretary: Ann Walnum

The slate will be noticed in the April Newsletter, and nominations from the floor will be accepted at both the March 4th and April 1st meetings.

Names of the newly elected Executive Committee will appear in the May newsletter and induction of these elected officers will be held at the May 6th meeting.



**VIEW FEDERATION
WEBSITE
at www.hillsidefederation.org**

**Latest Newsletters, News and
Update Links are available**

**If there is something else you'd like to see,
or if you want to send an article for the
newsletter, let us hear from you.
Call Joan Luchs at (213) 368-6120
with your suggestions.**

**CITY’S NEW SIGN CODE IS A
BAD PROPOSAL**

At the February 19 City Planning Commission CPC meeting, the City released a new version of the City’s sign ordinance but it is a BAD proposal, one which not only appears to incorporate a great deal of input from industry lobbyists, but also reflects none of the community concerns raised over and over again.

A proposed resolution from activist Barbara Broide offered community organizations well thought out language for motions to be considered, urging all of us to send letters to the City Planning Commission incorporating these points and adding that it would be a grave mistake to move the proposed ordinance to quickly from the City Planning Commission to the Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM). Once this City Sign Ordinance moves into the hands of City Council, there is little hope of getting an effective and comprehensive measure crafted. The Hillside Federation sent the following letter to the City Planning Commission CPC.

DATE: February 19, 2008
 TO: City Planning Commission
 RE: Revisions to City Sign Ordinance
 CPC- 2009-008-CA

As president of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, I am urging the City Planning Commission and City Council to take the following actions regarding the City Sign Code revisions and the process involved in crafting those revisions.

1. Direct the planning department to arrange sessions with community groups and neighborhood councils to explain how the sign ordinance changes could affect their neighborhoods and permit all participants to both understand the impacts and provide meaningful mitigations into the process.
2. Adopt a resolution asking the City Council to extend the 3-month moratorium (Ordinance No. 180445) on new digital billboards and supergraphic signs that took effect Dec. 26 for another 3 months so that community organizations and neighborhood councils are

included in a full discussion of how the proposed sign ordinance revisions affect their neighborhoods. Stakeholders must have the opportunity for informed input before the City Council takes any action on the ordinance.

3. Create a resolution to limit the height, size, number, and placement of all signs to protect communities from the cumulative effects of visual clutter, blight and safety hazard.
4. Prohibit digital signs from unwanted light trespass, pollution, potential traffic safety hazards, and excessive energy usage in order to protect residents and communities from further blight.
5. Prohibit all signs that cover doors or windows.
6. Retain the distinction between off-site and on-site signs and oppose the elimination of distinguishing on-site and off-site regulations; instead, strengthen the off-site sign ban currently in place by removing the city's discretion to grant exceptions in supplemental use districts, specific plans, and approved development agreements. These exceptions degrade the city's visual environment and commercialize public space.
7. Oppose the elimination of time limits on temporary signs which if approved will only encourage other Billboard companies to apply for the same unjustified privilege giving more companies a license to expect that their temporary signs can remain forever.
8. Enact significant penalties on all illegal signage with a clause that accelerates fines daily when signs remain out of compliance so that penalties will act as a real deterrent to this unlawful activity that is currently blighting our city. In addition provisions should be made to recover "ill-gotten gains" from companies that reap large financial return from illegal signs.
9. Criminally prosecute all Billboard companies who refuse to bring their illegal signs into compliance per LADBS Orders to Comply.

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10. Oppose the establishment of any new sign districts until a definitive ruling has been received from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the World Wide Rush v. City of Los Angeles case. Allowing even one new sign district could lead to further injunctions of the sort that have undermined the city's ability to enforce the current off-site sign ban, and could result in a significant proliferation of supergraphic signs and other types of outdoor advertising.

Respectfully submitted,
JOAN LUCHS
 President
 The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations

**LOS FELIZ COMMEMORATES
ITS EARLY HISTORY**

The Los Feliz Improvement Association is the oldest neighborhood organization in Los Angeles and has just published "Los Feliz: An Illustrated Early History," to commemorate its 95th anniversary.

This is the first book to address the early history of the Los Feliz district of Los Angeles which predates even the city's own founding in 1781.

Los Feliz was home to a major Native American settlement before Jose Vicente Feliz brought his family to the Los Angeles basin in 1776 on the initial expedition to bring secular Spanish colonists to California. Feliz was given the major responsibility for establishing the new pueblo of Los Angeles during the town's first 20 years by California's first Spanish governors. He was rewarded for his efforts as the Comisionado of Los Angeles with the "El Rancho de Nuestra Señora de Refugio de Los Feliz" ("Ranch of Our Lady of Refuge of the Feliz Family") granted to him by Spanish King Carlos III around 1800.

The story of the Rancho which eventually became the Los Feliz neighborhood and Griffith Park is filled with fascinating personalities like the colorful early Los Angeles politician Antonio Coronel, the larger-than-life entrepreneur and philanthropist Griffith J. Griffith, local Los Angeles official and real estate developer William Mead who founded the Los Feliz Improvement Association in 1916, and movie moguls Cecil B. DeMille, D. W. Griffith, and Walt Disney. The book begins with the area's prehistory and ends in 1940.

Written by Donald Seligman, LFIA representative to the Hillside Federation, the hardbound all-color book features more than 150 historic drawings, maps and photographs. It is a treasure for anyone who has an interest in early Los Angeles and local history. The book is available from the Los Feliz Improvement Association at their website: www.lfia.org at a cost of \$25 plus tax.

DONALD SELIGMAN

**MULHOLLAND SCENIC
PARKWAY DESIGN
REVIEW BOARD**

**Meets the first and third
Thursday of the month at
6:30 PM**

**MARVIN BRAUDE
CONSTITUENTS SERVICE
CENTER**

**6262 Van Nuys Blvd.,
Van Nuys, CA
First Floor Conference Room**

**Free parking under the building:
Entrance just east of Van Nuys Blvd.
on Sylvan Street**

**HASTY CRAFTING OF NEW
SIGN ORDINANCE NOT IN
PUBLIC INTEREST**

“Lobbyists for some of the city’s most powerful business and development interests are proposing changes that would inevitably result in more outdoor advertising, particularly of the brightest, most intrusive variety. We must have an outpouring of public sentiment for an ordinance that will stop the proliferation of signage, protect neighborhoods and make sure the rogue companies putting up their signs wherever they please face such onerous penalties that they will decide it’s not worth the risk.” (Dennis Hathaway, Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight)

In response to a February 20th Los Angeles Times article about a company putting up illegal supergraphic signs on buildings that have been subsidized by the city, Hathaway was prompted to write the following letter to City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo.

“Dear Mr. Delgadillo:

This morning’s Los Angeles Times article about a company putting up illegal supergraphic signs on buildings that have been subsidized by the city comes as a shock to those of us working for laws and regulations that will protect the city’s visual environment from the blight of such illegal signs. We ask that the City Attorney’s office immediately investigate and vigorously prosecute violations of all applicable laws, including the 3-month ICO that currently prohibits the erection of any new digital billboards and supergraphic signs.

We further ask that the City Attorney’s office investigate the possibility that such illegal activity violates CIM group’s contracts with the Community Redevelopment Agency, and take immediate action if such proves to be the case, including the possible revocation of CIM Group’s ability to receive further subsidies or otherwise do business with the city.

The Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight represents individuals, community groups, homeowner associations, civic organizations and arts and design groups throughout Los Angeles.”

In an effort to stem this apparent rush to approve a new sign ordinance, a deputy from Councilman Jack Weiss’ office said that Weiss and Council President Eric Garcetti would introduce a motion to extend the billboard moratorium past the current expiration date of March 26th. This should be encouraged along with the many suggested resolutions proposed by Barbara Broide and incorporated in the February 19, 2009 Hillside Federation letter to the City Planning Commission.

The anticipated motion to extend the billboard moratorium referred to above was indeed approved by the City Council at its February 24th meeting, thus moving the expiration date to May 10.



**REMINDERS:
ISSUES & MOTIONS**

Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 7:30 PM and end by 9:30 PM. In order to end on time, issues to be brought to the Board require a complete outline and a background, including what is being requested, then emailed to president@hillsidefederation.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting along with a direct phone and fax number or phone and email address if available.

MOTIONS to be made at the meeting should be well thought out and printed so that they are clear and concise, with enough copies for all member associations. Each presenter will be given 5 minutes to make a presentation so that meetings can be kept on time. All requests to agendize an issue **MUST** be approved in writing by the President before the item will be placed on the Agenda.

FEBRUARY MINUTES**DRAFT MINUTES
HILLSIDE FEDERATION****General Membership Meeting
February 4, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at Universal City Nissan at 7:42 PM followed by self-introductions from members and guests. Lacking a quorum, approval of January minutes was deferred.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

President Joan Luchs announced candidate forums for Council District 5. The Federation may not endorse, but will feature the two run-off candidates at the May meeting.

Renewal of Directors and Officers insurance was discussed. The executive Committee will review and make a recommendation.

Nominations for new officers will be announced at the March meeting and voted upon April 1st. Swearing in of the new officers will take place at the May 6th meeting. The nominating committee includes **Dr. Niles Chapman**, chairman; **Dan Palmer** and **Charley Mims**. Member association dues of \$150 must be paid by March 15, 2009 to maintain voting eligibility.

The Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) application to the Cultural Heritage Commission for approval of historical monument status of Griffith Park has received final approval from City Council.

BILLBOARD SIGN ORDINANCE:

City Planning Commission will review and recommend further action on billboards. The December moratorium on new billboards approved by City Council is being broken. **President Luchs** urged all members to keep a watch out for illegal billboard construction and report

them to Building and Safety official Frank Bush at (213) 252-3904 or **frank.bush@lacity.org** or call 311 and hit "O" for operator assistance. The operator will take down a Stop Work Order complaint. During the week, the best time to report these violations is early morning at 7:30 AM.....or on weekends, call as soon as you notice the infraction.

Don Seligman (LFIA) reported on a presentation by **Councilman Tom LaBonge** who portrayed the billboard moratorium and forthcoming ordinance as difficult and being met with resistance and legal problems. Seligman suggested that these are likely excuses and therefore important for all members and their associations to keep the pressure on our elected officials.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Dan Palmer reported the beginning and ending bank balance for the year and added that the Federation donated \$500 to the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight, \$2800 to the EACHLA densification lawsuit, and \$1000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for wildlife corridor acquisition.

MINUTES: A quorum having been reached, the minutes of January 7th were approved as submitted.

MEASURE B – SOLAR ENERGY:

President Luchs relinquished the gavel in order to report on this measure. She directed members to an article in the February newsletter by **Ron Kaye**, retired Daily News editor, which concluded: **"We can have clean energy and clean government. Vote No. on Measure B. Let's do Solar Energy right."**

President Luchs reported that Councilman Greig Smith said he erred in voting for Measure B to be placed on the ballot. Two motions were proposed for Federation action: 1) support and promote the use of Solar Energy; 2) reject Measure B based on the ballot process including inadequate analysis and disclosure, lack of an open discussion and public input as well as misleading City Council to vote the Measure onto the Primary election.

FEBRUARY MINUTES

Parliamentarian Barbara Dohrmann noted that our non-profit status limits political action. Others present clarified this to mean prohibition of support for political candidates, but allowance of action in regard to issues.

Dan Wright of Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance spoke from his experience on the legal staff of the City Charter Revision Commission. He stated that the Department of Water and Power (DWP) as a “Proprietary Department” is supposed to be insulated from political pressure and could legally have set up the program to be implemented by Measure B without public vote. But Measure B represents a switch of power from DWP to the City Council and gives the City Council power to continue to bypass the Commission. He then submitted the following motion which was passed by an 11-1 vote. This wording incorporates the substance of **President Luchs’** original proposals.

MOTION: Dan Wright moved and Dr. Niles Chapman seconded that the Hillside Federation supports the concept of increasing the use of solar energy in the City of Los Angeles; however, the Federation must respectfully urge a “No” Vote on Measure B until the current proposal has been given a thorough analysis and received an open, transparent review by the public.

SKIRBALL PROJECT:

Barbara Dohrman (Bel-Air Skycrest) reported that the Skirball Center wishes to add 32,000 square feet of conference space and that their parking variance and grading requests conflict with previous agreements regarding the Mulholland Institutional Corridor.

MOTION: Barbara Dohrmann moved and Linda Greco seconded that the Hillside Federation permit the president and/or the executive board to write a letter to the hearing officer opposing the expansion, reiterating the previous positions taken regarding the Mulholland Institutional Corridor. Unanimously approved.

LA TUNA CANYON PROPOSALS

President Linda Greco of La Tuna Canyon Community Association reported three major problems: 1) Athens Waste has expanded use of their permitted 500 tons of solid waste to 1400 tons at a facility within 500 feet of a residential area; 2) A canyon landfill is proposed for passive recreation and training area for truck drivers, and 3) former Verdugo Golf Course is being proposed by developer **Mark Handel** as the site for 220 condo units. **President Luchs** agreed to assist with advocacy against the Verdugo Golf Course Condo proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Ann Walnum, Recording Secretary

FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT

President	Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass
Treasurer	Dan Palmer, Residents of Beverly Glen
Recording Secretary	Ann Walnum, Mount Washington
Executive Secretary	Liz Tigar, Tarzana Property Owners

FEDERATION DIRECTORS PRESENT

Barbara Dohrmann	Bel-Air Skycrest
Don Andres	Franklin Ave/Holly West
Linda Greco	La Tuna Canyon
Donald Seligman	Los Feliz Improvement
Daniel Wright	Mt. Washington Alliance
Madeline O’Donnell	Nichols Canyon
Robert Levy	No.Beverly/Franklin Cyn.
Niles D. Chapman,MD	Sherman Oaks HOA
Tensie Palmer	Residents of Beverly Glen

GUESTS PRESENT

Mark Strattan	Bel-Air Skycrest
Lois Becker	Bel-Air Skycrest
Laura Gutierrez	
Sharon Miller	

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Social Hour at 7 PM - Meeting at 7:30 PM

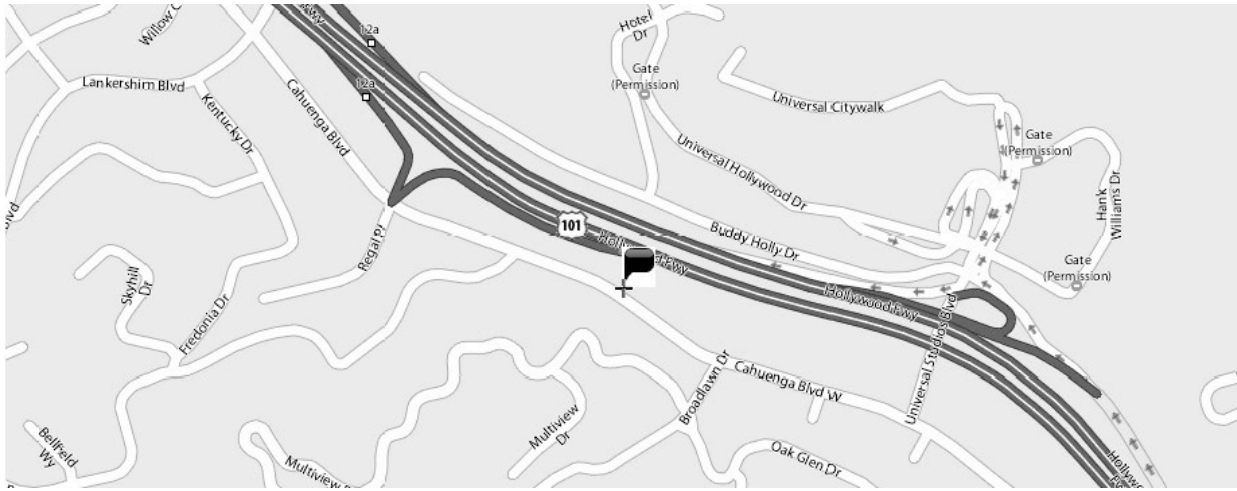
UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West

Los Angeles, CA 90068

Between Lankershim and Universal Drive bridge off ramps:

Park on street or in underground garage; take elevator to "S" street level or enter through showroom, turn left, follow signs to 2nd floor conference room



THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

PO BOX 1673

HOLLYWOOD HILLS, CA 90078

213-368-6120



*Important Information
Enclosed*

