

email: president@hillsidefederation.org
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FOUNDED IN 1952

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL GUEST: COUNCILWOMAN WENDY GREUEL

The Hillside Federation welcomes Councilwoman Wendy Greuel to its September meeting. She represents the Second District in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and was sworn into office in April, 2002.

A life-long resident of the San Fernando Valley, Wendy has worked tirelessly to be an independent voice fighting for the Valley's fair share of city resources. Her leadership is inspired by her strong belief that a more responsive government, greater citizen participation and empowered neighborhoods will improve the quality of life for all residents and create safer communities, a strong local economy and a brighter future for our children.

As the new Chair of the City's Transportation Committee, she has already banned road construction during rush hour, created anti-gridlock zones and lobbied Sacramento to ensure construction and completion of a Northbound 405 carpool lane.

Budget minded, Wendy developed the Stolen Vehicle Recovery program under which parking enforcement officers rather than the LAPD are responsible for having stolen vehicles towed. This has allowed LAPD officers 2000 additional hours to respond to more serious crimes. Her creation of the 50/50 Sidewalk Program has increased the mileage of sidewalks fixed in her district by 20% without spending additional taxpayer dollars.

Continued on page 2...



*Important
Information
Enclosed*

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 3, 2008
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: June and July

President's Report:

A. Thanks to EAHCLA contributors

**New Business: Special Guest Speaker
Councilwomen Wendy Greuel**

A. Development-Densification Ordinance

B. Billboard Blight

Old Business: Update

**A. Austry/SW Museum hearing-August
18th**

**B. Metro Studio @ Lankershim project-
1. Presentation at October 8th meeting
2. Draft EIR released August 25th-**

Adjournment

Continued from page 1...

Again, budget minded, Wendy has as a member of the Audits and Government Efficiency Committee helped to save dollars by cutting wasteful government spending and identifying fraud and corruption in city government.

She is well versed in working at the state and national level to provide resources for and deliver services to the Second District. Her national experience includes work in the Clinton administration from 1993 to 1997 and with Cabinet Secretary Henry Cisneros as Field Operations Officer for Southern California for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She was also instrumental in coordinating HUD's 1994 Northridge earthquake emergency response and recovery programs.

We have asked Wendy to talk about Development including the Densification Ordinance as well as Billboard Blight, so get ready for an exciting evening of questions and answers on the topics of greatest interest to Federation members.

JOAN LUCHS
President



*Schedule
Change*

**REMINDER
MEETING DATE
CHANGE**

**FOR OCTOBER
MEETING WILL BE HELD
On
SECOND MONDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2008**

FEDERATION EXTENDS THANKS TO ITS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF SB 1818 LAWSUIT

To recap – in 2004, the State Legislature passed a bill (SB 1818) requiring California cities and counties to increase affordable housing and give a bonus to developers who include such housing in their developments.

What happened? Briefly, the long awaited ordinance was passed by the City Council on February 20th. It not only went far beyond what was mandated by the State's SB 1818, but produced guidelines that actually resulted in a decrease of affordable housing. Those guidelines seriously undermined current regulations for multiple family residences regarding density, parking, height limits, and open space but also eliminated environmental review by CEQA. Communities reacted quickly to the failure of this ordinance to meet the desired goal and sought to meet with the City to discuss the issue. Those efforts were rebuffed and, as a consequence, at least two lawsuits were filed.

The Federation is supporting a lawsuit filed by Chatten-Brown and Carstens on April 14, not as a plaintiff, but is an advisor. Individual Federation Directors, affiliated organizations and individuals were quick to appreciate the need to pursue legal action and have made substantial personal and organizational contributions in support of it.

It is with deep gratitude that we extend thanks to the following individuals and organizations for their financial support. **Federation Directors:** Bill Eick (Shadow Hills), Lynette Berg Robe (Briarcliff), Ann Walnum (Mount Washington); **Federation Organizations:** Hillside Federation, Benedict Canyon Ass'n., Encino Property Owners, Los Feliz Improvement Ass'n., Tarzana Property Owners, Whitley Heights Civic Ass'n.; **Other Community Organizations:** Comstock Hills, Holmby-Westwood Property Owners, Homeowners of Encino, League of Residential Neighborhood Advocates, Melrose Neighborhood Association, Miracle Mile Residential Ass'n., Tract 7260 Association, Vermont Neighborhood Ass'n., Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd. HOA, Westwood Homeowners, Windsor Square Ass'n.

JULY MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES HILLSIDE FEDERATION

General Membership Meeting: July 9, 2008.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. at Universal City Nissan with self introduction of members, speakers and guests. There was a total attendance of 32, with ten directors. Guests included two large groups from Stone Canyon and Lake Hollywood

MINUTES: Approval of July minutes was deferred to the next regular meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

Meeting Schedule: There will be no meeting or newsletter in August. Councilmember Wendy Gruel will be speaker at the September 3 meeting.

Preservation Fund: The Robert W. Nudelman Memorial Preservation Fund was announced.

Information distributed:

1. "Documents to Have in the Event of Evacuation"
2. Information on a Workshop to learn how to apply for Community Beautification funding.

Camino de la Cumbre:

The appeal was successful

Stone Canyon:

A delegation from Stone Canyon and Jadestone requested Federation help with Mulholland hearings on three large homes (8,900, 8,600 and 6400 square feet) including guest houses and swimming pools. The builder is requesting permission to build on three lots that long-time neighbors call "loser lots", basically "unbuildable." The owner is requesting three height variances, zero side yard setbacks, lot line adjustments, eight and four retaining walls on two of the three lots, as well as a "hardship" exemption. He has misstated that he met with neighbors. The impacts of the project would include destruction of wildlife corridor, undesirable visual impact, and construction on unstable landslide lots with a history of slope failure that would create a hazard for the lots below on Stone Canyon and Jadestone. President Joan Luchs promised to stay involved and work with the neighbors.

Mulholland/405 Corridor:

We revisited the Stephen Wise Temple expansion at the Mulholland/405 "institutional corridor" which the Hillside Federation had voted against at the March 2007 meeting. At that time a compromise agreement regarding land use, night lighting and traffic was reached between Bel Air Skycrest and Stephen Wise Temple representatives. Skip Neville of Bel Air Skycrest indicated that the Temple has subsequently applied for a CUP to operate a nursery school increasing its enrollment from 90 to 290 instead of the playing field originally agreed to. Stephen Wise attorney Mark Armbruster was present at the meeting and said that the Temple had since reduced the maximum number of children from 290 to 145. He also agreed to an immediate meeting to seek resolution before the Planning Department hearing..

Metro Studios @ Lankershim:

Charts, tabletop models, and power point presentations were made by Thomas Properties Group Senior Vice President Ayalushim Hammond, DMJM architect Michael Mann and traffic engineer Pat Gibson from Fehr and Peers/Kaku Associates.

Points Emphasized Included providing:

- 1) "Green development through landscaping, plumbing features, storm water management and reduced energy use."
- 2) "Transit oriented" through consolidation of NBC activities to reduce automobile travel to City Walk and Universal Studios; increased use of transit for patrons and employees, increased parking availability for residents' use of 'Park and Ride' and improved service between 405 freeway and project.
- 3) New freeway ramps are planned to relieve anticipated traffic congestion.
- 4) Improved landscaping, additional open space, and redesign to honor historic Campo de Cahuenga.



JULY MINUTES continued

Target completion time frame for this mammoth commercial, office and residential project is 2012 for phase one and 2015 for phase two. The issuance of the Draft environmental impact report is expected in August. The ‘METRO Studio at Lankershim’ project team were invited to return for our October meeting.

The question period elicited the following comments:

- 1) Projections for transit-oriented passengers is rarely met.
- 2) Parking needs seem to be inadequate for the size and number of trip needs that the project will generate.
- 3) There will be tremendous increased visual impact for nearby hill-dwellers as well as the ‘Island’ community just west of the project.
- 4) Traffic measures to address additional congestion were not sufficiently identified and are inadequate to protect access in and out of the immediate and Surrounding residential communities.....

Meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

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

Skip Nevell	Bel-Air Skycrest
Yvonne Hessler	Franklin Ave/Holly.West
Laura Gutierrez	Glassell Park
Madeliine O’Donnell	Nichols Canyon
Bob Levy	No.Beverly/Franklin Cyn.
Niles D. Chapman,MD	Sherman Oaks

NON-VOTING DIRECTORS – GUESTS

Barbara Dohrmann	Bel-Air Skycrest
Aaron Belliston	Crests Neighborhood
Polly Ward	President Emeritus
Harriet Klein	Stone Canyon
Judy Davis	Stone Canyon
Robert Giffrow	Stone Canyon
Ed Clarke	Stone Canyon
Linda Clarke	Stone Canyon
Stan Magnus	Stone Canyon
Hilda Hoesli	Cahuenga Pass
Michael Mann	DMJM Architect
Daniel Schneider	Crests Neighborhood



**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.



New Ordinance Coming

By Dennis Hathaway

Anyone with an interest in local affairs knows by now, the city's six-year old ban on new billboards and its attempt to get thousands of illegal billboards removed have been abject failures. The visual landscape of the city is being treated more and more as a canvas to be filled with advertising, and billboards and other forms of signs put up without any permits or compliance with regulations continue to generate big profits for the outdoor advertising companies.

The most obvious place to lay blame is at the doors of those deep-pocketed companies which have repeatedly sued the city to block enforcement of the ban. But one could argue that the real culprit in this mess is the City Council itself, which has repeatedly taken actions that undermine enforcement efforts and gives the billboard companies ammunition for their claims that their constitutional rights are being abused. As the cartoon character Pogo famously said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Now, on the heels of adverse court rulings and news media exposure of the sorry state of billboard regulation, six city council members are proposing to rewrite the city's sign ordinances. The intent, according to their motion, will be "to ensure consistency with constitutional law and other applicable laws" and to "toughen and create easily enforceable time/place/manner restrictions citywide to protect neighborhoods."

If the full City Council adopts the motion, the task of translating these generalities into the details of ordinances with actual teeth will fall to the City Planning Department, with "consultation" provided by the Department of Building

and Safety and the City Attorney's office. Which raises immediate questions: Hasn't the City Attorney arguably been part of the problem here by negotiating lawsuit settlements outrageously generous to billboard companies? Hasn't the Building Department issued permits for billboards in direct violation of ordinances? Haven't some planners and zoning administrators made specious findings in billboard-related cases?

The City Council has approved special sign districts and individual exceptions to ordinances and zoning regulations to allow freeway digital billboards, giant "supergraphic" signs that wrap the entire sides of buildings, in addition to other signs that do not comply with regulations regarding height, area and placement. Companies suing the City have cited these exceptions as violating their own rights to put up signs where they please, and have gotten injunctions against enforcement as a result.

Even more importantly, these actions of the City Council have betrayed the public trust and the enthusiasm mobilized by the 2002 billboard ban and the commitment to find and get rid of illegal signs. And the public ought to be excused for feeling more than a little skeptical about how much difference rewriting the sign ordinances will make in the fight against the infestation of our visual spaces with advertising.

In any case, those who feel strongly about this issue should not sit back and wait for the council to rubber stamp something concocted by the very city departments that have come up with sweetheart lawsuit settlements and otherwise acted in ways beneficial, not to the public, but to companies they are sworn to regulate. Those with a stake in this issue --- anti-blight activists, architects, neighborhood councils, homeowner groups --- should be at the table to weigh in on details of these new ordinances.

For example, representatives could be appointed from each neighborhood council to form a group that would actually consult with the planning department in the process of rewriting the ordinances. There may be other viable ideas, but the point is that the public must be part of the process because everyone knows that lobbyists prowling the corridors of city hall will be making sure that the advertising industry interests are well represented.

(Hathaway is an anti-blight activist and member of the Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee. This article originally appeared in a longer form in City Watch.)

IF APPROVED, AUTRY MUSEUM PROPOSAL MEANS DEMISE OF SOUTHWEST MUSEUM



On Monday, August 18, 2008, over a 100 people crowded into Los Angeles City Hall to give testimony regarding the release of the Autry National Center project EIR for its Griffith Park campus that if approved will result in a serious breach of the fiduciary duties owed by the Autry to the Southwest Museum assets. The conceptual plans for the construction of a single museum building at Griffith Park propose to consolidate the Autry and Southwest Museum. related to their Griffith Park project. Hearing Office Blake Kendrick was unfailingly courteous and attentive for five hours.

A fiduciary is simply a legal name for someone or a corporation who volunteers to under-take a duty for someone else – usually for someone or something requesting help or protection. The Autry National Center is a charitable corporation and in this case owes a solemn set of duties to every donor, individual or corporate, who entrusts money or assets to the Autry Museum for fiduciary management. All educational, scientific and charitable non-profit corporations hold their assets as a fiduciary trustee for the public benefit. Charitable trusts must be faithfully and diligently administered in accordance with the purposes for which they were funded, free of any taint of private benefit and/or personal conflict on the part of trustees, without waste or neglect, and in the public's best interest.

So what duties does the fiduciary like the Autry Board of Trustees owe to the Southwest Museum? The Autry was entrusted with the assets of the SW Museum which includes 13 acres, a nationally significant building in Mount Washington and an art collection whose street value is somewhere between \$300 million to \$1 billion which far exceeds the value of the entire Autry Museum entity. So what then did the Autry Museum give the SW Museum in exchange for these precious assets? Jackie Autry and her Board signed a Merger Agreement promising that in exchange for being entrusted with the SW Museum Assets, the Autry would comply with all donor restrictions imposed upon the Southwest's assets if and only if the Autry agreed to support the primary goal of maintaining the SW Museum as a separate institution with a separate and distinct identity of its own.

Specific to that Merger Agreement was the commitment that the Autry Board would never place the SW Museum assets in the same building as the Autry Museum and to carry out the merger restriction by either rehabilitation of the existing SW Museum site or construction required that would maintain it as a separate building adjacent to the Autry Museum. The Merger Agreement was not a purchase or a sale of SW Museum's assets because the Autry never paid any money. Instead the Autry agreed to shoulder all prior and future duties and never operate the Autry National Center as a single museum as they are essentially proposing to do now.

These duties will be breached if City Officials give away our taxpayer-owned land in Griffith Park and allow the Autry to absorb the SW Museum exhibition spaces inside the same building as the Autry Museum. If approved the Autry proposal will be breaching the Merger Agreement that requires the Autry to restore the SW Museum collection to meet museum exhibition standards resulting in attracting sufficient revenues to sustain itself.

At this EIR hearing the Autry National Center was represented by President John Gray, Architect Brenda Levin, Attorney William Delvac, Michael Heumann and Tom Lee. The Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition was supported by 60 attendees. Contrary to our interpretation of past drawings, architect Brenda Levin said that 75% of the existing building would avoid demolition. During the anticipated two years of Phase I construction, temporary visitor facilities on-site would provide programming "to preserve the loyalty of the public."

Continued from page 4...



Persons testifying for the Autry National Center emphasized 'trust', 'beautiful building,' and 'community friendliness.' Persons speaking for the Southwest Museum Coalition objected to the height variance, lighting of an 100-foot tower structure, continued and illegal liquor sales (not mentioned in the E.I.R.), sign variances ("looking like Brand and Hollywood Boulevards"), removal of dozens of protected trees with inadequate replacement, and a variance that would not provide sufficient parking based on a "peak period" tally of Memorial Day weekend visitors (usually a time of very low public attendance).

The vast majority of the coalition speakers objected to the weakening and demise of Los Angeles's first museum. Autry attorney William Delvac repeatedly and erroneously stated that the Griffith Park project and Mount Washington plans are not connected, despite the Merger Agreement and several E.I.R. statements, many times repeated, that the purpose of the Griffith Park building is to "house all of the Autry collections in one facility." The decision of the hearing officer was left open for further comments but with the words of Councilman LaBonge's Chief Deputy Renee Weitzer the writing seems already to be written in stone to approve what will essentially be the demise of our city's first historic museum!



**VIEW
FEDERATION
WEBSITE**
at

www.hillsidefederation.org

**February Newsletter, 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.**

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**

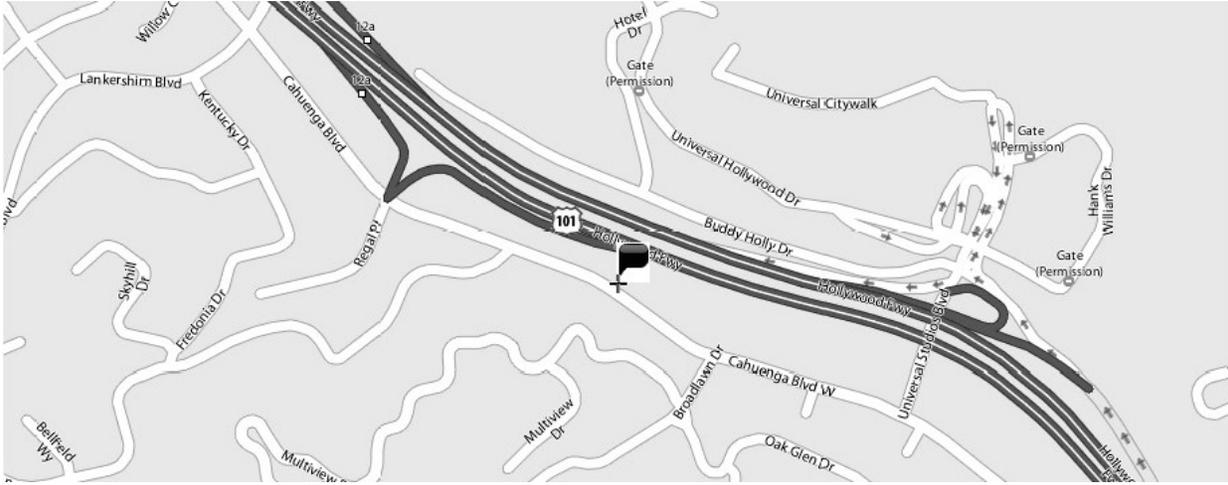
**Free parking under the building:
Entrance just east of Van Nuys Blvd.
On Sylvan Street**

NEXT MEETING
SEPT. 3, 2008
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.
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*Important Information
Enclosed*

