

Hillside Federation Newsletter November, 2010



Shirley Cohen Honored as Chairman Emeritus



Jerry Daniel, Shirley Cohen, Marian Dodge

The Hillside Federation honored Past President Shirley Cohen by naming her Chairman Emeritus at the October meeting. Past President and the first Chairman Emeritus, Jerry Daniel, introduced Shirley with a list of her many accomplishments. She was President of the Federation for two years in the 1970s and Chairman for two years. She was very active in the Federation for ten years attending hundreds of city meetings on behalf of the Federation. Shirley was also President of the Roscomare Valley Association (RVA) and chaired the Bel Air/Beverly Crest

Agenda November 3, 2010 7:00 pm

- I. Introductions
- II. Approval of October 6 minutes
- III. President's Report
 - A. President's comments
 - B. Holiday Party
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Widening of 405 update
 - B. BHO update
- V. New Business
 - A. Pilot program for Homeless in your neighborhood
 - B. Curtis School
- VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010
Holiday Party

Universal City Nissan
3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West
between Lankershim and Universal Dr. bridge off
ramps. Park in the underground garage or on the
street; take elevator to 2nd floor conference room.

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be: To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

Citizens Advisory Committee to write the community plan. She has been working for twenty years with the Coalition to Preserve Open Reservoirs which began with the Silver Lake Reservoir. Most recently she serves on the Stone Canyon Reservoir Mediation Committee. She is currently the Treasurer of the RVA.

CD 5 District Director Joan Pelico presented Shirley with a city proclamation recognizing her long-time service to the community. The proclamation was signed by the entire City Council and the Mayor as well.

Congratulations, Shirley, and thank you for all you have done for our hillside neighborhoods.



Joan Pelico, Shirley Cohen, Marian Dodge

Mulholland Scenic Parkway Design Review Board
Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month,
6:30 pm
Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center
6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys, CA
1st floor conference room

*Hillside Federation
Holiday Party*

*Wednesday
December 8, 2010*

6:30 - 9:00

Mulholland Tennis Club
2595 Crestview Dr.

*Guests of honor will be announced at
Wednesday's meeting.*

Streets to Home Project

A new project to allow the homeless to park their RVs and cars in the Leo Baeck Temple parking lot at night has been proposed. The project, which originated in CD 11, is modeled after similar projects in Santa Barbara and Eugene, Oregon.

People would participate in the program for three to six months until permanent housing is found. They have not as yet worked out how to handle showers and sanitation. The proposal comes from Scott Sale, MD, Chairman of the Leo Baeck HEAL Task Force (Homelessness Ends At Leo)

Federation Urges Action on Hillside Ordinance

The following letter was sent to City Attorney Carmen Trutanich. We urge your individual associations to write as well. Many thanks to Wendy-Sue Rosen for drafting the letter.

Mr. Carmen Trutanich
Los Angeles City Attorney
City Hall East, Room 800
200 N. Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4131

October 30, 2010

Re: Federation of Hillside and Canyon
Associations Request to Prioritize the
Baseline Hillside Ordinance

Dear Mr. Trutanich:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. (the Federation) was founded in 1952 for the purpose of conserving the natural habitat and appearance of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside and canyon environs of the Greater Los Angeles area. The Federation's membership includes 33 residential and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. On August 4, 2010, the City Council approved the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO) and sent it onto the City Attorney's office for review and preparation of the official ordinance for final approval by the City Council. We ask that your Office make its review of the BHO a top priority because, until the BHO is adopted by the City Council, the hillside areas remain unprotected against the risks that the BHO was designed to mitigate.

The Federation joined the following elected officials and organizations in support of the BHO: State Senator Fran Pavley, Assembly Member Julia Brownley, Assembly Member Mike Feuer, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, American Institute of Architects, Bel-Air Association, Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Planning and Land Use Committee, Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Association,

Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association, Brentwood Homeowners Association, Brentwood Residents Coalition, Cheviot Hills Homeowners Association, Save Elephant Hills, Encino Neighborhood Council, Hollywoodland Homeowners Association, International Society for the Preservation of the Tropical Rainforest, La Brea Willoughby Coalition, Laurel Canyon Association, Lookout Mountain Alliance, Los Feliz Improvement Association, Montecito Heights Improvement Association, Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance, Mulholland Scenic Parkway Design Review Board, Nichols Canyon Neighborhood Association, Oak Forest Canyon Homeowners Association, Pacific Palisades Residents Association, Palisades Preservation Association, Residents of Beverly Glen, Inc., Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association, Shadow Hills Property Owners Association, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association, Tarzana Property Owners Association, Upper Mandeville Canyon Property Owners' Association, and Westwood South of Santa Monica Blvd. Homeowners Association.

Several Hillside Federation member organizations have spent over two years attending Baseline Hillside Ordinance workshops, Planning Commission, PLUM and City Council hearings and working with Planning Department staff on this ordinance. The BHO is of utmost importance to the safety, protection and quality of our communities. We urge you to make finalization of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance a top priority.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge, President

cc: Jane Usher, Special Assistant, City
Attorney
Bill Carter, Chief Deputy, City Attorney
Ken Fong, City Attorney

**October 6, 2010
Draft Minutes**

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President, Marian Dodge. Members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Joan Luchs moved that the July 7 minutes be continued to the next meeting in order to review the rough draft. The motion failed. The minutes for the July 7 meeting were approved with the corrections that were made at the September meeting. The minutes for the September 1 meeting were approved as written.

III. President's Report

A. Comments

1. Marian thanked Cass Barrère for taking the September minutes.
2. Marian received a thank you note from Anita Sokolsky, a volunteer for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, for the Federation letter to Councilmember Koretz thanking him for supporting the open space at Laurel Canyon and Mulholland Drive.
3. The Governor signed the anti-mobile billboard legislation, AB 2756.
4. A UCLA grad student is studying the decline of bobcats in Griffith Park. Bobcats are dying from mange which is not normally fatal. There appears to be a link between ingesting rat poison via eating the rats /mice who eat the poison and the inability to recover from mange. As an alternative to poison, they suggest installing an owl's nest as owls prey on mice and rats.
5. Marian circulated a get well card for Philip Feldman.

B. Chairman Emeritus

1. Marian introduced our special guest Jerry Daniel who is a Past President of the Federation, Chairman Emeritus and on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Jerry

spoke on the many accomplishments of Past President Shirley Cohen. Charley Mims moved that Shirley Cohen be named Chairman Emeritus. The motion passed unanimously. Marian presented Shirley with flowers. Joan Pelico, District Director for CD 5, presented Shirley with a city proclamation signed by the City Council and the Mayor. Shirley thanked Jerry, the Federation and Joan Pelico for making this happen.

2. Marian asked Joan Pelico what the Federation can do to help expedite the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. She suggested making phone calls to the City Attorney's office and writing letters. We should contact Erick Lopez, Carmen Trutanich, and Jane Usher.

Joan Pelico reported that there have been cutbacks on cleaning, street services and transportation. Her contact information is Joan.Pelico@lacity.org. New Planning Director Michael LoGrande really wants to get together with the community.

Donna Messinger invited members to the Hollywood Heights Association cleanup on Nov. 6.

Joan Pelico read the memo regarding the purchase of open space at Laurel Canyon and Mulholland Dr. CD 5 Legislative Deputy Emily Kane worked hard to complete the \$1.5 million deal which will also put \$750,000 into the general fund.

C. Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

Cassandra moved to approve the appointment of Charley Mims, Mark Stratton, and Wendy-Sue Rosen to an ad hoc committee to address issue of getting a quorum to meetings and how to respond to emergencies that occur between regular federation meetings. Dan Wright offered to share the language they use in Mt. Washington to address emergency issues. Joan Luchs moved to add Dan Wright to the committee but withdrew the motion when Dan declined. The committee membership motion passed.

IV. Old Business

A. Widening of the 405 freeway impact on traffic

Mark Stratton reported that because of the Hillside Federation letter regarding the expansion of the Bel Air Presbyterian School, there is now going to be an EIR done.

Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners and Encino are against the proposed changes to the Skirball ramps on the 405 freeway. Mark would like us to send a letter to keep the ramps as they are since the change would only save 30 seconds to 1 min maximum. The freeway is a Metro project but is controlled by LADOT. They are also concerned with lack of sidewalks to the Park and Ride. The letter should be sent to Bill Rosenthal, CalTrans, Metro, and LADOT. Mark moved that the Federation oppose the moving of the on and off ramps on the southbound 405 at the Skirball Bridge. The motion passed.

B. Van de Kamps Bakery

Dan Wright clarified that the Van De Kamp's Bakery issue is a Hillside Federation issue because it is in our boundaries. He handed out copies of a draft letter. It affects taxpayers because the Board of Trustees is denying the educational opportunity of a satellite campus to serve a largely low income immigrant population. The \$72 million dollar facility was leased to a Charter high school. The Community College District destroyed six classrooms, which were built with state bond money, to create offices for non profits. \$7.1 million was spent to renovate the building for tenants.

Dan moved that the Hillside send the letter to Board of Trustees. Charley Mims proposed an amendment that the Hillside Federation support the use of the Van de Kamps facility as a satellite of LACC (Los Angeles City College) for community college instruction, and oppose its use as leased space. The motion passed unanimously.

C. BHO grading changes update

Homeowners groups were not invited to the meeting of the Planning Department and architects at which the grading restrictions were removed. The federation objects to the process. Niles Chapman suggested sending a letter to the editor of the LA Times. Charley Mims suggested that the President communicate with appropriate people and figure out who to send letter to.

V. New Business

A. Core Findings

Dan Wright brought to our attention that the Core Findings ordinance is going to the City Planning Commission next Thursday at 8:30 am. They streamlined the findings too much. The project must be consistent with the intent of the Specific Plan. Exceptions can be made if the project provides a benefit. The Core Findings are too vague. Planners will be making decisions usually made by City Council.

Charley Mims moved that the Federation is opposed to the Core Finding ordinance as currently written and in particular opposes the inclusion of "intent" in the ordinance. Dan will send Cary Brazeman's letter from LA Neighbors United and the Core Findings to Marian. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Rehabilitation of wildlife

Madeleine O'Donnell asked if there was any news on the rehabilitation of wildlife.

C. Holiday party

The Federation holiday party will be Wednesday, December 1st (since changed to Dec. 8) with a buffet dinner at the Mulholland Tennis Club like 2 years ago when many public officials turned out. Cass Barrère and Nickie Miner will be working on this. Please email Marian the names of officials you would like to invite. We will ask Dawneen Lorange to do the invitations.

D. Marian announced that KCET – SoCal connected will show an investigative report on Money/Politics in Los Angeles on October 20th.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17.

Donna Messinger
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

- Bel Air Knolls Dan Gold
- Bel Air Skycrest Mark Stratton
- Lois Becker
- Benedict Canyon Nickie Miner
- Cahuenga Pass Neigh Joan Luchs
- Franklin Hills R A. Charley Mims
- Hollywood Heights Donna Messinger
- Hollywoodland Jeanne Clark
- Kagel Canyon Marlene Rader
- Laurel Canyon Cassandra Barrère
- Los Feliz Improv. Marian Dodge
- Mt. Washington Dan Wright
- Nichols Canyon Madeline O'Donnell
- Res. of Beverly Glen Dan Palmer
- Gillian Calof
- Roscomare Valley Phyllis Gottlieb
- Shirley Cohen
- Sherman Oaks Niles Chapman

Guests Present:

- CD 5 Joan Pelico

Web Site

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, www.hillsidefederation.org. It is still a work in progress.

One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association's web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.

Motions:

If you are planning on making a motion at the meeting, please prepare your motion ahead of time and bring enough copies for all member associations. This will make it easier for the directors to consider the merits of the motion and easier for the secretary to record