

Hillside Federation Newsletter October, 2011



www.hillsidefederation.org

LA RIVER NATURAL PARK

Alan Dymond

Save LA River Open Space

Illustrative Representation
L.A. River Natural Park



Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) has worked for ten years to create a LA River Natural Park located on a 16 acre site immediately north of Ventura Blvd. on Whitsett Ave. in Studio City. The park would be unique in that it will capture and treat polluted run off from the surrounding 160 acres before discharging into the LA River. It will create and preserve public open space; create pedestrian and bicycle paths linking regional bike paths; will be part of the overall improvement to the Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan especially in the San Fernando Valley portion of the river.

SLAROS has funded many feasibility studies over the years by professionals in their respective fields progressing from conceptual studies to feasibility studies to demonstrate the viability of the functions of the proposed park. These include

Agenda

October 5, 2011

7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

Guest Speaker:

LA River Natural Park - Alan Dymond

II. Approval of Sept. 7, 2011 minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

B. Treasurer's Report

IV. Old Business

A. Stanley Hills Dr. appeal

B. Sign Ordinance

V. New Business

A. Holiday Party

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli

12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604

101 between Coldwater Canyon exit

and Laurel Canyon exit

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.

being energy neutral in major part, particulate removal, ability to store water in recharging the Valley aquifer, plus many other benefits to the public at large.

A more extensive explanation can be found at www.SaveLARiveropenspace.org which has a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions or e-mail saveopenspace@slaros.org. SLAROS efforts are supported by tax deductible contributions and grants from many organizations, both public and private.

SIGN ORDINANCE GOES TO PLUM OCTOBER 18



Marian Dodge at the East Hollywood NC

After the Hillside Federation voted to oppose the Sign Ordinance as it is currently written, the Federation has taken an active role in assisting the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight (CBBB) with outreach. Each neighborhood council serving Federation members was contacted and asked to submit a Community Impact Statement. So far Bel Air/Beverly Crest NC, Greater Griffith Park NC, Hollywood Hills West NC, Hollywood United NC, Pacific Palisades Community Council, and Studio City NC have submitted statements. Thank you! Numerous other NCs outside the Federation area have responded as well. In addition many homeowner groups have written letters to PLUM. If your organization has sent a letter, would you please copy it to me? If

Hillside Federation Holiday Party

Wednesday
December 7, 2010

6:30 - 9:00

Mulholland Tennis Club

2595 Crestview Dr.

P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027
323-663-1031
president@hillsidefederation.org
www.hillsidefederation.org

PRESIDENT
Marian Dodge
CHAIRMAN
Charley Mims
VICE PRESIDENTS
Mark Stratton
Wendy-Sue Rosen
SECRETARY
Donna Messinger
TREASURER
Don Andres

ORGANIZATIONS:
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest POA
Bel Air Ridge Association
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W.
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills HOA
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Lookout Mountain Assn.
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.

Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HOA
Studio City Residents Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

CHAIRPERSONS
EMERITUS
Shirley Cohen
Jerome C. Daniel
Patricia Bell Hearst
Gordon Murley
Polly Ward

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM
Brian Moore

you have not yet done so, what are you waiting for?! Personal letters are also good.

President Marian Dodge made a presentation to the East Hollywood NC who voted to support the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight. Jane Usher happened to be at that meeting to speak on another issue. After Marian's presentation, Usher added that, "Everything that Marian said is absolutely correct." Marian and Barbara Broide (CBBB) spent Saturday, Sept. 24 at City Hall for the Neighborhood Council Congress. They solicited support from all the attendees at the Congress. Many had little knowledge of the Sign Ordinance.



Marian Dodge & Barbara Broide at City Hall

A revised version of the Sign Ordinance is due Oct. 4. The 21 lobbyists from the sign industry and their four attorneys from Latham & Watkins continue to lobby to weaken the Sign Ordinance. The CBBB has continued efforts to strengthen the ordinance. It is important to remember that the radical changes that appeared in the Sign Ordinance were not initiated by the Planning Department; they take direction from PLUM. The best way to keep track of changes in the document is to check with the CBBB web site. <http://banbillboardblight.org/>

The Sign Ordinance will go back to PLUM on October 18. Attend the PLUM hearing. Lots of live bodies in the room is the most effective way to show your support. You can also express your opinion to PLUM by writing to the legislative assistant Michael Espinosa, City Hall Room 395, 200 N. Spring Street, LA, CA 90012 or Michael.Espinosa@lacity.org. Please copy your comments to president@hillsidefederation.org.

Federation Supports ACE



Federation VP Mark Stratton (blue shirt) addresses the Budget & Finance Committee. Chair Councilmember Parks at right.

The City Attorney's Office has prepared an ordinance to facilitate the long-standing problem of lack of enforcement of municipal codes. Currently violations of code are prosecuted in the courts. Since the courts have many more serious matters to address, many quality of life issues fall through the cracks. The Administrative Citation Enforcement program provides an alternative form of enforcement. ACE proposes a reasonable change of procedures that gives the city an extra tool to use without changing the codes or the agency responsible for issuing the citations. Quality of life violations could be handled with a simple citation, much like a parking ticket, which would bring the resulting income directly to the city.

ACE is a win-win program that will facilitate the enforcement of municipal codes and reduce the cost of enforcement to the city. Both Hillside Federation President Marian Dodge and Vice President Mark Stratton spoke in favor of the program at the September 26 meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee. They were joined by other Federation members including Dave Garfinkle of Tarzana. The Chief Legislative Analyst presented a list of recommended changes to ACE so it will return to Budget & Finance on Oct. 3. It may go to City Council on Oct. 5.

**Draft Minutes
September 7, 2011**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Members introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker: Sign Ordinance - Dennis Hathaway, Dave Garfinkle

The Sign Ordinance is still with the PLUM Committee. Sign company lobbyists have had it modified since it was approved by the City Planning Commission. Twenty-one lobbyists spoke at the PLUM meeting on August 9; they got everything they wanted. Provisions would allow signage in city parks and on any city property. The Comprehensive Sign Program originally permitted only on-site signage; it now allows for 10% off-site signage. Existing on-site business signs can be converted to digital. The size of signs can be increased by 20% by the Zoning Administrator without a hearing. The ordinance removes protections for communities. Marian showed a map that illustrated the impact of signage on city property in her Los Feliz neighborhood. She urged everyone to make a similar map of their neighborhood. Barry Sanders, President of the Rec. & Parks Commission, wants signs in city parks exempt from land use regulatory controls. Egregious lobbying is bypassing the public process. The City Attorney has removed 700 illegal billboards.

Action Item: Dennis and the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight (CBBB) are seeking Community Impact Statements from every neighborhood council and letters from homeowner associations before the Oct. 18 meeting of PLUM. Marian will disseminate the CBBB flyer to the Federation.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation oppose the Sign Ordinance as currently written and support the recommendations of the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight. The motion passed.

Welcome New Member
Organizations!

Canyon Back Alliance
Lookout Mountain Alliance
Pacific Palisades Residents Assn.

II. Approval of July 6, 2011 minutes: The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Three organizations have joined the Federation since the last meeting: Lookout Mountain Alliance, Pacific Palisades Residents Association, and Canyon Back Alliance.

The Community Alliance for Open Space sued the city for granting a zoning variance to allow a truck driving school in the Lopez Canyon Open Space in violation of CEQA and won. The City Council voted not to appeal the decision on Aug. 10.

Last year the Federation voted to tell the state legislature not to grant AEG stadium a waiver from CEQA. The same issue was raised in the new legislature so she sent a letter to the legislative leadership. After reading about all the pressure on our politicians, she sent a copy of that letter to Sen. Pavley, and Assemblymembers Feuer and Gatto so they would know our position.

Marian received a thank you note from Anita Sokolsky for attending the SMMC meeting to support the continued acquisition of open space around Mulholland Dr. and Laurel Canyon Bl.

The Hollywood Bowl Overlook on Mulholland Dr. will be renamed the Jerome C. Daniel Overlook on Sat., Nov. 12. Jerry is Past President of the Federation.

Marian thanked Mark Stratton for providing refreshments.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

With the new members the Federation now has 33 paid member organizations. If we have more paying guests attend the holiday party, expenses will come in under income this year. He encouraged everyone to promote the holiday party.

**Hillside Federation Meeting Calendar
Save the dates!**

November 2
December 7 Party
January 4, 2012
February 1
March 7
April 4
May 2

IV. Old Business - none

V. New Business

A. Stanley Hills Drive - Ali Simard, Tony Tucci

Marian explained that Tony Tucci contacted her shortly after the July meeting to ask for Federation support for the Stanley Hills Dr. appeal of the loss of a wildlife corridor in their Laurel Canyon neighborhood. The hearing was not scheduled until Sept. 13; however Tony discovered that they needed to submit all documents for their appeal before Sept. 6. Marian then contacted the Executive Committee, who had already seen the documentation on the Stanley Hills Dr. project, to ask if they would approve submitting a letter in support of the appeal. Because the Federation had taken a position on the project in Jan., 2009, and because it involves the preservation of a wildlife corridor, the Executive Committee approved sending a letter of support for the appeal.

Ali Simard and Tony Tucci, who live adjacent to the project, stated that in 2009 the Zoning Administrator Sue Chang listed the conditions for building three large homes at 2234, 2240, and 2244 Stanley Hills Dr. The developer had an agreement with the neighbors that he would provide a wildlife corridor on the 2244 property in exchange for a waiver on improving the substandard road. The SMMC submitted a map describing the location of the 20-foot-wide conservation easement which became part of Chang's Condition 19. The developer had two weeks to appeal the decision; he did not. One a half years later the developer went to Chief ZA Linn Wyatt and convinced her to issue a Letter of Clarification which changed the wildlife corridor's location to Merrywood, a paper street.

MOTION: Charley Mims moved that the Federation confirm the decision of the Executive Committee to write a letter supporting Concerned Citizens of Stanley Hills appeal. The motion passed.

B. Bus Bench Ads - Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy explained the new contract with Martin Outdoor Media for molded plastic bus benches with advertising on the back. After explaining the problem of advertising in Scenic Corridors to Councilmember Rosendahl, he introduced motion CF# 11-1068 to amend the motion so that the advertising is "consistent with all local zoning codes, including restrictions on off-site advertising set forth in the General Plan, Community Plans, Specific Plans as enacted by ordinance, the California Coastal Act, and all

other applicable law." The contractor agreed to no ads for alcohol. Andrea Alarcon, new President of the Public Works Commission, got the contractor to agree. They need a list of protected areas so that Zoning & Public Works can coordinate.

This is a different contract from the one with CBS/Decaux for street furniture, the type with a metal shelter and lighted ads on the side of the shelter.

MOTION: Wendy moved that the Federation protect Scenic Plans and Corridors from all advertising. The motion passed.

C. Other New Business

Patricia Bell Hearst suggested that "dirt Mulholland" be put on the national historic register.

Sarajane Schwartz saw CD 4 deputies digging what appeared to be an overlook for the Hollywood Sign along Mulholland Highway. She took pictures of them digging and was told by CD 4 Chief of Operations David Ahern that it was illegal for her to take such pictures. She asked if anyone knew if it was illegal to take pictures of public employees on public land. No one thought so.

Cassandra Barrère suggested that the Federation personally contact all of our neighborhood councils to make them aware of the Federation and what it does.

VI. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Acting Secretary,
Don Andres

Web Site

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, www.hillsidefederation.org.

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.

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Brentwood Resid. Coal.	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Hollywoodland HOA	Sarajane Schwartz
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Cassandra Barrère
	Jim Nelson
Lookout Mountain All.	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Pacific Palisades Resid.	Bob Locker
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Studio City Resid.	Claudia Freedle
Tarzana POA	Dave Garfinkle

Guests Present:

Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
Cahuenga Pass POA	Bryce Lowery
Concerned Citizens of	Alison Simard
Stanley Hills Dr.	Tony Tucci

**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

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 it.