

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
March, 2012**



www.hillsidefederation.org

You're the Star!



We're rolling out the red carpet for all our member organizations for the 60th anniversary of the Hillside Federation. You—our member organizations—are the stars. It is our individual groups whose dedication to the preservation of our hillsides and canyons make the Hillside Federation the strong organization it is today.

The Federation wants to showcase our neighborhoods in a slide show that runs during the party. We would like all of you to submit five to ten photos of your neighborhood that capture its essence, its ambiance, and its character. Do you have any iconic features in your area? A logo? A great house? Wonderful landscaping? A special event? Cute wildlife?

Are you ready for your close-up?!

Please send your photos to president@hillsidefederation.org by April 14.

Welcome New Member
Organization!

Brentwood Hills Homeowners Assn.

Agenda

March 7, 2012

7:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Feb. 1, 2012 minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - Nominating Committee
 - Claudia Freedle, Carol Sidlow, Nickie Miner
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - 2012 Dues renewal
 - 60th Anniversary Party
- IV. New Business
 - A. Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011 (H.R. 2677 and S. 2019)
 - B. Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) - Fran Reichenbach
 - C. Redistricting - Nickie Miner, Beth Fogarty
- V. Old Business
 - A. Sign Ordinance
- VI. Adjournment

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli

12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604
CA 101 between Coldwater Canyon exit
and Laurel Canyon exit

Hillside Federation mission: 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.

Helicopter Noise - Enough Already!

Marian Dodge



You're sitting on your deck enjoying a cup of coffee while you read the paper. Then it comes, the familiar whomp-whomp and your windows start to shake. You look up to see the tourist helicopter cruising the Hollywood Sign. The Hollywood Hills area from the Hollywood Bowl, the Hollywood Sign, and the Greek Theatre is plagued by helicopters that fly so low your house shakes as if LA is having another earthquake.

Helicopter traffic and noise has increased significantly over the Santa Monica Mountains in the past few years. There are as many as thirty flights over the Hollywood Hills a day. Some of them are shuttling passengers between local airports; others are Police and Fire Department helicopters responding to emergencies. Many nowadays are sightseeing tours for visitors who want to see the Hollywood Sign, Hollywood Bowl, Griffith Observatory, Griffith Park and movie stars' homes. The noise disturbs not only

the residents but also the wildlife and deprives Griffith Park visitors of the tranquility they seek in the park. You can track aircraft over the Hollywood Hills area at www.lawa.org/welcome_VNY.aspx?id=1210.

Several homeowner groups such as Beachwood Canyon, The Oaks, and Sherman Oaks have attended meetings of the Citizens Advisory Council at the Van Nuys Airport to seek solutions to the problem. The Federal Aviation Administration governs air traffic. Los Angeles is not unique in having excessive helicopter traffic. The FAA has imposed restrictions on air traffic in Hawaii and is working on restrictions over Long Island, NY. Congressman Howard Berman has introduced H.R. # 2677 to reduce helicopter noise over residential areas in Los Angeles County. Berman's bill is co-sponsored by Brad Sherman, Henry Waxman, and Adam Schiff. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer introduced the parallel Senate Bill 2019. Assemblymember Mike Feuer introduced Joint Resolution 25 in the California legislature to urge Congress to Pass H.R. 2677 and S. 2019.

A companion petition for a Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) would restrict helicopters to a minimum 2,000 ft. altitude over the Hollywood Hills from west of the Hollywood Bowl to east of the Greek Theatre. The SFAR would not apply to emergency helicopters.

As always, your support is needed. You can let Congressman Berman know your opinion by writing to:

Congressman Howard L. Berman
14546 Hamiln Street, Suite 202
Van Nuys, CA 91411
howard.berman@mail.house.gov

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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 Ridge Association
Bel Air Skycrest POA
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
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.
Sunset Hills HOA
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM
Brian Moore

Hillside Federation
60th Anniversary

Party

Saturday

April 28, 2012

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Tree People

Coldwater Canyon Park

Save the date!
Details to follow

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.

**Hillside Federation
February 1, 2012
Draft Minutes**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Telecommunication Tower on San Vicente Peak
- Ole Barré, Ultra Systems**

The LA Bureau of Engineering (BOE) has received a Justice Assistance Grant to upgrade its telecommunications towers on San Vicente Peak, Mt. Lee, Mt. Lukens, Verdugo Peak, and Baldwin Hills. The purpose is to upgrade police, fire, voice and emergency radio systems. The San Vicente site is at 17500 Mulholland Dr. where there is an existing small communications tower atop the abandoned Nike missile site which is now a SMMC Cold War interpretive site. LAFD Capt. Nida explained that they have uneven and in some cases no radio coverage in the seven canyons near the peak. The new 180-foot tower would be within the fenced area of the current tower. The city is preparing a CEQA Initial Study which would be available in March. Sonia Alvarez of BOE said they would take the project to the Mulholland Design Review Board where they need an exemption because of the height of the new tower and because they will be impacting a Prominent Ridge. There is already a 180-foot tower in Elysian Park.

The Federation board members discussed the negative significant impacts on surrounding trails, open space, Mulholland Scenic Parkway with its Prominent Ridge and Major Vista Point due to such a large structure towering over the area. The Board wanted assurances that reasonable alternatives would be considered and that the selected alternative would meet the Project's safety objectives and would have the minimum impact on the surrounding environment and neighbors.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation request an EIR for the San Vicente Peak Communications Tower and that the Mulholland Design Review process be followed in the manner mandated by the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan. The motion passed. BOE will send Marian a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

Guest Speaker: Dennis Zine - “Clean Hands”

Councilmember Dennis Zine stated that the Dept. of City Planning and the Dept. of Building and Safety do not coordinate well. He cited the example that Don Keller submitted about illegal grading. Zine’s “Clean Hands” Ordinance would connect the city departments so that if a person has an outstanding building code violation, he will not be allowed to get any permits until the violation is cured. Zine seeks letters of support. (Reference CF #11-1072) He also needs people to show up to support his motion. He also requested the Federation be the eyes and ears of the city; when you see construction activity on a property, check the city web site to see that it is properly permitted, if not report it.

II. Approval of Jan. 4, 2012 minutes

The minutes were approved as written.

**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

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report

Hollywood Dell had a wonderful celebration of the acquisition of open space properties for the La Rocha Trail.

There will be public meetings regarding Congressman Howard Berman’s bill HR 2677 for helicopter noise reduction in the residential areas of Los Angeles County. He needs public support because the helicopter pilots associations are fighting the bill. HR 2677 is supported by Senators Feinstein and Boxer, Assemblymember Mike Feuer and other state officials and by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Yaroslavsky wrote a letter expressing his concerns over the proposed housing element of the NBC Universal Evolution Plan. He is requesting that they abandon the residential portion of the plan in order to concentrate on being a full-service motion picture and television production company.

B. Treasurer’s Report

Don gave the current status of the federation accounts. He reported that 19 of our 34 member organizations have already paid their dues.

IV. New Business

A. Removal of tree canopy - Gillian Caloff & Travis Longcore

The LA Fire Dept. has a contractor who is drastically trimming street trees in Laurel Canyon, including protected oaks, forcing clearance to blue sky over all roads. This tree trimming is coming to other canyons. A similar situation occurred in Malibu where the county developed a policy of 1) removal of dead and dying limbs; 2) removal of ladder fuels (brush); 3) raising the clearance of oak trees to 13 ½ feet; 4) raising the clearance of other trees to 16 feet. There is a meeting with LAFD on Feb. 8, 10:00 am, at Station 99 to discuss both the safety and aesthetic issues of tree trimming.

Many in Laurel Canyon worked with the Fire Dept. and were pleased with the results.

Travis Longcore, a resident of Beverly Glen and a professor of environmental sciences at UCLA and USC, stated that such trimming does not meet horticulture standards.

MOTION: Gillian Calof moved that the Hillside Federation request to participate in a meeting with the City of Los Angeles Fire Dept. regarding tree canopy removal over streets with the purpose of securing an approach that protects healthy native tree growth while achieving fire safety. The motion passed.

B. Open Space for Laurel Canyon/Mulholland - Paul Edelman (SMMC), David Giron (CD 5)

The MRCA is working with the Dept. of Rec. & Parks to apply jointly for \$1.5 M in Prop. K funding for the purchase of additional open space property at the intersection of Mulholland Dr. and Laurel Canyon Blvd for the MRCA. It is a competitive bid. The property is the top lot at Laurel Canyon and Mulholland, which is appraised for less. The purchase is supported by the Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council and Councilmember Koretz. The Federation has supported previous purchases of open space land in this area.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation strongly support the MRCA and Rec. and Parks joint Prop. K application to purchase the top lot at Laurel Canyon Bl. and Mulholland Dr. The motion passed. Barbara Kohn suggested that Federation members attend a Prop K meeting to see how the city works.

C. 9115 Wonderland Ave. - Carol Sidlow

The property owner is proposing a remodel that would triple the size of the existing home. He is requesting numerous exemptions to the code including a waiver of the requirement that the substandard road be upgraded to legal width. This would set a bad precedent. The Zoning Administrator says it is a public safety issue. The Federation has consistently required improvement of substandard roads, for example the Crescent Dr. project.

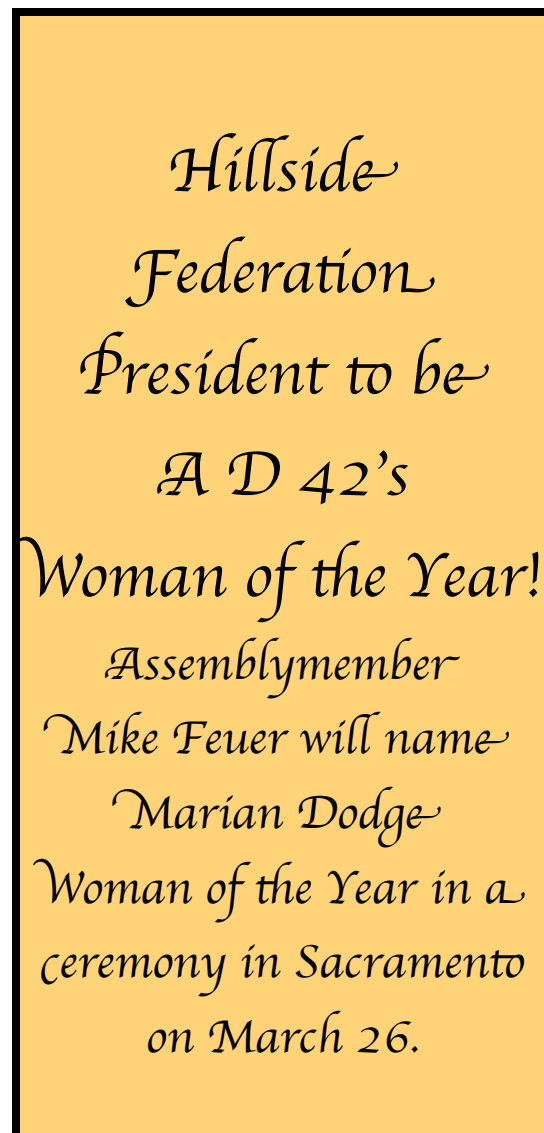
MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation, consistent with its own

policy, support the position of the neighborhood council and neighbors in opposing waivers from the code with respect to roadway widening as it would be precedent setting. Attach Koretz letter. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. Sign Ordinance update - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The Sign Ordinance will probably not return to PLUM until early April. Marian's article on the Sign Ordinance in the newsletter was phenomenal.



B. Brush Clearance safety - Wendy

The Koretz fire safety motion CF # 09-1977 S1 does not go far enough. It only addresses brush clearance equipment and does not include fires caused by construction equipment. Pacific Palisades’ motion is more comprehensive by adding brush clearance by government agencies, and construction. MOTION: Carol Sidlow moved that the Hillside Federation support the Koretz motion as amended by Pacific Palisades. The motion passed. It goes to the Public Safety meeting at 8:30 tomorrow morning.

Announcements:

Carol Sidlow - Haul Routes are now posted on the Building & Safety web site although it’s hard to find. Search “haul routes.”

60th Anniversary Party - The party will be in May, maybe 5:00 to 9:00 pm, 100 people. We need a good site for the party and celebrities. We will run a slide show featuring your neighborhoods. Please send us photos that showcase your neighborhood.

Nile Chapman - Barbara Fine Overlook - A neighbor’s landscaping is blocking the view. Ask SMMC to check.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Hollywoodland	Jeanne Clark
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O’Donnell

Pacific Palisades	Barbara Kohn
	Chris Spitz
Res. of Beverly Glen	Gillian Caloff
Sherman Oaks	Niles Chapman
Studio City Resid.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	John Given

Guests Present:

CD 5	David Giron
Santa Monica Mts Cons.	Paul Edelman
LAFD	Kevin Nida
LAPD	Greg Doyle
Bureau of Engineering	Sonia Alvarez
LA/Information Tech.	Lina Mach-Leung
Agency	Tho Tran
Ultra Systems	Ole Barré
Environmental	Jim Aidukas
	Gregory Ziolkowski
Sparano Mooney Arch.	Ludwing Juarez
Res. of Beverly Glen	Travis Longcore
Laurel/Mulholland	Anita Sokolsky

Save these dates for Hillside Federation meetings

April 4

April 28 - 60th Anniv. Party

May 2

June 6

July 11

August - NO meeting

September 5

October 3

November 7

December 5