

Hillside Federation Newsletter April, 2012



www.hillsidefederation.org

Celebrating Green Space



Mike Feuer, Zev Yaroslavsky, Judy Dowden, Alexa Islas Skarpelos, Tom LaBonge, George Skarpelos, and Patti Negri celebrate La Rocha Trail.
George Skarpelos

Neighbors from all over the Hollywood Dell gathered on Sunday, January 29 to celebrate the dedication of 10 lots along the La Rocha Trail as permanent green space.

In addition to the Hollywood Dell community, officials from the city and county of Los Angeles and Sacramento also attended the event. California State Assembly Member Mike Feuer was an early supporter of the project. At the ceremony, he noted how impressed he was with the way our community “worked so well” with his office.

Also on hand was Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky who wrote Proposition A back in 1996 to help improve and maintain LA County parks and recreation areas. Money from that bond helped provide funds to purchase the property. He commented that he normally attends dedications out in

Agenda April 4, 2012 7:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
- Guest Speaker :
Assemblymember Betsy Butler’s rep. Stephanie Romero
- II. Approval of March 7, 2012 minutes
- III. Officers’ Reports
 - A. President’s Report
 - B. Treasurer’s Report
 - 60th Anniversary party
 - C. Nominating Committee - Claudia Freedle
- ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- IV. New Business
 - A. Griffith Park Master Plan - Don Seligman
- V. Old Business
 - A. Helicopter Noise Reduction update
 - B. Hollywood Community Plan - Fran Reichenbach
- VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - May 2

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.*

unincorporated areas, but he was very happy “to be able to attend one here in the middle of the city.”

Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge, whose support was instrumental in purchasing the 10 lots, also attended. At a meeting last year, the Councilmember informed the La Rocha Trail organizers that he had found \$225,000 in Prop A funds to contribute to the cause. LaBonge, reiterated his commitment to the preservation of green space, which not only includes the La Rocha Trail, but also Cahuenga Peak and areas around the Hollywood Reservoir.

Friends of La Rocha Trail co-chair Alexa Iles Skarpelos thanked the crowd for coming to celebrate the occasion, and made the point that the trail was saved by the hard work of many, many people. After the official ribbon cutting Iles Skarpelos invited attendees to walk La Rocha Trail as the sun set over the hills. Special lanterns framed the path to create a magical evening effect.

Friends of La Rocha Trail (FOLRT) organized nearly two years ago in response to development plans for 10 lots along the cherished walking trail in the heart of the Hollywood Dell. The same developer who has been building huge mansions for over 6 years along Weidlake Drive also had plans for an immense development on the La Rocha lots. Initially an informal assembly of concerned neighbors, FOLRT eventually became

an organized grass roots group intent on purchasing the 10 lots and preserving them.

FOLRT worked with the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) to acquire the land and preserve it in perpetuity as a public green space. By April, 2011, the MRCA had negotiated to purchase the land for \$299,000. Over the last year, the Dell community banded together to raise \$108,000 for the purchase. By the project’s completion, nearly 100 individual donors from more than 30 streets and beyond contributed amounts ranging from \$25 to \$12,000. As Mike Feuer, said ,“It was a remarkable group effort.”



P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 323-663-1031 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	ORGANIZATIONS: Beachwood Canyon 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. Oaks Homeowners 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
PRESIDENT Marian Dodge CHAIRMAN Charley Mims VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARY Donna Messinger TREASURER Don Andres			

Proposed Slate of Officers

President: Marian Dodge

Chairman: Charley Mims

Vice President: Mark Stratton

Vice President: Wendy-Sue Rosen

Secretary: Donna Messinger

Treasurer: Don Andres

FEUER HONORS MARIAN DODGE AS THE 42nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR

March 26, 2012 (Sacramento) -- Assembly Member Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles) has recognized Marian Dodge as District 42's Woman of the Year for 2012. Dodge is a founding director of Friends of Griffith Park and president of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, her latest posts in a lifetime of activism and service. She will join honorees from each of the other seventy-nine California Assembly districts for special recognition at a ceremony at the California State Capitol.

"Marian Dodge demonstrates admirable dedication to preserving our hillsides and the natural history of our community," said Feuer. "In honor of her efforts to protect and improve access to these invaluable resources, I am proud to name her the Woman of the Year for the 42nd District."

"I am thrilled to be named Woman of the Year," Dodge said of the recent accolades. "I am reminded of what Margaret Mead said: 'Never doubt that a small group of concerned people can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has.' So go out there and get involved."

In 1989, Dodge became active in the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA), the oldest homeowner association in Los Angeles. She served as President of the LFIA from 2006 to 2009. The Association's 10 year effort on a historic resources survey resulted in the first historic district for Los Feliz. Dodge helped lead the charge to designate Griffith Park as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument in 2009.

Subsequently, Dodge became President of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. to protect the property and quality of life and preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the hillside areas of Los Angeles. Representing 36 resident and homeowners associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, the Federation collaborated with the Los Angeles Planning Department to get a Baseline Hillside Ordinance to ensure appropriate development in the hillsides.

More recently, Dodge, as director of conservation group Friends of Griffith Park, won a National Trust for Historic Preservation matching grant to study the rehabilitation of the historic Fern Dell area. In association with Sierra Club's Inner City Outing Committee, the Friends have worked to develop stewards of the park, and have led more than 400 inner city students on park hikes.

Throughout her many years as a community leader, Dodge taught English as a Second Language (ESL) and coordinated the Bell and Marshall High Schools ESL programs for 32 years.



Mike Feuer & Marian Dodge

Photo by Wendy Rosen

Memorial for Fritz Zeiser

The Memorial Service for Fritz Zeiser will be held Thursday, April 19 at the Bel-Air Presbyterian Church starting at 11:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served following the service. Fritz was a long standing member of the Board of the Roscomare Valley Association and multi-year Treasurer of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations as well as the Roscomare delegate to that body.

Federation 60th

Anniversary

Party

Saturday

April 28, 2012

3:00 - 7:00 pm

Tree People

Coldwater Canyon

Park

Capt. Bea Girmala

Alan Hess - Architect

Kent McCord - Actor

Melinda Taylor - Land. Arch.

Eric Lloyd Wright - Architect

Del Casher Band

Food Fetish Catering

Hillside Federation

March 7, 2012

Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Feb. 1, 2012 minutes

The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian welcomed new member organizations: Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association, Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association, and The Oaks Homeowners Association.

The Nominating Committee to select a slate of officers for the April elections will be: Claudia Freedle, Carol Sidlow, and Nickie Miner.

Koretz' fire safety motion was turned down by the Fire Department. Carol Sidlow clarified that they could include provisions to require extinguishers when doing brush clearance and construction without having a special motion.

Assemblymember Betsy Butler will be at our April meeting.

Wendy-Sue Rosen announced that Assemblymember Mike Feuer has selected Marian Dodge as his Woman of the Year. Wendy was Feuer's first Woman of the Year in 2006.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

We now have 37 member organizations. This is the best start in a long time in getting dues renewed. His goal is to have 42 members this year.

The 60th Anniversary Party will be held on April 28, 3:00 - 7:00 pm at TreePeople. Mark Stratton has confirmed architect and author Alan Hess to MC the event. Donna Messinger has confirmed architect Eric Lloyd Wright and is working on Diane Keaton. Charley Mims has confirmed landscape architect Melinda Taylor. Don Andres has confirmed actor Kent McCord to present the public service award. There was a long discussion about the party. The ticket price will be \$60. All members of your organization are invited to attend. Members are encouraged to ask merchants if they would be a sponsor and contribute something to the party. There will be tours of TreePeople, music, and a neighborhood

slide show. Gillian Calof will put together the slide show so send your photos to hillside@beverlyglen.org.

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 and George Abrahams

Our hillside neighborhoods are impacted by the noise of low-flying helicopters taking shortcuts across the Santa Monica Mountains without increasing their altitude. This was exacerbated by “Carmageddon” with the removal of the Mulholland Bridge over the 405. Sherman Oaks working with Councilmember Tom LaBonge took the lead establishing a 2000-foot minimum above ground level and had the CLA draft the bill that Howard Berman introduced. Berman’s bill H.R. 2677, co-sponsored by Brad Sherman, Henry Waxman and Adam Schiff, would require the FAA to issue height regulations to any residential areas in Los Angeles County. The Senate bill 2019 is sponsored by Feinstein and Boxer. They have met with pilot groups without result. Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, and Hawaii have height restrictions. Assemblymember Mike Feuer introduced a joint resolution in the California legislature urging Congress to pass H.R. 2677. Beachwood Canyon chose an area for a SFAR that would apply the height restriction to the area from the Hollywood Bowl, the Hollywood Sign, and the Greek Theatre.

MOTION: Charley Mims moved that the Hillside Federation support Howard Berman’s H.R. 2677 and that it support a Federal Aviation Agency regulation which would create a 2000-foot above ground limit for helicopter flights in the general area of the Santa Monica Mountains and the Hillside Federation member group area. The Special Federal Aviation Regulation would be modeled on the Beachwood Canyon petition. The motion passed.

C. Redistricting - Nickie Miner

Under the current City Council Redistricting plan the dividing line between CD 4 and CD 5 would be Benedict Canyon Drive, splitting the community of Benedict Canyon, which is a cohesive community of 3000 homes, in half. The new plan would also split the Bel Air/Beverly Crest Community Plan area in half.

MOTION: That the boundaries of Council District 5 be redrawn to include Benedict Canyon

and Laurel Canyon in their entirety. The motion passed.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that Hollywood Heights stay in CD 4 and not be split into CD 13. The motion passed.

C. Hannah Carter Japanese Gardens - Steve Twining

UCLA is planning to sell the gardens which were donated to them in perpetuity because their budget has been cut so drastically. Bel Air and Westwood are strongly in favor of preserving the garden. George Abrahams suggested that the property be transferred to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

MOTION: Steve Twining moved that the Federation support the preservation of the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden as a garden. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. Sign Ordinance - the ordinance is to be heard in early April.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Donna Messinger, Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	Fran Reichenbach George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton Barbara Dohrmann Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O’Donnell
Oaks Homeowners	Alexander Von Wechmar
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining Shirley Cohen
Sherman Oaks	Niles Chapman
Studio City	Claudia Freedle

Guests Present:

Chair Emeritus Patricia Bell Hearst
Upper Nichols Canyon Susan Mullins
Stacy Sillins

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (p. 7) with documentation and send it to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.



This mountain lion was photographed with a motion-activated camera east of Cahuenga Pass near Griffith Park in February. The wildlife Connectivity Study is funded by Friends of Griffith Park and the US Geological Survey. Animals need to be able to cross urban features in order to maintain genetic diversity.

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations 60th Anniversary Party

Coldwater Canyon Park - Home of TreePeople
Mulholland at Coldwater Canyon

Saturday, April 28th, 2012

3:00 - 7:00 pm

\$60/person



1952 - 2012

Featuring:
Del Casher Band
FoodFetish Catering
Tours
Commendations
Fun/Laughter

Guests of Honor:

Capt. Bea Girmala - LAPD
Alan Hess - Architect, Author, Historian
Kent McCord - Actor ("Adam-12")
Melinda Taylor - Landscape Architect
Eric Lloyd Wright - Architect

Betsy Butler, Eric Garcetti, Tom LaBonge
and other City, County & State Officials



TreePeople Conference Center

Please RSVP by April 14
and make check payable to:
Hillside Federation
Mail to: Don Andres, Treasurer
7470 Franklin Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90046-2242
Questions: 323-333-7445
Thank you for your support!

Venue Sponsor



Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc
Request for Action/Information

REQUEST FOR ACTION

Date:

Specific Request:

Specific Motion:

PROJECT LOCATION

City Council District #:	Neighborhood HOA:
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Neighborhood or Community Council:

Project Location (<i>described the geographic location and provide a map if appropriate</i>):
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Description of the Project and the Issue(s) of Concern:
City Codes/Policies/Plans/Ordinances being violated:
City required Environmental Review (CE, ND, MND, EIR):
Relevant Planning or other City Documentation (<i>describe and attach</i>):
Relationship to the Hillside Federation's mission/environs:

RELATED INFORMATION

Previous Hillside Federation Positions/Policies relative to this Project/Issue (<i>describe and attach</i>):
Previous Council Office, Neighborhood/Community Council and/or HOA Positions relative to this Project/Issue:
Professionals (Attorneys, Consultants, etc.) retained for this Project/Issue (<i>names and positions taken if appropriate, letters/correspondence attached</i>):
Press on this Project/Issue (<i>Identify articles, blogs, web-links, etc. and attach information</i>):

Name of Submitter:	Contact Phone:
	Contact email:

SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

Submit as much of the above information as possible to the Hillside Federation President no later than 7 days prior to the meeting (president@hillsidefederation.org). Plan to brief your Project/Issue in a five minute presentation at the Hillside Fed Meeting. Try to be concise with your answers. If you need more space, provide an attachment.