

THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE & CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 1041
STUDIO CITY, CALIFORNIA 91614

DECEMBER 2006 **MINUTES**

FOUNDED IN 1952

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION

PRESIDENT

Polly Ward - (818) 761-4065

CHAIRMAN

Steve Twining

(310)472-6091

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Joan Luchs (323) 851-1597

Carol Sidlow (310) 285-2384

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Marilyn Stefano

(818) 706-2722

RECORDING SECRETARY

Frank Buchanan

(818)508-6868

TREASURER

Fritz Zeiser (310)472-5183

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THE FEDERATION OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC. (DRAFT) MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING OF December 6, 2006

Location: **Special Holiday location at the Mulholland Tennis Club**, where a 6:30 holiday dinner was enjoyed by all before the regular meeting was held in a conference room at 8:00 pm.

President Polly Ward called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm. A large turnout of a head count of about 45 people, including Hillside Federation members and guests, were in attendance.

President Ward: Introduction of the Hillside Federation's philosophy to the audience.

Guest Speaker Walt Young, Park Ranger (in uniform with holstered pistol) for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, discussing traffic issues on Mulholland (a "nightmare") and Franklin Canyon, with excessive vehicular speed and stop sign-running common. Franklin Canyon has become a commuter "cut-thru". It's a residential street now becoming a common thoroughfare.

Guest Speaker Dr. Larry Dougherty, "Head of School" for The Buckley School in Sherman Oaks, introduced the recently revised Campus Enhancement Plan and the need for the school to update its Conditional Use Permit (last updated in 1985).

Guest Speaker Jeff Calvin, Architect for The Buckley School's revised plan, is a member of the Sherman Oak Neighborhood Council's Land Use committee, and a resident of Sherman Oaks, so he considers himself a local architect. He outlined the concerns expressed by

opponents of the previous 2004 plan (which included the export of 50,000 cubic yards of earth) as he presented the features of the revised plan, which he says alleviates many of the previous objections. The new plan keeps all excavated earth on site, with no export. There will be no new building areas, as all new construction will be kept within the footprint of existing structures, which means that there will be no excavation of the property's hillsides and no development adjacent to the neighbors, except for improved landscaping.

Guest Speaker Denise, coordinator for The Buckley School's revised plan, discussed the phasing of the construction. It will occur in 3 phases, lasting 3 to 5 years total, reduced from the 7 to 10 years estimate of the 2004 plan. The school will add 80 students (750 current enrollment), yet there will be zero net traffic growth through plans to increase carpooling and busing, and enforcement to ensure compliance (something that has been required by all schools in Los Angeles when they update their CUPs). Removed trees will be replaced at a 5 to 1 ratio (more than 90 trees). Extensive environmental mitigationary improvements are planned (noise, light, etc.). The draft EIR public comment period ends December 20.

Hillside Federation Vice President Joan Luchs: regarding **The Buckley School:** objects to height increase and wants buildings to use more of the existing footprints.

Guest speaker Vivian Gumbiner, Sherman Oaks resident, rebutted the project: Air pollution over the 6 years of construction, of 6 days per week (soot from diesel engines, construction equipment) Current level of traffic is already too much. Busing will increase 5%, but new students are 10% increase, so new busing is insufficient mitigation. View of Fossil Ridge will change due to new height of buildings. Fence is chain link with 3 rows of barbed wire: stands out

obtrusively over the character of the surrounding neighborhood. 20% of students are local.

Guest speaker Goeff Case, resident of Sherman Oaks in opposition to The Buckley School plan: concerned about height of buildings and the effect on the neighborhood.

A film production was shown by Hillside Federation Chairman of the Board Steve Twining, created by the Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council to show "**nightmare**" construction projects in hillside areas throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. The 8-minute film used still photos and moving footage to show tall, view-depriving buildings, tall walls, sheer hillsides, pylons and caissons on hillsides, and traffic problems near school drop-offs.

President Ward summed up the evening by pointing out how many concerns were expressed at the meeting, hoping that the Hillside Federation will increase its role as a forum for discussion.

Hillside Federation Vice-President Carol Sidlow: "kudos" for Polly Ward's efforts thru the years.

Guest Speaker Marian Dodge, Los Feliz Improvement Association: The Griffith Park Master Plan (to increase the commercialization of the city's last prominent "wilderness" area) is still alive, but there are 10,500 petitions and 75% of the signatures are from outside the Los Feliz neighborhood, asking that the park be designated as an Urban Wilderness. She mentions the website *savegriffith-park.org* as a place to find more information. An alternate master plan to keep Griffith Park natural, and a move to designate an HPOZ overlay is underway.

President Ward terminates the meeting at 9:23 because the room must be emptied by 9:30 pm.

FRANK BUCHANAN, Recording Secretary

FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT

Chairman	Steve Twining
President	Polly Ward
Treasurer	Fritz Zeiser
Vice President	Joan Luchs
Executive Secretary	Marilyn Stefano
Recording Secretary	Frank Buchanan

FEDERATION DIRECTORS PRESENT

Benedict Canyon	Marilyn Stefano
CahuengaPassN A	Joan Luchs
Hollywood Dell	Patti Negri
Holmby Hills	Ron Wanglin
LaTuna Cyn Comm	Frank Buchanan
Lookout Mtn.Alliance	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz	Marion Dodge
Mt. Olympus	Mel Remba
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Res/Beverly Glen	Dan Palmer
Roscomare Valley	Fritz Zeiser
Shadow Hills	Bill Eick
Sherman Oaks	Geoff Case
Studio City	Polly Ward
Torreyson Flynn	Richard Klug

NON-VOTING MEMBERS & GUESTS

Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
	Marie Twining
Los Feliz	Donna Kolb
Res.Beverly Glen	Tensie Palmer
Sherman Oaks	Jackie Diamond
	Vivian Gumbiner
North Valley Vill. Improv.	Vic Viereck
SantaMonicaMtnsCons	Walt Young, Ranger
The Buckley School	Dr. Larry Dougherty
	Jeff Calvin, Architect
	Denise, Coordinator