

**Hillside Federation
January 4, 2012
Draft minutes**

I. Call to Order

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

Guest Speaker: Don Loze - Ridgeline Ordinance

Don Loze from Benedict Canyon has been working with the Planning Department on a Ridgeline Protection Ordinance to preserve the Santa Monica Mountains, one of the city's most important assets. It was to have been included in the Baseline Hillside Ordinance but was pulled out for fear it would keep the BHO from being passed. Erick Lopez, who did the BHO, will be working on it. The problem now is funding to complete the ordinance. The estimate for completion, including topography analysis, is approximately \$940,000 and one year. The county and Mt. Washington already have models that could be the basis for a city ordinance. Koretz' motion CF# 11-1441 went to the CLA and CAO; it is supposed to come back to PLUM. Ridge lines are a dangerous place to build because of landslides. Changing the ridge line changes the ecosystem and the viewscape. The Mulholland Design Review Board will be involved.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support the city moving forward to draft a Ridgeline Protection Ordinance. The motion passed.

II. Approval of Nov. 2, 2011 minutes

The minutes were approved as corrected with the addition of the guests present.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Holiday Party was very successful. Twenty-two organizations attended, twelve officials, for a total of 68 guests. Marian thanked Mel Remba for being our host, Don Andres for the name tags, place cards, and guest lists, Wendy-Sue Rosen for the photographs, and Charley Mims and Don Andres for providing the wine. New Chair Emeritus Alan Kishbaugh sent a lovely thank you note.

In May the Hillside Federation will turn 60 years old. We need an ad hoc committee to plan a party. Donna Messinger, Don Andres, Nickie Miner, and Tony Tucci volunteered to serve on the planning committee.

We need good photos of the hills for our Facebook page and other photos of your neighborhood.

The Federation had 55 members in 1995. We want to work on increasing membership. Marian asked for recommendations for other groups and contacts for them.

B. Treasurer's Report

This year the federation was able to increase the amount in the checking account because of new memberships and economizing by reducing mailings.

The 2012 dues renewal will be sent by e-mail to reduce copying and postage costs. We need to make sure we have the correct e-mail contact information for each organization. The \$150 dues are due March 1.

IV. New Business

A. Brush Clearance Ordinance

Councilmember Paul Koretz submitted motion CF# 09-1977 S1 regarding fire safety during brush clearance. The motion only addresses precautions to be taken during brush clearance. It should include all construction activities. It was decided to meet with Koretz' staff to explain that his motion should be amended to include all construction activities.

V. Old Business

A. Hollywood Community Plan update - Marian Dodge

The Federation requested that the Planning Department include the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, Slope Density Ordinance and upcoming Ridgeline Protection Ordinance and Retaining Wall Ordinance. We also asked that they remove the extension of Granito Dr. and the weakening of the slope density

requested by a developer in the Sunset/Doheny area. The Federation got everything that it requested included in the plan which will serve as a template for other community plans.

B. Sign Ordinance update - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The consideration of the Sign Ordinance at PLUM on Dec. 5 was a debacle. There was much public testimony against the ordinance because it no longer provides for a net reduction in signs. The public was opposed to the creation of a Sign District in the LA Zoo. However PLUM approved the proposed ordinance and “grandfathering in” a Sign District for the zoo. Cross-promotional advertising will now be allowed in Comprehensive Sign Programs thus allowing off-site signage where it used to be only on-site signs. Lobbyists want to do away with the take-down requirement entirely. The Federation needs to get more councilmembers to oppose the ordinance. We need to get our organizations and individuals to send letters to the council.

C. Stanley Hills Dr. appeal - Tony Tucci

A developer is planning to build three homes on Stanley Hills Dr. One of the conditions was that he provide a wildlife corridor. A year and a half later he went to the Chief Zoning Administrator who dismissed that condition. The residents appealed the decision and hired an attorney. At the second hearing before the Central Planning Commission the Chief Zoning Administrator reversed part of her decision and required the developer to change the design of one of the homes to allow for the wildlife corridor. The residents, who had the support of the Federation and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, were victorious.

D. Franklin Canyon update

The developer of 9650 Royalton is requesting a lot line adjustment. Wendy Rosen reported that neighbors in Benedict Canyon discovered that if you are disturbing more than 60,000 cubic yards of dirt, you need to make a report and get a Mitigated Negative Declaration. Save Franklin Canyon should ask their council office to declare a substandard property lien.

E. Clean Hands Ordinance update - Wendy-Sue Rosen

Councilmember Zine’s proposed ordinance is going to Council on Jan. 10. It is to mirror LA County’s ordinance; however the county has no by-right projects. The ordinance must apply to both discretionary and by-right projects or it will be meaningless since most projects are by right.

F. Announcements:

There will be a meeting Jan. 17 at the West LA City Hall regarding a 200-foot communications tower on San Vicente Peak above Mandeville Canyon.

Marian read an article from Curbed LA about the proposed demolition of a Bart Prince-designed home in Malibu which fits gracefully into the hill. It is to be replaced by a 28-foot high Tuscan McMansion. The Malibu Planning Commission has exempted the project from CEQA.

Marian requested that members let her know of issues in their neighborhoods ASAP and also share success stories.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Donna Messinger, Recording Secretary

Members Present:

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| Bel Air Skycrest | Barbara Dohrmann |
| Benedict Canyon | Nickie Miner |
| Brentwood Res. Coal. | Don Keller |
| Canyon Back Alliance | Wendy-Sue Rosen |
| Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl. | Don Andres |
| | Yvonne Hessler |
| Franklin Hills Res. | Charley Mims |
| Hollywood Heights | Donna Messinger |
| Kagel Canyon | Kit Paull |
| Laurel Canyon | Tony Tucci |

Lookout Mountain
Los Feliz Impvmt.
Nichols Canyon
Sherman Oaks
Studio City

Steve Poster
Marian Dodge
Madeline O'Donnell
Niles Chapman
Claudia Freedle

Guests Present:
Benedict Canyon

Don Loze