

Hillside Federation
June 6, 2012
Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker – Condition Compliance Unit

Jeff Ebenstein (CD 5) spoke about the proposed Condition Compliance Unit in the Planning Department to enforce planning and zoning regulations to protect neighborhood quality of life. It is to be funded through permit fees and will start with a staff of three. He noted that this is considered an administrative change and should be faster to implement. Wendy-Sue Rosen voiced concern that the City Attorney and CD-5 Planning Deputy Chris Koonz have stated on several occasions that Voluntary Conditions are not enforceable, but those are the conditions often-times negotiated between applicants/developers and community members and they are the conditions that the community would most need the City to enforce. Wendy asked how the new unit would handle enforcement of these conditions. Anita Sokolsky offered the concept of a City waiver among the City, developer, and the residents to document an agreed to negotiated position. This new unit should be in place by August 1 and will be announced on the City website. Jeff Ebenstein said that he would inquire about the enforceability of Voluntary Conditions and get back to the Federation with the answer. He also suggested the formation of a committee to explore the idea of a waiver or other mechanism to ensure negotiated conditions are enforceable.

II. Approval of April 4, 2012 and May 2, 2012 meeting minutes

The minutes are correct as written and were approved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian Dodge welcomed new members Cahuenga Pass Property Owners, Oaks Homeowners, and Lake Hollywood Homeowners.

Chris Spitz (Pacific Palisades) sent an update on cell towers. The Public Works Committee and PLUM Committee approved revisions for the Cell Tower Ordinance which will go to full City Council. The recommendations include expanded notice, eliminating the exemption for utility poles, aesthetics, and setting time limits. Marian thanked Chris for her years of efforts on this project.

CLEAN – Community Leaders Educating and Assisting Neighborhoods (CLEAN) 213-847-6000 is looking for volunteers from neighborhoods to assist the City in reporting illegal signs, illegal vending, illegal yard sales, and graffiti.

Bureau of Street Services is looking for volunteers to serve as Reserve Enforcement Officers 213-847-6000. Applicants have a thorough background investigation and have mandatory monthly meetings on arrest, search and seizure.

Mountain lion and Sign Ordinance information is contained in the Friends of Griffith Park Newsletter, and handouts were provided. On Tuesday, June 19th there will be a meeting on ecology and mountain lions. Friends of Griffith Park is doing a study on how to restore Fern Dell.

The Department of Building and Safety has been automatically extending permits on expired permits with no adherence to the Baseline Hillside Ordinance rules and regulations.

MOTION: HF to send a letter to Bud Ovrom (with CC to relative Council Districts) asking him to adhere to the time constraints relative to the Baseline Hillside Ordinance with respect to not extending expiring permits. The motion passed.

Marian reported that the Federation's recommendations to the Hollywood Community Plan have been included in the revision to the plan. The Plan went to PLUM recently and will go to City Council on June 19, 2012 for approval.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don reported that all the dues have been collected and we now have a 40 member organization with the recent addition of two new organizations. This represents the largest membership in the Hillside Federation during the last decade. He emphasized the need to encourage additional organizations to join the Federation. Don also provided the financial status as of month-end May, 2012.

IV. New Business

A. Voluntary Conditions – The discussion consisted of the concept of a waiver or contract as discussed above which should be drafted by a committee.

B. 6459 Innsdale Drive -- Tom Workman (Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association) is asking for a letter from the Federation to the City concerning proposed 2-story, 9,000 sq. ft. home to be built below the Hollywood Sign on land that currently has a vineyard. Sheila Irani (CD 4) provided additional information on the plans for the site.

MOTION: Move that the Federation write a letter to CD 4 conveying that we were very supportive of the purchase of Cahuenga Peak to protect the vista of the iconic Hollywood Sign, and we are concerned that the subject property will adversely impact those views, and we ask the Councilmember's office to do everything legally possible to protect those views. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. 9941 Tower Lane – Nickie Miner stated that the property owner is suing the City to avoid complying with CEQA rules. The applicant's grading permit would involve the destruction of numerous protected trees.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, CD 5, and Benedict Canyon Association regarding their concerns with the Tower Lane Project. The motion passed.

B. 2244 Stanley Hills Drive – Ali Simard discussed the current issues with the project and stated that they are represented legally. The Zoning Administrator Linn Wyatt has allowed the recording of a wildlife easement that differs from what the Area Planning Commission approved as an Exhibit provided by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. It is imperative that the City support the decision of the Area Planning Commission in order to protect wildlife habitat and connectivity.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter to Michael LoGrande, Alan Bell, and CD 5 that the easement that the Central Area Planning Commission approved and represented by formal survey is the easement that must be preserved on the ground, and further, that no permits be issued for this house until this issue is resolved. The motion passed.

C. Helicopter Noise Relief - Marian reported that Rep. Howard L. Berman's act is facing opposition from the helicopter lobby. Therefore Sen. Dianne Feinstein added language to a Senate Appropriations Committee report to direct the FAA to solicit views of neighborhood groups and helicopter operators, study the problem, and report back to Congress within a year.

D. 8401 Grandview Drive – Tony Tucci reported that the property owner received a Notice to Stop All Work on April 2 because the permits were signed in error; Building & Safety did not approve the construction of an additional dwelling and pool on the adjacent lots. The applicant is now requesting waivers for set backs and driveways to construct a pool, deck, and new 3-story 2,640 sq. ft. accessory building on a substandard street.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support Laurel Canyon Assn. and CD 5 position with respect to Grandview Drive and oppose any deviations from code. The motion passed.

E. Van De Kamps – Dan Wright reported that two judgments have been made by Judge Ann Jones and a supplemental EIR has been required because the new charter high school is a significant change in the use of the facility. Los Angeles City College is considering its options. One may be to continue to allow Eli Broad's Alliance Charter School to continue instead of the community college satellite that was to have been on the site.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Don Andres – Acting Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alliance	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
Hollywoodland	Jim Van Dusen
Lake Hollywood	Tom Workman
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
	Ali Semard
Lookout Mountain	Anita Sokolsky
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington	Dan Wright
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Pacific Palisades	Bob Locker
Studio City	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	Lois Becker

Officials Present:

CD 4	Sheila Irani
CD 5	Jeff Ebenstein