Hillside Federation Minutes November 6, 2013

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes - The October minutes were approved as written.

III: Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

The Federation received a thank you note from attorney Victor Marmon for our support of the Stone Canyon issue. Another thank you note was received from Arnie Newman for our support of the purchase of 3967 Camino De La Cumbre by the MRCA.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don gave an update of the Federation accounts. He reminded everyone about the up-coming Holiday Party, Thursday, Dec. 12th at the Mulholland Tennis Club where Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Congressman Adam Schiff will be honored.

Guest Speaker: Mike Aguilera representing Congressman Adam Schiff's office introduced himself and spoke about outreach and resources available to the community from Rep. Schiff. He distributed Constituent Service guides. Marian Dodge congratulated Rep. Schiff for his work on the Rim of the Valley and the Helicopter Noise Ordinance which is still in committee and with the FAA. The Congressman is urging the FAA to move it forward.

IV. New Business

A. Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal - Dan Feinberg, CASM

Dan Feinberg from CASM SFV spoke about Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal and the work of CASM. The County has not cleared the sediment from the reservoir for 30 years. The sediment comes from US Forest Service land so it should not be dumped on county land. The County is trying to avoid doing a CEQA review on the project by claiming it is an emergency. They should be working to minimize sediment build-up. The current plan is to fill nearby canyons with the 7.6 million cubic yards of sediment (760,000 truck loads). Santa Ana winds would blow dust throughout the northern end of the San Fernando Valley. CASM wants to designate those canyons open space. They live in CD 7, Felipe Fuentes, but the project is in LA County Dist. 5, Michael Antonovich. Pacoima Reservoir is on US Forest Service land. We need to put pressure on the county; we should ask Supervisor Antonovich to meet with CASM. Charley Mims suggested that the old rock pits be filled first.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen, MSP. The Federation write a letter to LA County to meet and discuss options for sediment removal.

B. Hollywood Sign Buses - Lucy Gonzalez

Lucy explained the problem created by the traffic from tourists trying to reach the Hollywood Sign. The City Council Transportation Committee recently passed a motion (CF #13-1094-S1) to investigate the feasibility of tour buses to establish shuttle service from Hollywood Blvd. to the top of Beechwood Canyon. Hollywoodland HOA opposes the shuttle service and asks for Federation support.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen, MSP. The Hillside Federation opposes shuttle service including by tourist vans or private vehicles, due to concerns for public safety. The Federation proposes that the City develop a comprehensive plan to deal with these public safety issues and until such time, the Federation opposes any piecemeal policy of transportation to access the sign. MOTION: MSP. The Federation opposes the reopening of any of the interior roadways within Griffith Park and adjacent open space areas that are currently closed to public motor vehicle traffic.

V. Old Business

A. Harvard-Westlake expansion - Jennifer Rothman and Sarah Boyd

Save Coldwater Canyon represents 500 members who oppose the proposed expansion of Harvard-Westlake school with a 3-story, 750-space parking garage with an athletic practice field topping the parking structure and a private bridge to be built across Coldwater Canyon. Opposition to this proposed expansion is growing including the Studio City Residents Assn. and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. There will be a meeting tomorrow, November 7th of the Studio City Neighborhood Council to hear about this proposed expansion. The Draft Environmental Impact Report has been distributed. However, it did not address: lighting impacts; biological resources; the bridge which will establish a precedent for future development and impact an area which is designated as desirable open space; or exemptions from the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen, MSP. The Federation write a letter opposing the Harvard-Westlake project as proposed. The letter will address (1) lighting impacts, (2) the negative precedent set by the bridge, (3) the many land use impacts.

B. Millennium Hollywood - Marian Dodge

At George Abraham's request Marian read his statement. "The halting of Millennium's planned fault investigation is a strategy to force litigation to continue, rather than to discover and acknowledge that the presence of a fault kills the project. Our need for financial support is greater than ever."

C. 1400 Linda Flora Drive - Steve Twining

Steve spoke about the conservation easement, which has yet to be finalized, which was to be donated to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy by the property owner. Assurances were given by Councilman Paul Koretz's office that as a condition of the development, an easement would be granted; however, nothing has happened although grading has already begun.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen, MSP. The Federation will write a letter to Paul Koretz urging him to follow through on the recording of the conservation easement for 1400 Linda Flora Drive before any further grading or alteration of the land proceeds.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Carol Sidlow, Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills HA John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal. Lois Becker
Cahuenga Pass Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Allian. Wendy-Sue Rosen

Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl. Don Andres
Franklin Hills Res. Assn. Charley Mims
Hollywoodland Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon Kit Paull
Lookout Mountain Steven Poster

Carol Sidlow Marian Dodge

Los Feliz Impvmt. Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon Madeline O'Donnell
Resid. of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Stephen Benson
Steve Twining
Shirley Cohen

Sherman Oaks HOA Elke Heitmeyer Studio City Res. Claudia Freedle

Guests Present: 28th Cong. Dist. Upper Riviera HA CASM

Mike Aguilera Stacia Thompson Dan Feinberg

Ann Job

Save Coldwater Canyon

Sarah Boyd Jennifer Rothman

Jeff Jacobs Susan Jacobs Alex Izbicki R. Foy

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