

**Hillside Federation  
Newsletter  
January, 2015**



[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)

**Annual Holiday Party A  
Great Success**



The Federation's Treasurer, Don Andres, and President Marian Dodge prepare to greet guests.

The Hillside Federation's Annual Holiday Party was a great success, thanks to the hard work of board members Mark Stratton, Wendy Rosen, Marian Dodge, and many others. But greatest thanks must go to the Federation's tireless Treasurer, Don Andres, who did his usual astounding job organizing the event. Photos from the party can be found on the following pages. We are also pleased to share honoree Robert Silverstein's remarks. Thanks to all attendees and honorees for making the holiday party such a great event!

**Agenda**

**January 7, 2015**

**7:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
  - A. President's Report
  - B. Treasurer's Report
- IV. New Business
  - A. Enforcement of Mulholland Specific Plan - Rob Glushon
  - B. High-Speed Rail - Kit Paull
- V. Old Business
  - A. Re:codeLA Update  
Carol Sidlow
- VI. Adjournment

***Next Meeting***

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

**CD 4 Candidate Forum**

Cinematographers Guild

7755 Sunset Bl.

***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.*

*Hillside Federation Holiday Party*  
*December 11, 2014*



Honoree Robert Silverstein with California State Senator Ben Allen (SD26) and Don Andres.



Cyd Zeigler and District Representative for Congressman Adam Schiff (CD28), Mike Aguilera.



Bob Anderson congratulates Hillside Federation honoree, George Abrahams.



Carol Sidlow with CD4 Candidate, Steve Veres.



CD 4 Candidate Joan Pelico with Carolyn Kent, Barbara Dohrmann, and other party guests.



President Marian Dodge with honoree Robert Silverstein.



Federation Chair Emeritus Jerry Daniel and Darlene Daniel.



Current Federation Chairman Charley Mims with Chair Emeritus Alan Kishbaugh.



CD 11 Planning Deputy Tricia Keane, Don Keller, Debra Hockemeyer, and Thelma Waxman.

## **Robert P. Silverstein Speech Hillside Federation Annual Party, December 11, 2014**

Four areas of law I specialize in are Brown Act, Public Records Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, and eminent domain.

These areas involve core democratic values of due process and openness in government.

We are fighting a David vs. Goliath battle against the officials who were elected to represent our interests. We expect and demand that they will act in accordance with the law. But all too often we see the opposite. And that is one of the reasons I am so busy.

Tonight we come together because we all care about fighting to protect our liberties, preventing government abuse, and safeguarding our environment.

So on that note, I want to share with you a few stirring quotes about the values we are fighting to defend:

### **BROWN ACT:**

Regarding the Brown Act, which is California's open meetings law, according to the Legislature, the Brown Act's purpose is to ensure that local agency deliberations are open so that the people "may retain control over the instruments they have created." Govt. Code Section 54950.

I find that interesting. Think about that: "Over the instruments they [meaning we] have created." It's almost an allusion to a Frankenstein monster. We've created something, but we have to maintain careful control over it.

And from a well-known case: "The Brown Act is intended to . . . curb misuse of the democratic process by secret legislation of public bodies." *Int'l Longshoremen's Warehousemen's Union v. Los Angeles Export Terminal, Inc.* (1999) 69 Cal.App.4th 287, 293.

"Secret legislation of public bodies." Think about the warning there. This is not hypothetical. This is reality. This is what we are fighting and this is

what the litigation that we pursue is attempting to stop.

And when we prevail, we vindicate those core values that are so central to our entire process. What we are ultimately fighting for is integrity in the process.

### **PUBLIC RECORDS ACT:**

With regard to the California Public Records Act, which is the California version of the Federal Freedom of Information Act:

"Implicit in the democratic process is the notion that government should be accountable for its actions. In order to verify accountability, individuals must have access to government files. Such access permits checks against the arbitrary exercise of official power and secrecy in the political process . . ." *CBS, Inc. v. Block* (1986) 42 Cal.3d 646, 651.

And that is from the California Supreme Court where tomorrow I will be filing a brief against our own City of Los Angeles in another case that we should never have had to fight.

### **CEQA:**

CEQA – what does CEQA stand for? The California Environmental Quality Act. Let me just quote a case called Lincoln Place Tenants Association against the City of Los Angeles, where the City of Los Angeles lost.

"The fundamental goals of environmental review under CEQA are information, participation, mitigation, and accountability." *Lincoln Place Tenants Ass'n. v. City of Los Angeles* (2007) 155 Cal.App.4th 425, 443-444.

And finally, our Supreme Court has said:

"The EIR [that's an Environmental Impact report] is . . . intended 'to demonstrate to an apprehensive citizenry that the agency has, in fact, analyzed and considered the ecological implications of its action.' [Citations.] Because the EIR must be certified or rejected by public officials, it is a

document of accountability . . .  
The EIR process protects not only  
the environment but also  
informed self-government.”  
*Laurel Heights Improvement  
Assn. v. Regents of University of  
California* (1988) 47 Cal.3d 376,  
392.

So, what was important in that? Everything. But  
the part I think most interesting is that the  
Supreme Court correctly referred to us as the  
“apprehensive citizenry.”

We are an apprehensive citizenry. We have way  
too much to be apprehensive about. There is an  
unbelievable culture of secrecy and rule-breaking  
that pervades LA City Hall. So you can bet we are  
apprehensive.

But take heart and have courage because as long  
as we fight the good fight to “retain control over  
the instruments we have created,” we will  
succeed.

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What's happening in your  
neighborhood?  
Please send the Federation news of  
your activities with photos so we  
can share them with all our  
members.

## **Trial Date for 360 N. Stone Canyon Case Rescheduled**

The trial date for the over-height house at 360 N.  
Stone Canyon originally scheduled for Wed., Dec.  
10 has been changed. On the court's own motion,  
the case has been continued until Friday, January  
23, 2015, 9:30 am, in Dept. 86.

## **Hillside Federation November 5, 2014 Draft Minutes**

### **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 minutes were approved as submitted.

**Guest: Daniel Tamm**, Westside representative of  
Mayor Garcetti

Daniel spoke about various issues the Mayor  
is working on including water usage; use of solar  
electricity in city warehouses and buildings;  
economic development; and transportation  
infrastructure projects already on the way.  
Questions were asked about Mayor's position on  
urban solar farms; local hires for development  
projects in the City; use of astro turf vs. drought  
resistant plants; exemption of hillsides re: water  
reduction; new units built in the City being  
equipped with individual water meters; City  
fountains wasting water; density bonuses for  
development; position regarding CF -14-1438, the  
City Attorney's request to hire outside legal  
counsel to fight the Millennium project; sprinkler  
issue at children's park at Coldwater Canyon and  
Beverly Drive; and AB 2222.

### **III. Officers' Reports**

#### **A. President's Report:** Marian Dodge

Marian gave an up-date regarding the LA  
River's new Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway Trail and  
the groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday,  
November 1. The Studio City project will provide  
accessible open space, restore natural habitat and  
create a walking trail along a half-mile section of  
the river. The LA River Greenway trail is  
expected to open spring 2016.

Wendy-Sue Rosen gave the results of the  
November 4 election:

Senator Ted Lieu won the seat in the House of  
Representatives currently occupied by Henry  
Waxman. Ben Allen won the 26<sup>th</sup> State Senate  
District over Sandra Fluke. Sheila Kuehl won the  
County Board of Supervisors seat currently held  
by Zev Yaroslavsky over Bobby Shriver.  
Congressman Adam Schiff won re-election to the  
House of Representatives.

Proposition 1 - Funding for Water Quality,  
Supply, Treatment, and Storage Projects passed.

This proposition was a very important measure to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Proposition 2 – Rainy Day Budget Stabilization Fund Act passed. Proposition P - Continue funding from the County's Neighborhood Parks tax for parks which sunsets in 2015 did not pass.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don gave an update regarding membership. Don reminded everyone about the Hillside Federation Holiday Party at the Mulholland Tennis Club, Thursday, December 11, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Everyone was encouraged to attend and to spread the word.

**IV. New Business**

A. 7107 Hollywood Blvd. - Don Mabry, Save Residential Hollywood, Inc.

Don gave a briefing of the proposed development at the corner of La Brea and Hollywood Blvd which will include 3 buildings including a 26-story building with commercial use on the first level. The development would include 410 residential units and 10,000 square feet of commercial space. The area is currently zoned R-3-1 with a church on the site; however, the developer is requesting a General Plan amendment from Medium Residential to Regional Center Commercial; Amend Footnote #9 of the Hollywood Community Plan; Zone and Height District Change, Site Plan Review and a Conditional Use Permit (CUB). Don will keep the Hillside Federation informed when there are updates or actions requested.

B. Severe Fire Areas - John Given

John gave background regarding Councilman Paul Koretz's Motion 14-0713 regarding improvement to no smoking signs in Very High Fire Severity Zones with a possible increase in penalties for violations which was brought to the Public Safety Committee of the City Council in June and tabled for 90 days. This issue has not been agendaized yet although 90 days has passed. John requested that the Hillside Federation write a letter to the Public Safety Committee to get Motion 14-0713 back on the Public Safety Committee calendar.

MOTION: John Given moved that the Hillside Federation request that the Public Safety Committee schedule Council motion 14-0713 made by Councilman Paul Koretz regarding smoking signage in High Fire Severity Zones. The motion passed.

Further discussion about CF 09-1977-S1 by Paul Koretz –amendments to Fire and Municipal Code on the requirements that homeowners and their contractors must follow when clearing brush from their property and CF 12-1920 by Paul Koretz requesting a report from the Fire Department regarding its process for reviewing requests for deviations from the Municipal and Fire Codes which expired.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter to Councilman Paul Koretz with copies to the Public Safety Committee, City Council and the Fire Commission to bring back Motion 09-1977 and Motion 12-1920 to the Public Safety Committee for consideration. The motion passed.

C. Wildlife Crossing at Liberty Canyon: Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy described the proposed wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon and the 101 Freeway. Several mountain lions have been killed trying to cross at this location. There is a need for new genetic material to be introduced into the mountain lion population, or our mountain lion population will not survive. There is renewed interest in constructing a wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon. The supporters are asking people to write letters to John Donnelly at the state's Wildlife Conservation Board to seek and secure the \$650,000 which would go towards improvements in the area. This is known as the Liberty Canyon Interim Passage Enhancements which will make it safe for an undercrossing while they seek money for the over-crossing. An over-crossing will take time to design and build so this money is very important.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter to support the grant funding for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Enhancements. The motion passed.

**V. Old Business**

A. 10220 Scenario Lane: Sue Campbell

Sue gave an update regarding the proposed development of two homes on Scenario Lane in Beverly Glen. A letter from Residents of Beverly Glen was distributed expressing their concerns. The status of the Lot Line Adjustment among other environmental impacts were discussed.

B. Hollywood Sign Shuttle Service: Lucy Gonzalez

Councilmember Tom LaBonge has proposed a shuttle service through a residential area to view this popular attraction. In November, 2013, the Hillside Federation wrote a letter to the City asking for a comprehensive plan for the area before going forward with any piece-meal solutions. Lucy will continue to keep the Hillside Federation informed about this important public safety issue.

C. 6459 Innsdale Drive: David Benz, Lake Hollywood Homeowner's Association

The Central Area Planning Commission voted to deny the applicant's appeal of the Zoning Administrator's Determination. Renée Weitzer from Councilman LaBonge's office spoke against the property owner's appeal at the meeting which lasted until midnight. David thanked the Hillside Federation for its support of the Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association in their opposition to the development of the vineyard property.

D. 8150 Sunset Blvd.: Adara Salim, Save Sunset Blvd.

Save Sunset Blvd. is sponsoring a fundraising event on November 11, 2014 at the Chateau Marmont to raise funds to oppose the large development project at the corner of Crescent Heights and Sunset in the City of Los Angeles. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was just released and comments are due January 5. Adara would like lots of people to submit comments on the massive project.

E. 360 N. Stone Canyon: Steve Twining

The lawsuit against the City regarding the 50-foot over-in-height house and the variance granted the applicant by the City at 360 N. Stone Canyon in Bel Air will be heard in Superior Court, Dept. 86 on December 10 at 9:30 am. All are invited to attend.

The appeal by the neighbors of the Small Lot Subdivision at 11767 Bellagio Road was denied at the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission hearing.

The 350-acre Hoag Canyon, located between Casiano Estates and the 405 Freeway in Bel Air has been sold and may be developed.

Steven Poster notified the Federation that the 7-acre Yamashiro property in Hollywood is for sale and the restaurant may become condos.

Save these dates for future  
Hillside Federation meetings

2015

February 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

F. Recode LA: Carol Sidlow

The 35-page Zoning Code Approach will be sent to Federation members and is also available on the Recode LA website. At the Planning and Land Use meeting in October, the Planning Department gave a report regarding the Neighborhood Conservation initiative which laid out a four-step approach to address tweaks needed to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO). In addition, the Residential component to the revision of the Zoning Code will be reviewed beginning in January along with the Downtown component. The Residential component was speeded up after an article about loopholes in the BMO in the LA Times. There were questions regarding D conditions.

G. Closure of Barham off-ramps at the 101 Freeway: Krista Michaels

As part of the NBC Universal Evolution Plan, Universal is required to build a drop ramp from the bridge onto the 101 Freeway. After review, Caltrans determined that the Barham off ramp has to close because it is too close to the new ramp. There have been a number of accidents at the location. George Abrahams mentioned alternative remedies that exist in other parts of the City. He is meeting with Caltrans to discuss options.

## VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Secretary,  
Carol Sidlow

**Members Present:**

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
	Steven Kates
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
CASM-SFV	Dan Feinberg
Franklin Av/Hlwd Blvd	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Lake Hollywood	Sheila Irani
	David Benz
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
	Alison Simard
Lookout Mt.	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
N. Beverly/Franklin Can	Robert Levy
Oaks Homeowners	Wayne Schlock
Resid. Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Save Sunset Bl.	Adara Salim
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer
Upper Mandeville Can	James Provenzano
Upper Nichols Canyon	Stacy Sillins
	Susan Mullins



**Guests Present:**

Office of the Mayor	Daniel Tamm
Hlwd. Versailles Towers	Donald Mabry
	Lisa Marie Milat
Scenario Ln. residents	John Campbell
	Sue Campbell
resident	Connie Levy

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 <a href="mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org">president@hillsidefederation.org</a> <a href="http://www.hillsidefederation.org">www.hillsidefederation.org</a>	<b>ORGANIZATIONS:</b> Beachwood Canyon Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Ridge Association Bel Air Skycrest POA Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Hills Homeowners Brentwood Residents Coalition Cahuenga Pass Property Owner Canyon Back Alliance CASM-SFV 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.	Lake Hollywood HOA 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. Save Sunset Blvd. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA	Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Upper Riviera HOA Whitley Heights Civic Assn.  <b>CHAIRPERSONS</b> <b>EMERITUS</b> Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining <b>CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM</b> Brian Moore Polly Ward
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Marian Dodge <b>CHAIRMAN</b> Charley Mims <b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b> Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen <b>SECRETARY</b> Carol Sidlow <b>TREASURER</b> Don Andres			