

**Hillside Federation
February 6, 2013
Draft Minutes**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker – Mayer Brown attorney Andrew Kugler with “Take Them Down”, representing Summit Media, the company who brought the lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles regarding Billboards, gave an update on the billboard issue and asked the Hillside Federation for support by sending a letter to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee to respect and enforce the Court order regarding the removal of the illegal digital billboards. Wendy-Sue Rosen mentioned that the Hillside Federation has written several letters to the City supporting the Sign Ordinance and endorsing the position of the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight, including that the Court order be enforced.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation urge the City of Los Angeles to fully implement the Court ruling to invalidate all digital conversion permits issued by the City and oppose any efforts by the City of Los Angeles to initiate any changes to the zoning laws relative to digital billboards without a full and open public process inclusive of robust public input. The motion passed.

II. Approval of Minutes

The January 9 minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report

Marian Dodge thanked Carol Sidlow for stepping in and taking the minutes in place of Secretary Donna Messinger.

Federation Recording Secretary Donna Messinger had a baby boy, and all are doing well.

Members agreed to move the July meeting originally scheduled for July 3 to the following Wednesday, July 10 due to the 4th of July holiday.

There will be a Los Angeles County review of the NBC/Universal project on February 27, 2013.

The official deadline for comment on the Rim of the Valley proposal discussed by Congressman Adam Schiff at the last Federation meeting has passed, but Federation member groups are encouraged to write letters as comments are still being considered. Options C and D were supported by the Hillside Federation, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation and others.

Approval of Nominating Committee: The Executive Committee recommended the following members: Barbara Dohrmann, Lucy Gonzalez and Don Keller. Motion to approve the Nominating Committee passed.

B. Treasurer’s Report: Don Andres

The Federation has 40 member groups. We are ahead of last year on membership. If you haven’t paid your dues yet, please send your check to Don.

There will be a room change for the next Federation meeting. The meeting will be across the hall in the Lounge commencing on the March 6th meeting date. (Date changed to March 13.)

Update regarding Holiday Party: The Mulholland Tennis Club would like to accommodate the Hillside Federation party on Thursday night instead of a Wednesday night in the first two weeks of December. We will have the main dining room all to ourselves. All concurred.

IV. New Business

A. 1500 Gilcrest – Juliana Maio – Crests Neighborhood Association

Juliana Maio spoke about the issues regarding the development at 1500 Gilcrest in the Crests Neighborhood Association area. The previous ZA determination with conditions was issued by the City to the original property owner. The property owner sold the property to a new owner who applied for additional building permits which changed the proposed development to a much larger residence. The Department of Building and Safety looked into the matter and issued a Stop Work Order and a letter of

intent to revoke the permits issued. A new ZA hearing will be held on February 21st regarding the modifications.

MOTION: The Federation recommends that the Department of City Planning deny the pending request for Plan Approval related to Case No. ZA 2007-5365(ZAD)(ZAA), and that the Department of Building and Safety revoke the related building permits. The motion passed with 1 no vote.

B. Zoning Code Revisions – Mark Stratton, Wendy-Sue Rosen

The first outreach meeting sponsored by the Pacific Palisades Community Council was held on Saturday, Jan. 26. There was a good turnout for the first outreach. Approximately 70 people attended with Alan Bell and Erick Lopez from the Department of City Planning moderating the discussion. Many members of the Hillside Federation attended. This project will be a 5-year revision of the entire Zoning Code and an effort, per the Department of City Planning, to streamline the Zoning Code. A 17-member panel of stakeholders will be formed to participate in a working group. Members discussed their concerns regarding this revision to the Zoning Code. The Hillside Federation urged all member groups to pay close attention and attend as many of the outreach meetings as possible.

V. Old Business:

A. NBCUniversal Expansion & Sign District update:

City Council passed this item by consent. The Sign District is on the grandfathered list. The existing billboard at Barham Blvd. and Buddy Holly Dr. will have to be moved back to accommodate road widening but will be kept the same size and not converted to digital. Councilman LaBonge required that there be no digital billboards and that the amount of signage be reduced on the City part of the property. There were mitigations required such as a bike path along the LA River, transportation improvements, and money to local homeowner associations which were unanimously supported.

NBCUniversal is also partly located in Los Angeles County where signage is not allowed by right; therefore NBCUniversal has requested a Specific Plan and applied for digital billboards. This project will be heard at the February 27, 2013 Los Angeles County Planning Commission hearing.

B. Curtis School – Mark Stratton & Tom Freeman

The Hillside Federation has written a number of letters of support of the community positions regarding the issues dealing with the Curtis School since 2009. Tom Freeman spoke about the variance from the Baseline Hillside Ordinance being requested by the applicant, Curtis School. The Baseline Hillside Ordinance includes limitations on grading in the hillsides. This variance request is troubling as the Baseline Hillside Ordinance was drafted so that variances wouldn't be needed and a variance for this project undermines the integrity of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. The grading for this project may be as much as 130,000 cubic yards. Wendy-Sue Rosen spoke about the institutional corridor along Mulholland Dr. and that the development at Curtis School would set precedents for the hillsides and encourage others to ask for the same to achieve parity thereby undermining the Baseline Hillside Ordinance.

MOTION: Mark Stratton moved that the Hillside Federation oppose the Curtis School Master Plan through the administrative process and, if necessary, through litigation by retaining Bird Marella on a *pro bono* basis. The motion passed.

C. Hollywood Community Plan Lawsuit – George Abrahams

George Abrahams spoke about the various lawsuits filed regarding the Hollywood Community Plan and handed out a motion. The intent of the motion and the Hillside Federation position previously taken were discussed. George ask that no vote be taken. He will provide additional material at a future meeting.

Announcement:

Steve Twining brought up the issue of notification by the City regarding any motions or policy changes which impact stakeholders in the City such as the recent Street Bond issue and the Economic Development Council being formed to replace the Community Redevelopment Agency.

VI: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Recording Secretary,
Carol Sidlow

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills HA	Eric Edmunds
	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Lois Becker
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back All.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland HOA	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mt. All.	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington All.	Dan Wright
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
N. Beverly/Franklin Can	Robert Levy
Oaks Homeowners	Bob Young
Pacific Palisades Res.	Bob Locker
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer
	Niles Chapman
Upper Mandeville	James Provenzano

Guests Present:

Bel Air Skycrest	Barbara Borsch
Crests Homeowners	Juliana Maio
	Michael Phillips
N. Beverly/Franklin	Connie Levy
Mayer Brown	Andrew Kugler
Mid City West CC	Cary Brazeman
unknown	Rich Rodgers