

**Hillside Federation  
April 3, 2013  
Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Charley Mims called meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**City Attorney Candidate Forum**

Charley Mims made an opening statement that the questions for candidates were prepared in advance and there would be no questions from the floor. Don Andres served as time keeper. Each candidate for City Attorney, Mike Feuer and Carmen Trutanich, made a 2-minute opening statement. City Attorney Trutanich spoke first about his independence, public trust, protecting the most vulnerable; he wrote 245 ordinances this year; crime is down 23%; 92% success rate and \$285 million saved.

Mr. Feuer spoke about his long time times with the Federation, his contributions while in the Assembly including new open space for the Santa Monica Mountains; new park space; worked on helicopter noise issues; fire safety.

1. Neighborhood Prosecutor:

Mr. Feuer wants to protect neighborhoods and revitalize and elevate the role of the Neighborhood Prosecutors Program. The City Attorney should have a major impact on quality of life issues.

Mr. Trutanich followed up that the Neighborhood Prosecutors office is alive and well. He has combined the meetings between the Neighborhood Prosecutors and the Gang Prosecutors for better coordination. The City Attorney's office has met their budget.

2. Voluntary Conditions:

Mr. Trutanich spoke about the problems for the community re: voluntary conditions not being adhered to. He spoke about a fix that when an agreement is made, the nexus agreements should be attached to the record and then the Planning Commission can support the agreements.

Mr. Feuer spoke about discretionary and by-right differences as voluntary conditions are not an issue on discretionary actions. The City Attorney must engage in early intervention; advise City departments more effectively and provide more training of the Planning Department by the City Attorney's office.

3. System of writing ordinances:

Mr. Feuer wants a robust Clean Hands ordinance in place. ACE (Administrative Code Enforcement) Ordinance needs to be a key focus and needs to be adopted.

Mr. Trutanich said the ACE Ordinance was his idea. He pulled it out of Budget and Finance. The City Attorney's office is a law office, not a policy office.

4. Reducing the risk of litigation such as the billboard litigations.

Mr. Trutanich stated that they have won all billboard cases. Supergraphics are down. He can only advise the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Feuer said we should prevent lawsuits from happening in the first place. The City Attorney should be a risk management leader.

5. Hillside quality of life issues:

Mr. Feuer said the revitalization of the Neighborhood Prosecutors office will establish your priorities. The City Attorney's Office is a public interest law firm.

Mr. Trutanich mentioned that as a result of consolidation, all appropriate departments, such as Environmental Justice, Code Enforcement, Building and Safety, meet weekly to discuss issues.

6. Top three priorities:

Mr. Trutanich: It is a law office, not a policy office.

Mr. Feuer: Neighborhood Prosecutor program; gun violence prevention unit; risk management; teamwork with neighbors and city offices.

Closing statements:

Mike Feuer was honored by the primary outcome with broad support. He wants to establish a new set of priorities and wants the office to be respected again. We are in this together.

Carmen Trutanich has been in public service for 3 years and in private practice for 22 years. There are 475 lawyers in the City Attorney's Office. His job is about keeping us safe. The City Attorney's Office is

running better. Cell Tower ordinance needs to get done. His office has produced more with less; it is much better today than 4 years ago.

President Dodge thanked the candidates for attending.

## **II. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of March 13, 2013 were approved as written. President Dodge thanked Lucy Gonzalez for taking the minutes of the March meeting.

## **III. Officers' Reports**

### **A. President's Report**

Marian Dodge introduced a new group to the Hillside Federation, Upper Nichols Canyon Neighborhood Association and representing UNCNA, Cyd Zeigler.

### **Nominating Committee – Election of Officers**

Barbara Dohrmann spokesperson for the Nominating Committee which included Lucy Gonzalez and Don Keller announced the slate to Federation members:

President - Marian Dodge

Chairman - Charley Mims

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Mark Stratton

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Wendy-Sue Rosen

Secretary - Carol Sidlow

Treasurer - Don Andres

Executive Secretary – Donna Messinger

Members in good standing were allowed to nominate from the floor; 39 groups are eligible, each group has 1 vote. Barbara asked for nominations from the floor; there were none made. Barbara asked if anyone preferred a written ballot; no hands raised. Barbara called for a motion to accept the slate by show of hands. The slate was elected unanimously and all stated that they were willing to serve.

### **B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres**

Don Andres gave an update of funds. Hillside Federation currently has 39 paid members out of 41.

## **IV. New Business - none**

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Millennium Hollywood project:** Greg Johnson of Hollywood Dell gave an up-date.

The Planning Commission hearing was held and at least 6 groups oppose the project as presented; however, the City Planning Commission moved to approve the project. One of the approvals, the Development Agreement, was found not to be valid as one of the members of the City Planning Commission (Roschen) is a paid consultant. The Commission voted that the project could move ahead without the development agreement. The proposed development will be two towers – 50 and 45 stories.

Councilman LaBonge attended the hearing; Councilman Garcetti sent his representative and both supported reduced height of the buildings.

Marian Dodge stated that at the hearing the Oaks HOA said that there are 57 potential projects in Hollywood; however, none are taller than 30 stories. A sign up sheet for donations to support the appeal was distributed. President Dodge will send information to Federation groups regarding donating.

Dan Wright, whose law firm has been retained to represent some of the groups opposing the project, spoke about additional issues regarding the Millennium development.

### **B. 1500 Gilcrest update - Wendy-Sue Rosen**

The Zoning Administrator's hearing was attended by approximately 60 neighbors who oppose the project. Ron Galperin spoke on behalf of the Crests Neighborhood Association in opposition to the proposed changes. Wendy-Sue Rosen testified that the Hillside Federation also opposed the changes. Jonathan Brand from CD 4 spoke supporting the community in their opposition. The Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council voted to support the Crests Neighborhood Association in their opposition to project changes.

There was a discussion of the policies of the Federation regarding positions taken. President Marian Dodge reminded everyone that if a member group has an issue, the Request for Action form is on the website and all the requirements listed must be provided.

C. Curtis School update - Mark Stratton

The City Planning Commission hearing has been postponed to the end of April. The Hillside Federation, Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association, and Brentwood Residents Coalition have actively opposed the project because, among other reasons, the applicant is seeking a grading variance from the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO). The requested variance would establish a dangerous precedent that could impair the future integrity of the BHO's grading limitations.

D. Off-site Digital Billboards - Wendy-Sue Rosen

Marian Dodge and Wendy-Sue Rosen were among those invited to participate in a series of meetings organized by the City Planning Department to discuss the future of digital billboards in the City. The group, named the Billboard and Visual Landscape Visioning Group, was led by an outside facilitator retained by the City. On March 26 PLUM asked Planning to prepare a draft ordinance. The group concluded that the City needs more time to consider the many complex issues raised by the use of digital billboards outside of specially designated "sign districts."

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Recording Secretary,  
Carol Sidlow

**Members Present:**

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Beachwood Canyon      | George Abrahams      |
| Bel Air Skycrest      | Mark Stratton        |
|                       | Barbara Dohrmann     |
|                       | Lois Becker          |
| Benedict Canyon       | Nickie Miner         |
| Brentwood Residents   | Don Keller           |
|                       | Tom Freeman          |
| Cahuenga Pass POA     | Patricia Weber       |
| Canyon Back Allian.   | Wendy-Sue Rosen      |
| Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl   | Don Andres           |
| Franklin Hills Resid. | Charley Mims         |
| Hollywood Dell        | Greg Johnson         |
|                       | Alexa Iles Skarpelos |
| Hollywoodland HOA     | Lucy Gonzalez        |
| Kagel Canyon          | Kit Paull            |
| Laurel Canyon Assn.   | Tony Tucci           |
|                       | Jamie Hall           |
|                       | Jim Nelson           |
| Lookout Mountain      | Steven Poster        |
|                       | Carol Sidlow         |
| Los Feliz Impvmt.     | Marian Dodge         |
| Mt. Washington HO All | Dan Wright           |
| Oaks Homeowners       | Caroline Schweich    |
| Pacific Palisades     | Barbara Kohn         |
|                       | Chris Spitz          |
| Roscomare Valley      | Steve Twining        |
| Sherman Oaks HOA      | Elke Heitmeyer       |
| Upper Nichols Canyon  | Cyd Zeigler          |

**Officials Present:**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| City Attorney      | Carmen Trutanich<br>Nick Trutanich<br>and staff                 |
| former Assemblyman | Mike Feuer<br>Gail Ruderman Feuer<br>Nicole Carcel<br>and staff |

**Guests Present:**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Chair Emeritus         | Patricia Bell Hearst   |
| thefrontpageonline.com | Ari Noonan   |
| LAPD                   | Jeff Kiser   |
| Hollywood Dell         | Tom Meredith<br>George Skarpelos<br>David Evans<br>Judy Kass<br>Mary Leddihy |
| Laurel Canyon Assn.    | Ali Semard   |
| misc.                  | Skip Haynes<br>Bill Kabaker<br>Chris Blacksmith                              |