

Hillside Federation Agenda
June 7, 2017
Minutes

I. Call to Order - Charley Mims

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest: Jill Stewart - Coalition to Preserve LA

The Coalition to Preserve LA continues to ask important questions about the City's lack of long-term planning, the reliance on spot zoning, and our need for more parks and more open space protections generally. In the course of their investigations, the Coalition accidentally found out through a public records request that the Planning Department is currently looking at the Open Space element of the General Plan but did not invite the public to participate in their discussions. The Coalition wants the Federation to submit a letter calling for open meetings. Charley asked Jill to complete a Request for Action and send a motion and accompanying materials that can be distributed to members prior to next meeting, for purposes of discussion.

II. Approval of minutes

The May minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge/ Charley Mims

The Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway between Whitsett and Coldwater Canyon in Studio City was dedicated on June 3.

The state tried to pass a ban on styrofoam/single use containers. LA Times wrote a good editorial in support of passing similar legislation. It will likely come back up at a later time.

The Planning Department's Erick Lopez said RecodeLA is almost finished with the Hillside element and he would like to give a presentation to the Federation.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don reported the account balances.

The Executive Committee has looked into financial/investment options to increase the return on Federation assets with relatively low risk investments.

MOTION: Don moved that the Federation make an investment in 3 separate CD's with a ladder approach and an additional small amount in a balanced fund. The motion passed.

IV. Old Business

A. Accessory Dwelling Units - Charley Mims

Charley plans to draft a sample letter for individual organizations to submit. The ADU Ordinance went thru the City Planning Commission (CPC) and PLUM where many adjustments detrimental to the hillsides were made. There was no outreach and a lot of giveaways. We need to get a good ordinance that complies with state law.

B. Sign Ordinance - Marian Dodge

PLUM discussed the Sign Ordinance on May 30th. They have been stalling since a good ordinance was approved by the CPC in 2015. PLUM wants signs in sign districts and signs out of sign districts and on city property. Councilmember Jose Huizar sees billboards as a huge revenue generation engine to solve many of the city's problems although he spoke highly of ending billboard blight. Huizar instructed the City to report back in 30 days to answer all the questions that were presented. Under PLUM's proposal billboards could be installed in city parks. We need to have letters from individual groups with opposition to signs being outside of sign districts. What level of environmental impact must be reported and what level of community involvement must be required?

C. 901 Strada Vecchia - Marian Dodge

Mohammed Hadid, a developer with a reputation for ignoring rules, was issued a stop work order 3 years ago. He had unapproved decks, and an IMAX theater. The City pulled the permits, but he kept working. Last week he pleaded no contest to the criminal charges, and left a half-finished project on top of the hillside. Hadid owes \$1m in taxes and fines. A remediation plan has yet to be submitted.

D. Harvard-Westlake School expansion - Suellen Wagner

A City Planner stated that the EIR should be out in June, but likely much later than that in order to muster more support from the parents of the students. They got the recommendation for the story poles from the neighborhood council. Suellen requested a letter in support of story poles from the Federation. As the Federation has already taken a position on this project, we will write a letter to Councilmember Krekorian asking him to require the use of story poles.

V. New Business

A. 2300 Kimridge Rd- Amy Adelson

The hillside at 2300 Kimridge Rd. off Coldwater Canyon, has been entirely graded and damaged with lots of work without permits, buried trees and a sewage tank. The City issued an Order to Comply (Stop Work Order); however the company ignored the order and DBS approved new permits for construction on the site. The DBS official admitted that the initial permit was issued in error. Because the hearing was before the Federation meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed the Request for Action and voted to support their request for a letter of support.

MOTION: to approve the letter of support that was written by Executive Committee. The motion passed. Amy thanked the Federation for its support.

B. Economic Benefits of Parks - Marian Dodge

"The Trust for Public Land studied the economic impacts of parks (millions of dollars earned/saved/generated) and benefits to the community. Link to get more information is in the June Newsletter.

Announcements

Berggruen Project - Patricia Bell Hearst

There is a proposed development of a think tank compound with a conference center for 300 near Mountaingate. Berggruen is well connected to state and local politicians. Several Federation members attended a meeting regarding the project.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Stephen Benson
Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	Isabelle Megginson
	Fran Reichenbach
Bel Air Hills Assn.	Steve Twining
	Robin Greenberg
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels

	Steven Kates
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
Doheny-Sunset Plaza	Yves Mieszala
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell Civic	Mary Ledding
Hollywoodland	George Abrahams
Los Feliz Improvement	Marian Dodge
N. Beverly/Franklin	Robert Levy
Oak Forest Canyon	Bruce Hollihan
Oaks HOA	Bob Young
Res. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Save Coldwater Canyon!	Suellen Wagner
	Jeff Jacobs
Studio City Res. Assn	Claudia Freedle
Upper Nichols Canyon	Stacy Sillins

Guests Present:

Coalition to Preserve LA	Jill Stewart
Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
Hollywood Dell	Donna Messinger
N. Beverly/Franklin Can	Connie Levy
Bel-Air Assn	Maureen Levinson
Bowmont-Hazen	Amy Adelson