



NEWS PAGE 1

PO Box 1673, Hollywood Hills, CA 90078

FOUNDED IN 1952

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION

PRESIDENT Joan Luchs CHAIRMAN Bill Eick VICE PRESIDENTS Mel Remba Conrad Schoeffter RECORDING SECRETARY Cassandra Barrére TREASURER Dr. Niles Chapman

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

BelAir Knolls BelAir Skycrest Benedict Canyon Briarcliff Cahuenga PassNeighborhood Encino Property Forest Hills Franklin Hills Franklin Ave\HollyBlvd West Glassell Park **Highland Homeowners** Hollywood Dell Hollywood Heights Hollywoodland Holmby Hills Homeowners of Encino Laurel Canvon Lookout Mountain Alliance Los Feliz Improvement Mt. Olympus Mount Washington Nichols Canyon No. Beverly Dr/Franklin Outpost Pacific Palisades Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Shadow Hills Property Sherman Oaks Studio City Tarzana Upper Mandeville Whitely Heights

CHAIRMEN EMERITUS

Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Gordon Murley

> CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: SHARING RECOURCES AND OUTREACH

This month has overwhelmed me with gratitude to so many of you who have offered support, constructive suggestions and assistance. The Executive Committee's willingness to provide positive direction has gotten me through a busy and challenging first month as your President. The Federation has earned its respect and has a powerful voice.

It is a source of pride to represent this grand dame of organizations at hearings and meetings in order to influence decisions on oversized incompatible development while protecting retention of open space in our hillside communities.

Thanks to Laura Lake, our guest speaker for the inaugural meeting, she shared with us her preliminary success to protect the Veteran Administration's Westside property and its parkland (adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountains) from developer's who wish to take it from the Vet's in who's trust it is held. By studying other success stories we glean tactics and strategies that are WORKING and will provide new resources and powerful networking for more success stories!

The Federation is moving into the twenty first century with a soon-to-be updated website, an electronic age membership and a new partner in community activism, the Neighborhood Councils. We have a successful Executive Committee made up of savvy seasoned individuals who are winning challenges against overdevelopment. We have much to share and our future generation must be engaged and galvanized with issuescontinued on Page 2

ALERT New Meeting Time STARTS 7:30

NEXT MEETING Wednesday, June 6, 2007 DINNER: 6:00 PM MEETING: 7:30 PM Mulholland Tennis Club 2555 Crestview Drive/Skyline off Mulholland between Laurel and Coldwater Canyons Hollywood Hills, Ca 90046

AGENDA

Introduction: Members/Guests
May Minutes approval: 5 Min.
President's Report: 25 Min.
a. Executive Committee Status-Motion/Vote
b. Councilman Huizar meeting on cumulative hillside impacts

c. Slope Density Update

d. Maximizing Federation Resources

Executive Committee Reports: 40 Min.

a. Recommendation to adopt Standing Rules 1. Issues and Motions Policy-Motion/Vote

2. Outgoing Executive Committee's

- Policy to turn over records-Motion/Vote
- b. Recommendations to: 1,2,3 Motions/Vote 1. Change meeting time to 7:30 PM
 - Change meeting time to
 Hold fewer meetings
 - 2. Hold lewer meetings

3. Decide location for future meetings

- Old Business: All 3 Motions/Vote 30 Min.
- a. Newsletter distributions: mail, email or both
- b. Developer invades Glassell Park
- c. Rec/Park Guidelines: LFIA response to commercial use at Griffith Park Observatory

Reports: 20 Min.

- a. Vice President:
- b. Treasurer: Non- Profit/Tax Exempt Status –Closed Session- Motion/Vote

Adjournment

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be: To protect the property and the quality of life of 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.



PO Box 1673, Hollywood Hills, CA 90078

REMINDERS: ISSUES & MOTIONS

Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 7:30 PM, and end by 9:30 PM. Issues brought to the Board require a COMPLETE OUTLINE AND BACKGROUND INCLUDING WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED (in order to end the meeting on time); then emailed to <president@hillsidefederation.org> or faxed to 323 851-9160 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting along with a direct phone and fax number or phone and email address if available.

MOTIONS to be made at the meeting should be well thought out and printed so that they are clear and concise <u>with enough copies for all member associations</u>. Each speaker will be allowed 5 minutes to make their presentation, so that meetings can be kept on time. All requests to agendize an issue MUST be approved in writing by the President before the item will be put on the Agenda.

of mutual interests. Our strength and effectiveness will come from utilizing a variety of tools and resources as well as cultivating all relationships available to us.

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Association spans LA like a spinal cord. By virtue of our geographical expanse we have members in numerous Council Districts, Neighborhood Councils, and represent a considerable amount of Constituents (Votes!). Our intent is to strengthen our citywide profile by establishing new relationships while building on old relationships, on all fronts and to all people who are motivated to help us succeed in winning the battle of responsible and compatible development. At our last meeting, we spoke about our commitment to Outreach and the forms it could take, and each of you can be part of this endeavor by bringing other networking ideas to us.

My goal is to help us orchestrate those strategies available to us. I am committed to it.

JOAN LUCHS President

FEDERATION'S NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING

The Federation's new website is: < www.hillsidefederation.org >

Please take a look. If there's something else you'd like to see, or if you want to send in an article to the Newsletter, we'd like to hear from you. Call Joan Luchs at (213) 368-6120 to give us your suggestions.





PO Box 1673, Hollywood Hills, CA 90078

GRIFFITH PARK FIRE RECOVERY UNDER WAY

At our May meeting, we received briefings from Councilman Tom LaBonge, Griffith Park Superintendent Vicky Israel, LAFD Battalion Chief Fry, Sr.Lead Ofcr. Gina Chovan and others about the recent fires at Griffith Park. We were assured that the City did not plan on reseeding the burnedover areas of the Park. They do plan to "let nature take its course," and not to use non-native plants. We discussed fire and life safety for City facilities and learned that hot spots were still being discovered. These are generally spots where the fire had smoldered at their base until at times whole trees were blown over, whereupon the flames would shoot forward once more. The Park Rangers were carrying water reservoirs on their backs into the interior of the Park to extinguish most of these "hotspots."

We all will have our own list of heroes who responded to the fire and successfully saved lives, saved homes, kept order and worked to reassure the community that it would all work toward that goal. Our thanks and gratitude are extended to all of the firefighters, the park rangers, the police officers and the park staff who worked long hours to accomplish these goals. Battalion Chief Fry was the incident commander and did a super job. He was supported by hundreds of firefighters from Los Angeles and many communities from around California.

Park staff assured us that non-native grasses would not be helpful in reseeding the burned-over areas. They said that even with native plant seed from the nursery, much of it would contain other grasses. They want to re-open the areas of the Park that are currently closed. They also have asked the City Council to ban all open flames in the park and further they have asked that an Ordinance be created to stop people from smoking in Griffith Park, including on the golf courses. We will be working with the park staff and the councilman's office to monitor the recovery of the park and to determine how our community can help.

Submitted by Charley M. Mims, President, Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council

LOS FELIZ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIA-TION LEADS FIGHT AGAINST COM-MERCIAL USE (Liquor) AT GRIFFITH PARK OBSERVATORY

Wolfgang Puck has requested a variance for a full liquor license for special catered events at the Griffith Observatory. The Observatory is located in open space (OS-IXL), where serving alcoholic beverages is explicitly prohibited. This variance would set a dangerous precedent for commercial development in our hillsides. The primary mission of the Observatory is educational and scientific. It should not be transformed into a commercial rental facility. The community is overwhelmingly opposed to such a liquor license.

On September 6, 2006, Puck was granted an exclusive contract for food service at the Observatory without any notification to adjacent property owners as required by the City. The contract includes regular operation of the café during Observatory operating hours and catered events. The concession agreement specifies that "CONCESSION-AIRE shall have the option to sell alcoholic beverages (beer, wine and spirits at the CONCESSION....CITY/Observatory Management shall cooperate fully with CONCES-SIONAIRE with regard to obtaining such license."

On December 19, 2006, Puck filed an application for a variance in which there were no restrictions on the number of events per year except that they could not be back-to-back. The variance requests "alcoholic beverages be permitted at special catered events between the hours of 11:00 AM and 1:00 AM any day of the week." Events would include corporate meetings, conventions, social groups such as weddings, reunions and birthday parties and charity and political fund raisers.

Catered events could take place anywhere in the Griffith Observatory or on its grounds. Those areas would be cordoned off thus denying the general public access to parts of the Observatory. The special events will bring added traffic congestion, pollution, noise and

.....continued on Page 4





PO Box 1673, Hollywood Hills, CA 90078

litter to the adjacent residential neighborhood which is already impacted by the operation of the Greek Theatre.

In May, 2007, Recreation and Parks (RAP) developed a new set of Draft Guidelines and supported the request made by Puck. Assistant General Manager Kevin Regan's letter to the Zoning Administrator is only a "summary of some of the most significant issues addressed by your proposed guidelines" so it is not now known exactly what the guidelines specify. While the guidelines did recommend some restrictions such as maximum of 1800 people at events and 26 special events per year, they include loopholes and are more generous that the community is willing to accept. Additional events may be held at the discretion of the General Manager of RAP, which means that in reality there are no limits to the number of events which may be held. The hours of alcohol service and length of event may also be extended at the discretion of the General Manager.

The proposed Guidelines must be approved by the Parks Commissioners, probably at their June 20 meeting. Los Feliz Improvement Association has requested that the Zoning Administrator extend the period for public comment past the original May 30 deadline since the Guidelines have not yet been approved by the Commission. At that time, the decision to grant a variance to allow the serving of alcohol at Griffith Observatory will be made behind closed doors.

You are urged to express your opinion on this important issue to the Zoning Administrator and copy your letter to Councilmember Tom LaBonge. Cite Reference: Case No. ZA 2006-10405(ZV)

Associate Zoning Administrator Albert Landini Office of Zoning Administration City Hall, 7th Floor 200 North Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012or albertlandini@aol.com

Councilman Tom LaBonge City Hall, Room 480, CD4 200 North Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012or councilmember.Labonge@lacity.org More information is available on the LFIA Website: www.LFIA.org

WENDY-SUE ROSEN HONORED BY 42nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT'S MIKE FEUER

Belated congratulations, Wendy! Your involvement as a Director of the Hillside Federation, Chair of the Brentwood Community Council, President of Upper Mandeville Canyon Property Owners Association and member of the Santa Monica Mountains Advisory Committee are examples to those who share your goal to improve water quality, protect wildlife, preserve our environment and support public access to important open space. We thank you for your continuous efforts.

NEW MEETING TIME

HILLSIDE FEDERATION DINNER MEETING Wednesday June 6, 2007

BUFFET DINNER FOLLOWED BY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Dinner alone \$28.00; with Wine \$35.00

Time: Dinner: 6:00 PM – Main Dining Room Meeting: 7:30 PM in Senior Lounge

All Hillside Federation affiliated representatives and past officers of the Federation are welcome

> RSVP by Monday, June 4th to either: Joan Luchs: 323-851-1597 Mel Remba: 323-851-1647





PO Box 1673, Hollywood Hills, CA 90078

GLASSELL PARK HESC PROTESTS UNSAFE DEVELOPMENTS THREATENING THEIR COMMUNITY

In the view of the Hillside Environmental Safety Coalition (HESC) and its supporters, Glassell Park is at a critical juncture in defending its hillsides from irresponsible development, and believes other parts of Los Angeles are similarly at risk.

If the development now in progress on Parrish Avenue of eight multi-story houses on low density RE-20 lotswhich was treated by the Associate Zoning Administrator as if they were R-I. lots is allowed to proceed without a challenge, an unfortunate precedent will be set. Irresponsible builders will continue to seek City approval for out-of-scale projects without getting an EIR, as in this case, and without considering the cumulative impacts of such developments on fragile hillsides. HESC's appeal of the decision to approve this development was denied, and a lawsuit is being pursued.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Implications for the future are already in evidence as the same developer proposes development of 12 additional homes, five in Glassell Park and seven in neighboring Mt. Washington. Despite the fact that both communities urge that the environmental impacts of these projects be fully addressed in an EIR, the City maintains that all impacts can be mitigated and an EIR is not warranted.

Councilman Jose Huizar, a member of the City Council Planning & Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) who represents both Glassell Park and Mt. Washington, has introduced a motion in Council that will delve more deeply into cumulative impacts of hillside development. Huizar will cover a comprehensive list of citywide hillside issues relating to Building & Safety; Planning and the City Attorney at a public forum Friday, June 8, 2007 from 7 pm to 9 PM. The meeting will be held at the Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center, 511 W. Ave. 46 in Mt. Washington. Attendance is urged. Written comments to the Councilman and his colleagues on the PLUM Committee and City Council should also be submitted. HESC members Anne Schermerhorn and Alisa Smith welcome assistance from other environmental groups to call attention to the problem of inadequate and minimized Mitigated Negative Declarations (MNDs) and under-utilized EIRs. They may be reached at (323) 252-3999 at (213) 910-3491, respectively.

MULHOLLAND SCENIC PARKWAY DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM

MARVIN BRAUDE CONSTITUENTS SERVICE CENTER 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA First Floor Conference Room

Free parking under the building; Entrance just east of Van Nuys Blvd. on Sylvan Street

MAYOR FUNDS CERT TRAINING PROGRAM

Last month, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's proposed budget failed to include funding for continued support of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Councilmembers Greig Smith and Wendy Greuel stood up on behalf of this very valuable and needed training in Los Angeles, and the City Council passed the budget on May 21, 2007. Councilman Rosendahl noted that funding for the CERT program had been restored.

What is C.E.R.T.? Community Emergency Response Team training local residents as first responders in the event of natural disaster or terrorist activity. The program provides the community with necessary tools to coordinate and operate disaster aid in the absence of government agency availability.

Most resident groups have disaster plans, and CERT is the training vehicle to bring volunteers to a level of competency equal to the tasks required. For more information, check out their web site: http://www.cert-la.com





PO Box 1673, Hollywood Hills, CA 90078

SLOPE DENSITY

On May 22, 2007 the Planning and Land Use Management Committee of the Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed the ordinance proposed by Councilmember Wendy Greuel to clarify the slope density ordinance. The hearing date before the entire City Council was not available as of the writing of this article.

The clarification of the ordinance means that there will be conformity in the maps used to calculate average natural slope. In the past, developers had interpolated 40 foot contour interval maps to 25 foot contours in an effort to comply with the 25 foot contour requirement of the slope density ordinance. This lead to distortions which reduced the average natural slope and therefore increased the dwelling unit density. The ordinance will no longer allow this use of interpolated maps.

The second major clarification is that the new ordinance will not permit the use of the 5 acre grid square approach to calculate density. In the past, developers had calculated density on each 5-acre grid which meant they were entitled to 0.3 dwelling units per five acre grid even if the property were a sheer cliff. The ordinance clarification requires that the density shall only be calculated based on the size of the entire project.

While it may be difficult to grasp the significance of the clarification, it should be noted that in a recent project a developer calculated that the number of dwelling units allowed under the slope density ordinance at 169. If the clarified slope density ordinance had been used, the developer would have been entitled to 45 dwelling units. As steeper and steeper land is considered for development, the slope density ordinance and its proper application will become ever more apparent.

City wide, the slope density ordinance applies to land designated as minimum density. However, many community plans apply the slope density ordinance to other land use designations. Each community should check its own community plan to see whether the slope density ordinance has an expanded application.

Submitted by: Bill Eick, President Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

FIRE FIGHTING CAPABILITY INCREASES

A "grass roots" effort led by Wildfire Research Network (WRN), a non-profit, public safety research group concerned with improving wildfire suppression capability, has been instrumental in convincing Governor Schwarzenegger to issue an Executive Order instructing Cal Fire to negotiate a standby contract with the owners of Tanker 910, a 12,000 gallon capacity supertanker.

In addition, the Governor has pledged five million dollars for a stand-by seasonal contract, \$5000 per flight hour and payment of all fuel and retardant expense

With rainfall in Los Angeles the lowest on record and the wildfire danger in Southern California extremely high, the Governor's decision to order Cal Fire to add additional fire fighters and to negotiate a seasonal contract for Tanker 910 was not only necessary but a welcomed turn of events.

Should there be a wildfire emergency in Los Angeles County, Tanker 910's crew can load the aircraft, take off and be ready to fight a wildfire in the County within one hour. With 12,000 gallons the supertanker can produce a retardant line ½ mile in length with a single drop. The capability of building retardant lines is critical in stopping wildfires when they are small, before they burn out of control.

WRN is researching the use of Generation III night vision goggles (GEN III NVG) for use in night aerial firefighting. Using GEN III NVG at night allows air tanker pilots to attack wildfires at night when winds are usually less strong and temperatures lower.

This article was submitted by Tony Morris, a resident of Topanga Canyon and driving force behind the creation of Wildfire Research Network. Joined by Robert L. Cavage, also a resident of Topanga Canyon, they made a presentation at the May 2, 2007 Federation meeting covering their efforts to obtain the Governor's support for Tanker 910. Morris and Cavage have actively pursued increased fire fighting capability for more than 20 years.

JUNE 2007 NEWS



MINUTES

PO Box 1673, Hollywood Hills, CA 90078

DRAFT MINUTES MAY 2, 2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

The Board of Directors of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations met on May 2, 2007 at the Mulholland Tennis Club located at 2555 Crestview Drive at Skyline Drive following a buffet dinner provided for the Directors and Guests.

President Joan Luchs called the meeting to order at approximately 8:09 PM.

Guests were introduced: Charlie Mims, Lynette Robe, Jerry Daniel, Liz Tigar, Laura Lake, Marianne Dodge, Frank Buchanan, David and Evelyn Garfinkle, Irma Dobbyn, Madelyn O'Connor and Michael George.

Minutes of the April 4th meeting were corrected and approved. 1st Charlie Mims, 2nd, Niles Chapman.

Jerry Daniel inducted the new Board using the Federation Mission Statement as the oath.

Following the induction, Jerry Daniel reported on the decision of the SMMC regarding 6 lots at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Mulholland Drive to approve \$200,000.00 toward the purchase of said lots. This approval keeps open the option to buy the property while additional money is raised. The committee received over 90 letters in support of purchasing the land in order to protect it from developers. Discussion centered around various methods of raising money. The group thanked the Conservancy for stepping up to the plate on this issue. Cassandra Barrère added comments regarding the steps that LCA was taking to further a successful outcome for this venture.

Mel Remba addressed the Board Members asking for feedback regarding the new meeting venue, time and

buffet costs. If enough members take advantage of the Mulholland Tennis Club buffet, the \$150.00 fee will be waived. A straw poll indicated that 12 out of 25 members felt this was a good option.

PRESIDENT' REPORT:

President Luchs welcomed the members and guests promising to widen our scope of outreach to all Federation HOA's including the Neighborhood Council's who have hillside communities within their geographical boundaries.

GUESTS:

1) Rick Sireeni, LCA Board member & Webmaster reported on the work he had done helping upgrade the Federation Website. He spoke on the importance of an active Website in the 21st Century and the benefits to the community it serves. The website knits our organizations together creating a digital backbone and a virtual community not just with information but with history and updated news. Rick shared the importance of the internet in the conditional win at Crescent Drive. The community was galvanized and able to reach out to other organizations. Success came due to active community involvement and a strong position against the variance requests by the Fifth Council Councilman Planning Deputy, the Associate Zoning Administrator Dan Green and the Parcel Map's Supervisor, Lynn Harper.

Following the Website report, the President took a straw poll which indicated that 18 out of 35 members favored receiving the Hillside Federation Newsletter via email versus the post office.

2) Laura Lake, Westside community activist, reported on the changes that can happen when we band together. Thirty organizations came together to support the mission to save the original Veterans land for Vets. Laura asked for everyone's support in this endeavor. While the opposition avoided a court battle today, parkland is still the issue for the 28 acre parcel which is the largest open space on the West Side.





PO Box 1673, Hollywood Hills, CA 90078

3) Laura Guttierez from Glassell Park gave a presentation regarding development of 8 houses without a full EIR (which the City should have done) and outside the Specific Plan requirements. She asked for Federation support in their fight and President Luchs promised to attend future City hearings in support of Glassell Park for the recent additional application of 14 more Single Family Dwellings.

4) Tony Morris gave a presentation regarding the option being offered to buy a Supertanker to fight big fires. He supports getting a seasonal contract for these planes and encourages all members to contact the state representatives for funding of these planes which can fight the head of the fire versus the edges.

REPORTS:

Vice President Mel Remba reported on the status of the DOT request for funds to widen Laurel Canyon Blvd at Mulholland. He also reported on the Citizen's Oversight Committee's action to donate \$200,000 of Benefit Assessment funds toward the purchase of 27 acres of Runyon Canyon.

Cassandra Barrere reported on Councilman Jack Weiss and Wendy Gruel's motion to allow NC's the ability to appeal entitlements and directed the City Attorney's office to report back on the feasibility of amending the LA municipal Code in this regard.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Niles Chapman reported that the files had only just been transferred and he was auditing the files in order to give a more precise report to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Marian Dodge, President, Los Feliz Improvement Association, reported on Wolfgang Puck's application for a 'special event' hard liquor license at his Griffith Park Observatory restaurant. Problems: The mandate for Griffith Park Observatory does not permit commercial uses whatsoever and the City is ignoring what is permitted per the zoning for the area and refuses to enforce its own rules no limitation to the number of 'special events', wants to serve up to 1800 people from 11AM to 1AM, Park Commission restrictions are not being followed, and there is a May 30 deadline for opinions. Charlie Mims suggested guidelines to limit events but reminded all that the General Manager can always call for an exemption. Joan will attend the upcoming Rec & Park Commission hearing regarding the proposed draft guidelines for the Griffith Observatory and will speak to LFIA individually, monitor the issue and report back to the Board.

Motion to Adjourn 1st Charlie Mims, 2nd Mel Remba.Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM Respectfully submitted, Cassandra Barrère, Recording Secretary



NEWS PAGE 7

PO Box 1673, Hollywood Hills, CA 90078

FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT:

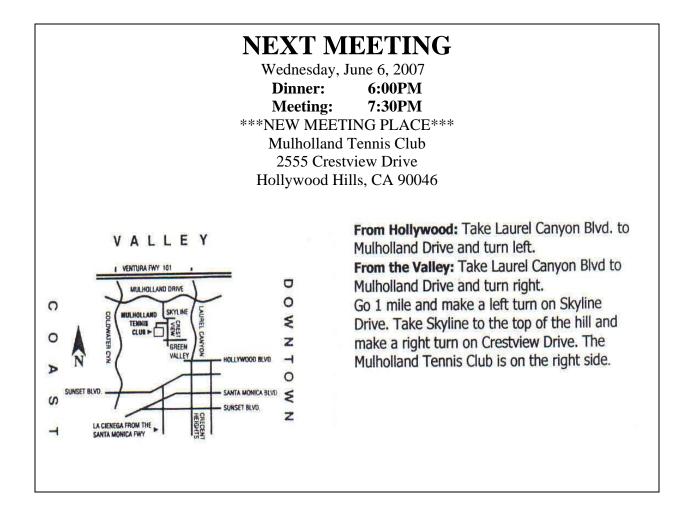
President	Joan Luchs
Vice-President	Mel Remba
Vice – President	Conrad Schoeffter
Treasurer	Niles Chapman
Recording Secretary	Cassandra Barrère

FEDERATION DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Franklin Hills Residents	Charlie Mims
Bel Air Skycrest	Skip Nevel
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnel
Los Feliz Improvement	Marian Dodge &Donna Kolb
Res. of Beverly Glen	Dan Palmer & Tensie Palmer
Glassell Park Improvement Assoc	Helene Scpak
Glassell Park Improvement Assoc	Laura Gutierrez
BriarCliff Improvement	Phil Feldman

GUESTS:

& Elaine Sireeni
Daniel
a Iverson
ael George
& Evelyn Garfinkle
gar & Irma Dobbyn
Lake
Schermerhorn
Smith
Buchanon
te Berg Robe
hapman





PO Box 1673 Hollywood Hills, CA 90078