

Hillside Federation Newsletter November, 2013



www.hillsidefederation.org

Honoring Zev



The Hillside Federation will be honoring LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky for his decades of support for Federation's mission at our Holiday Party on December 12. Join us!

The following is an excerpt from *CityWatch* October 18, 2013 by Rosemary Jenkins.

I remember back in the day (the year I got married, as a matter of fact) when a young man, a political novice, driving a broken-down car and knocking ceaselessly door-by-door, was running for LA City Council. His opponent was expected to be a shoe-in: endorsed by both California U. S. Senators, various Congressmembers, and then-Mayor Bradley (for whom he had been an aide). But Zev's shoe-leather, no-frills campaign was backed by both sides of the aisle at the local level—the one that counted. He was unequivocal in his far-left policy points, unafraid to call himself a “flaming liberal.”

Agenda

November 6, 2013

7:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
 - II. Approval of Oct. 2, 2013 minutes
 - III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - IV. New Business
 - A. Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal - Diane Valencia
 - B. Hollywood Sign Buses - Lucy Gonzalez
 - V. Old Business
 - A. Harvard-Westlake expansion update - Sarah Boyd, Jennifer Rothman
 - B. Millennium Hollywood update - George Abrahams
 - C. 1400 Linda Flora update - Steve Twining
 - VI. Adjournment
- Next meeting - Holiday Party
Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604
CA 101 between Coldwater Canyon exit
and Laurel Canyon exit

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.*

He won and went on to be re-elected 5 more times. He later ran for L.A County Supervisor and was re-elected 4 times. *And what an amazing record he has amassed ever since!*

I was awestruck by his unwavering support (of what should not have been a controversial issue) of **improvements at El Cariso County Park located in Sylmar** (a pet project of his). About a year ago, I received a rather frantic phone call saying that the County was about to cut down more than a hundred olive trees at the park, many of which were close to a century old. Sylmar has quite a cultural and natural history including the broad landscape of trees for which it is named (sea of trees)—a fabulous panorama, a location where generations of families have played and picnicked and held birthday parties and soccer games.

I immediately called my friend, then-Congressmember Howard Berman (what a shame he lost to a Democratic competitor in nothing less than a nasty race). He, in turn, called his long-time friend, Zev Yaroslavsky who was able to put a halt to this planned plundering of nature until a town hall meeting could be held to discuss the matter.

Under the auspices of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council and co-chaired by Maria Chong-Castillo, a senior staff member to the Supervisor, a well-attended meeting took place. One significant outcome of the meeting was the creation of a committee (of which I was a part) which would meet with Maria and a variety of County officials on a bi-monthly basis until a recommendation could be made.

The meetings were so contentious (not because of its members but from threatening input

from some residents of the community) that officers from the Sheriff's Department had to be called to protect the committee participants. These residents considered the park theirs (even though it is a County park, open to everyone). They wanted to keep outsiders out (a buzz word for minorities). They did not want to compromise on any policy points.

Despite these confrontations, the committee worked diligently and from it emerged a wonderful plan that did accommodate the apprehensions and trepidations of all concerned. However, it was not until Zev, himself, came down and lauded the efforts of the committee that a resolution was reached. He stated in no uncertain terms that this park had great meaning for him and that out of our plans would come park modifications that would create one of the most modern parks in our system—addressing noise abatement, green technologies, ADA compliance, expansion and modernization of facilities, new soccer and football fields (some with state-of-the-art artificial turf and others with natural grass), timer-lit basketball and tennis courts, upgraded swimming pool, an on-site sheriff's substation—a seemingly infinite list of enhancements.

Zev put an end to the hostilities, quelled the disgraceful behavior, and put his stamp-of-approval on what has become a much better facility for individuals and families to congregate. I was also very impressed recently as I was working at a campaign headquarters when an obviously unhealthy woman walked in, asking for help. We heard her story; it was heart-rending. We made some calls. I called Mr. Yaroslavsky's office and was able to obtain immediate assistance for this poor woman. She could not

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	ORGANIZATIONS: 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 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. 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 Whitley Heights Civic Assn. CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining Polly Ward CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore
PRESIDENT Marian Dodge CHAIRMAN Charley Mims VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARIES Carol Sidlow Donna Messinger TREASURER Don Andres			

afford medicine or any other care and had been given somewhat of a run-around. Zev's office took the lead and within a day or two, the woman was getting the medication and follow-up care she needed.

Of course, now we have the roll-out of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Zev is an indefatigable supporter. Moreover, since the beginning of his career, he has been a **healthcare advocate**. Back in 2002, he was a sponsor of *Measure B* which passed overwhelmingly by popular vote and, as a result, kept two public hospitals open and was able to maintain emergency and trauma-care services, services, in fact, that helped care for the woman referenced above.

He has long been an **environmentalist**, both as a City Councilmember and Supervisor. He was successful in backing a local measure that blocked oil drilling along our coast. He was instrumental in preserving open space for and restricting development of the **Santa Monica Mountains**. These measures were controversial at the time, but Zev (and then-Cong. Howard Berman) and other colleagues made a commitment to this effort and saw it through.

He advocated for light-rail and busways for more efficient and less-costly **transportation** and supported the Orange Line which crossed the San Fernando Valley. He seems always to be ahead of his time in his advocacies and, consequently, is always willing to buck the tides against him and prevail with what are now very popular policy positions

The Supervisor has backed **anti-tobacco initiatives**. Today we see companies like Starbucks (always in the forefront for social and economic justice) which declared that there would not only be no smoking inside its premises but in their outdoor cafes and within 25 feet of their stores, thus affecting their immediate neighbors. It is people like Zev Yaroslavsky (and Howard Schultz) who are true leaders in altruistic policy-making.

He was behind passage of a **local freedom-of-information act**, the ramifications of which affect all of us.

He launched programs that helped house the most at-risk homeless, a program broadened by help from the Federal government to assist our veterans as well. The County now has an **Interdepartmental Council on Homelessness**.

Zev is a **patron of the arts**. Ergo, part of the project at El Cariso County Park has a monetary

set-aside dedicated to including artistic displays designed by members of our own greater community. It is said that a community flourishes when the arts are encouraged in all their ramifications: paintings, sculptures, walkways, landscaping, and so forth. On the other hand, communities and nations decline when the arts are not an integral part of society. Knowledge of and exposure to art and culture and history are necessary components to enriching our lives and passing down a worthy legacy to future generations.

Zev Yaroslavsky is to be commended, praised, lauded, applauded for all that he has done for the County and City of Los Angeles. We shall miss him when his supervisorial term runs out. He has a large footprint to fill; hopefully, the next supervisor for District 3 will be at least as good and will continue on the path that Zev has walked with such dignity and honesty and commitment for a generation.

Good luck to you, Supervisor Yaroslavsky. May the rest of your life be as fruitful as the first part has been.

(Rosemary Jenkins is a Democratic activist and chair of the Northeast Valley Green Coalition. She also writes for CityWatch.)

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website www.hillsidefederation.org) with documentation and send it to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations

2013 Holiday Party



*Mulholland Tennis Club
2555 Crest View Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90046*

*Thursday, December 12th, 2013
6:30 – 9:30 pm
\$45/person*

*Come join us for
Fun and Friendship*

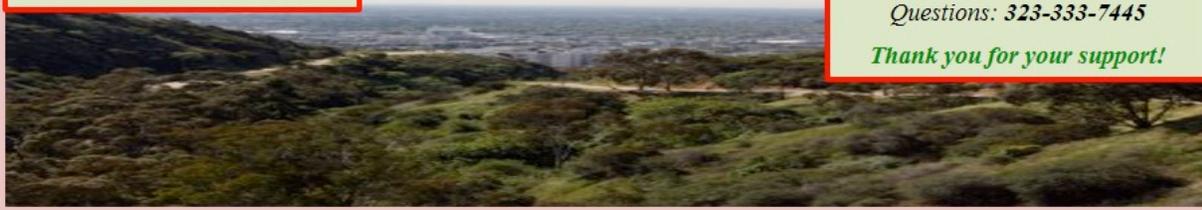
*Gourmet & Vegetarian Buffet
Parking Included
Wine & Music Provided
No Host Bar*

Entire Club is Reserved for Us!

*Honored Guests
Congressman Adam Schiff
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky*

*RSVP by December 1st
andres2007@sbcglobal.net*

*Make check payable to:
Hillside Federation
Mail to: Hillside Federation
7470 Franklin Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90046
Questions: 323-333-7445
Thank you for your support!*



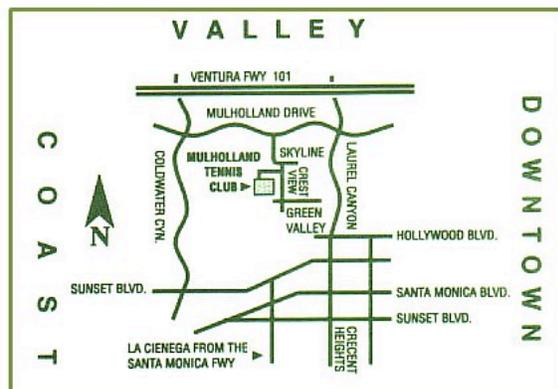
Mulholland Tennis Club

2555 Crest View Drive, LA, CA 90046

located in between Coldwater Canyon and Laurel Canyon Boulevards, above Mulholland Drive.

Please join us at our Holiday Party and invite members of your organization as well. The Federation has exclusive use of the Mulholland Tennis Club this evening thanks to our sponsor Mel Remba.

This is a great opportunity to meet casually with your friends and meet new friends. This is also time to show our appreciation to our long-time friend of the hillsides, Zev Yaroslavsky and our new friend Congressman Adam Schiff.



From the City: Take Laurel Canyon to Mulholland Drive and turn left.

From the Valley: Take Laurel Canyon to Mulholland Drive and turn right.

Go 1 mile and make a left turn on Skyline Drive. Take Skyline to the top of the hill and make a right turn on Crestview Drive. The Mulholland Tennis Club is on the right side.

A loss as big as all outdoors

from Zev Yaroslavsky's newsletter Oct. 17, 2013



Dave Brown devoted decades to preserving the Santa Monica Mountains. Photo/Hal Bergman via Flickr

Some people spend their lives trying to move mountains. Dave Brown was more ambitious: He devoted his life to ensuring that the mountains remain unchanged.

Brown, an historian, environmental activist and college professor who died Saturday (Oct. 12) at the age of 79 at his home in Calabasas, was remembered this week as a life-long civic voice for the coastal trails, streams, hills and canyons in the wilderness area where he lived since 1966.

“His soul was devoted to the Central Santa Monica Mountains and the part of the Simi Hills that touches the Santa Monica Mountains,” said Paul Edelman, deputy director of natural resources and planning at the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, where Brown had served as a member of the advisory board since the mid-1980s.

“He was just this guardian and watchdog who would go to incredible lengths to make sure they were protected, and who cared about every major piece.”

Brown, who was born in Illinois and moved to California as a graduate student in the late 1950s, taught history and political science for more than 40 years at Los Angeles Valley College in Van Nuys, but was also known locally for his passionate efforts, starting in the 1970s and early 1980s, to halt development in the pristine mountains.

Working determinedly within the local environmental movement, Brown contributed to the preservation of tens of thousands of acres. He

was one of a number of local influencers who helped stop the development of King Gillette Ranch, which had been slated to become part of a Soka University expansion; now the ranch hosts the Visitor’s Center of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. His advocacy also helped save or create such important wilderness landmarks as Malibu Creek State Park, the Zev Yaroslavsky Las Virgenes Highlands Park and the Backbone Trail.

Over time, he became sought after as an informed and pragmatic voice on local land use issues, and he served on the city of Calabasas’ Planning Commission for several decades, winning national recognition for his civic contributions. He also devoted countless hours to the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Malibu Creek State Park Docents and other environmental organizations.

“He was an incredible, encyclopedic resource,” said Kim Lamorie, who knew him as a 35-year member of the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, of which Lamorie is president. “He knew all the properties, he knew all the trees, he knew every ridgeline. And he was a master mapper. He had more maps than anyone I’ve ever known.”

Web Site

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, www.hillsidefederation.org.

One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association’s web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.

You may also visit the web site for letters on positions taken by the Federation and past newsletters and minutes.

“He was a big man with a big hat and a big voice, and he spoke with a lot of authority,” said John Suwara, a friend and neighbor of nearly four decades. “Dave was a realist, but he fought tooth and nail, right up to the end. “Even as recently as March, he was going to Planning Commission meetings and reviewing documents. That was maybe the biggest thing about him—he did it day after day, year after year, decade after decade. He wasn’t one of these people who are there one day and gone the next.”

In fact, Edelman said, because of Brown’s longevity and commitment, there are now spots in the Santa Monica Mountains in which every visible piece of the wilderness, all the way to the horizon, is arguably there, at least in part, because of him. “There’s one overlook on Piuma Road,” he said, “where everything you see is something he had an absolute hand in, from the valley bottom to the ridge lines.”

And then there is the matter of how the mountains shaped Brown’s life and outlook.

Last year, after the majestic, 200-acre Firehouse Hill—now the Zev Yaroslavsky Las Virgenes Highlands Park—was saved from development in Calabasas, Brown, by then in frail health, stood among its oaks and considered what the place meant to him. “I sometimes sort of tell myself that if the Lord should see fit to send me upstairs instead of downstairs,” he said, “I would expect that I would walk up to heaven through a place like this.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hu9dAcX-vYE>

Save these dates for Hillside Federation meetings

December 12 -
Holiday Party
January 8, 2014
February 5
March 5
April 2

LADOT’s new website

It's part of the Mayor's plan to make city services easier and more efficient.

You can request services online at <http://myladot.lacity.org/sr/>
Click on the orange button "I want to" and select from several choices like "report pot hole" and "report street light out."



Summary of Comments on Preliminary Study Findings and Alternatives Concepts Available

[The Hillside Federation supported an expansion of the Resources Study to consider an alternative that fully combines the geographic areas covered by Alternative C, “Connecting Urban Communities”, and Alternative D, “Connecting Natural Habitats.” Alternative C would create greater recreational opportunities in urban areas while Alternative D would create more wildlife connectivity throughout the valley.]

The National Park Service would like to thank everyone who submitted comments and participated in our public forums regarding the Preliminary Findings and Alternative Concepts presented in [Newsletter #3](#). We received over 5,000 comments on the newsletter, and we are now pleased to provide a [summary of those comments](#) on the [study website](#).

www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley

pw_rimofthevalley@nps.gov>

Next Steps and Schedule

We are currently in the process of refining the alternatives, and preparing the draft study report. The draft study report will include more analysis of the area's resources, further discussion of the alternatives, and an environmental analysis of the potential effects associated with the alternatives. We hope to make the draft study report available for public review in spring 2014. The public comments received on the draft study report will be considered in the preparation of the final study report which will be transmitted to Congress with the NPS Director's recommendation for the most efficient and effective alternative.

Thank you again for your interest in the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study!

Anne Dove, Project Manager
Margie Steigerwald, Planner

Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
October 2, 2013

I. Call to Order

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

Guest Speakers:

Eric Menjivar, Field Representative for Assemblymember Gatto (43rd District), reported on legislation proposed by the Assemblymember this term and the status of each of his bills. He also asked that anyone who has ideas about the need for new state legislation should contact the office directly. Constituent suggestions have inspired new legislation in the past. Eric took questions from the audience. Members asked him to report back to Assemblymember Gatto that the Hillside Federation and its member groups strongly opposed legislative efforts to weaken CEQA and explained that CEQA protections against adverse aesthetic, parking and traffic impacts are essential to community efforts to protect the environment and quality of life in hillside areas. Eric said he would convey that message to Assemblymember Gatto and said that he would check-in regularly to keep the Federation informed about matters of interest.

Daniel Tamm, Office of the Mayor, was delayed and reported during Old Business.

Daniel spoke about his background and role as the mayor's Westside representative. He then described some of the mayor's priorities. He said that the Mayor is focused on a "back to basics" agenda, emphasizing City services such as tree trimming, street paving and other basic services. He emphasized that economic recovery is the Mayor's No. 1 issue. Wendy-Sue Rosen commented that the Federation is concerned that the City has often failed to adhere to its own codes, which are designed to balance development and community interests. The community relies on the code to achieve the necessary balance and, as others expressed, focus on economic interests should not be at the expense of our quality of life; these need not be mutually exclusive.

Carol Sidlow spoke about the Code Compliance Unit within the Department of City Planning as a positive step towards addressing

stakeholders' concerns and the enforcement of conditions.

Jamie Hall asked what lessons the City and the Mayor have learned from the Millennium Hollywood project.

II. Approval of Minutes – The September minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

Marian reported that the Planning and Conservation League has established a group, "CEQA Works," which is a coalition of Californians from all walks of life working together to prevent the California legislature from weakening our state's landmark environmental protection laws. See www.ceqaworks.org. The Board voted to join the CEQA Works coalition by reaffirming its previously adopted policy to oppose legislative efforts to weaken CEQA.

Marian also announced that the Planning Department was establishing a Zoning Advisory Committee to provide feedback on the Department's 5-year plan to update and rewrite the City's Zoning Code and that she had sent a letter to the Department recommending that Wendy-Sue Rosen and Carol Sidlow be appointed to represent the Federation on the Committee.

Marian asked Federation representatives to take advantage of the opportunity to place messages, articles or information in the Federation's Newsletter, which is a great way to get information out to the member organizations. Articles or announcements of activities should be submitted at least 10 days before the next Federation meeting.

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.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Don Andres

Don gave a report on the Federation’s finances. He also reported that Upper Riviera HOA will be joining the Federation.

The Federation’s annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2013, at the Mulholland Tennis Club. This year, for the first time, the club will be closed to its members on the night of the party, which will allow the Federation to use the main dining room and make parking much easier than in the past. This year the Federation will be honoring County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky for his historic success in preserving open space in the Santa Monica Mountains and Congressman Adam Schiff for his efforts to protect the natural hillside environment.

IV. New Business

A. 8150 Sunset project report - Carol Sidlow, Steven Poster

This is an approximately 333,000-square-foot development on the corner of Crescent Heights and Sunset Blvd in Los Angeles, abutting the City of West Hollywood. There was a full discussion about the project’s potentially significant adverse impacts on the neighboring hillside communities, including impacts from the proposed rooftop dining and the proposed heliport, as well as traffic, parking and density impacts. The Initial Study on the project’s potential environmental impacts has been released; questions and comments are due by October 15.

MOTION: Don Andres moved that a letter be submitted asking questions about the project and its potential impacts so that the information will be included in the draft EIR. The motion passed.

B. Hollywood Sign Buses - Lucy Gonzalez

The project was removed for later consideration.

**Mulholland Scenic Parkway
Design Review Board**
Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month,
6:30 pm
Marvin Braude Constituents Service
Center 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys
1st floor conference room

V. Old Business

A. Millennium Hollywood update - George Abrahams

George gave an update on the project, his community’s ethics complaint, and the status of the seismic risks investigation. He requested that the Federation make a monetary contribution to his community’s lawsuit. There was a discussion on the issue of whether the Federation should be funding litigation, during which it was explained that, historically, the Federation has not made monetary contributions in support of litigation, except in the rare instances where the Federation was a party to the litigation. Concern was expressed that, if the Federation contributed to this community’s litigation, on what basis would it not be obligated to contribute to litigation brought by other member organizations. This type of focus on funding litigation would detract from the Federation’s mission and compromise its effectiveness as its Board officers and members would have to dedicated significant time to assessing the merits of various requests for contributions and litigation. A consensus was reached that the Federation would not generally contribute to litigation in which it was not a party.

B. Curtis School update- Mark Stratton

Curtis School has proposed to double its square footage, excessively grade a prominent ridge, build over-in-height buildings visible from the Scenic Corridor, reduce its open space and carve a secondary access roadway into the hillside through Caltrans property – all through an abbreviated Plan Approval process which would then allow Curtis School to evade the requirements of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, Specific Plan review, and other approvals that would be required for a project of this magnitude. In opposition to this improper process and flawed environmental review, three legal letters were submitted to the record by attorney John Given on behalf of Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Association and Brentwood Residents Coalition and two legal letters and hundreds of pages of documentation were submitted to the record by attorney Tom Freeman on behalf of the Hillside Federation. The night before the hearing the community was notified that the hearing would be continued. Twelve community representatives appeared at the hearing including Paul Edelman from the SMMC and Tom Freeman, the Hillside Federation's attorney just in case the matter was not continued. Marian's written testimony was submitted for the record. Curtis School, however,

was granted its *fourth* continuance on this project. The City Planner advised us that they would take this time to look at our papers and try to address our concerns. The case was continued to December 19, 2013. We have set up a meeting with Councilmember Koretz to discuss our concerns. Carol Sidlow mentioned that, despite longtime Federation requests, there was still no Master Plan for the Mulholland Institutional Corridor.

C. Laurel Canyon Slope Remediation – Carol Sidlow

Carol gave an up-date on the slope remediation project on the 1800 block of Laurel Canyon Blvd. A haul route hearing took place on October 1, which was attended by Federation members Carol, Steven Poster, Jamie Hall and Tony Tucci. The Board of Building and Safety Commissioners voted to approve the haul route for the removal of 50,000 cubic yards of earth from the slope above Laurel Canyon Blvd. The project could begin soon. The community expects significant traffic delays during this project.

D. 360 Stone Canyon – Steve Twining

There was a Zoning Administrator's hearing conducted on September 25 on the second property at this address, where a variance for an over-in-height residence is being requested. Steve will keep the Board posted when more information is available.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Carol Sidlow,
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Mindy Mann
Brentwood Hills HA	John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Don Keller
	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Allian.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Tony Tucci
	Jamie Hall
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Oaks Homeowners	Caroline Schweitz
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
	Shirley Cohen
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	Upper Mandeville

Guests Present:

AD 43 rep	Eric Menjivar
Office of the Mayor	Daniel Tamm
Upper Riviera HA	Stacia Thompson