

Hillside Federation
Minutes
April 6, 2011

I. Call to Order: President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:15. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker - Administrative Citation Enforcement - Tina Hess

Supervising Assistant City Attorney Tina Hess made a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) plan. The purpose of ACE is to provide fair, effective, and timely enforcement of the LA Municipal Code. Their budget has been reduced by 30%. Currently code violations must be prosecuted in the court system, which is a time consuming laborious process and a low priority for the courts. Any fine collected in the courts goes to the state, not to the city. In 2009, the City Attorney reviewed 17,000 violations.

ACE is an alternative method of code compliance. Any enforcement agency may issue an administrative citation. Zoning violations will be given time to comply before a fine is imposed. The person may pay the fine or contest the citation. If you contest the citation, you pay a deposit; if proven innocent, you get your money back. Typical violations are: 1st - \$250, 2nd - \$500, 3rd and subsequent violations, \$1000.00. After the 3rd violation the matter will be referred to the criminal court. All fines will stay in the city and go into the General Fund. Hearings would be conducted by volunteer retired judges.

They have requested a pilot program for Animal Services. The Dept. of Building & Safety has been decimated; they have gone from 200 inspectors to 80. This is really a problem of safety. Tina is seeking the Federation's support for ACE. Councilmember Koretz is the sponsor of the motion. This type of enforcement is in use in San Diego, Sacramento and Oakland.

Members discussed ACE. Some councilmembers think it will cause social injustice; the poor will be unable to pay the fines. Dr. Niles Chapman moved that the Federation support the ACE program. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes: The March 2, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian and Nickie Miner went to the Mayor's signing of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance this afternoon in the Mayor's office.

Dawneen Lorance, Hollywood Heights Assn. rep, has accepted a new position in another area. She sent a thank you note and best wishes to the Federation.

Jackie C. is looking for a photo of 1963 Vice President Martin Lancer. It was suggested that Marian ask Shirley Cohen, Gordon Murley, and Jerry Daniel if they knew him.

B. Treasurer's Report

Dan Palmer reported the amounts in the checking accounts and CDs.

C. Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Chair Don Andres discussed the need for the Federation to grow and become more vigorous. The last year was successful with the passage of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. The committee proposed the following slate of officers:

President	Marian Dodge
Chairman	Charley Mims
1st Vice President	Mark Stratton
2nd Vice President	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Recording Secretary	Donna Messinger
Treasurer	Don Andres
Executive Secretary	Donna Messinger

Yvonne Hessler moved that the slate be accepted as Don announced. The slate was accepted by acclamation.

Retiring Chairman Joan Luchs thanked everyone she has worked with over last 20 years. She said this would be her last Hillside Federation meeting.

Charley Mims thanked retiring officers Dan Palmer and Cassandra Barrère for their service and advice and Joan Luchs for her help over the last 10 years.

IV. Old Business:

A. Save Benedict Canyon - Nickie Miner

Nickey described the gigantic 85,000-square-foot compound proposed on 5.2 acres on Tower Lane. Neighbors got wind of the project, hired attorney Manatt Phelps and started www.savebenedictcanyon.com. A previous owner built a 12-foot high, 200-foot long “giraffe wall.” Every time a meeting was held with owners reps the neighbors got a completely different presentation. If the permits have expired, this property might have to conform to the new Baseline Hillside Ordinance.

Joan Luchs suggested that they really needed an EIR, but what is basis to deny the development? Nickie said there were misrepresentations. Wendy-Sue suggested the lawyers put together a list of talking points for people to address at the meeting. Joan recommended attorney Doug Carstens and resident Bob Cohen as a strong person to help them. Charley Mims recommended getting a letter from Councilmember Koretz or asking that he have a staff member to support them at the meeting.

Nickie moved that: The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations requests that the LA City Planning Dept., Dept. of Building and Safety and any and all other LA City entities involved, repeal in entirety the lot line adjustment granted to 9933-9941 Tower Grove Place (Tower Lane). The Hillside Federation further requests a full CEQA review be required of that property. As well, we request an investigation of grading and building permits pertaining to the property and the validity and adherence to City codes of structures presently on property.

After a discussion regarding the adequacy of the information about the issue, Charley Mims made a substitute motion: The Hillside Federation supports Benedict Canyon Association’s request that the LA City Planning Dept., Dept. of Building and Safety and any and all other LA City entities involved, repeal in entirety the lot line adjustment granted to 9933-9941 Tower Grove Place (Tower Lane). The Hillside Federation further requests a full CEQA review be required for this project. As well, we request an investigation of all prior and proposed grading and building permits pertaining to the property and the validity and adherence to City codes of structures presently on property. The substitute motion passed and passed as the main motion 11

B. Save Franklin Canyon Update - Ellen Scott

Save Franklin Canyon is working with land use attorney Steven Jones. They are having a fundraising event this Saturday in the meadow. See www.savefranklincanyon.com for information about the event. Ellen thanked Patricia Bell Hearst, Wendy-Sue Rosen, and Marian for their help.

C. Nominating Committee - Don Andres

The Nominating Committee recommended that the Federation have a Parliamentarian. They asked Barbara Dohrmann who volunteered. Applause.

V. New Business

A. Bel Air Bar and Grill - Michael and Terry Ravin

The Bel Air Bar and Grill at Sepulveda Blvd. and Maraga has a remodel proposed. Patricia Bell Hearst reviewed their documents and suggested they come to the Federation for support. The construction of a 3-story office building will include 2050 square feet of additional space. The project required a public hearing because of the additional space, alcohol permit and over-height building 5 feet over the limit. The Bel Air Association approved the project on July 7. It was also approved by the Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council on August 10. They attended a hearing on Nov. 17, 2010 where the City Planning Department split the case. The Zoning Administrator attached 31 conditions to the project. The City Planner disapproved the applicant's request for a "Q" condition for an over-height building. The matter goes before PLUM on April 12. The Ravins have met with Councilman Koretz who is undecided. They do not want to establish a precedent for higher buildings.

Wendy-Sue Rosen asked why the Bel Air Association approved the project and asked if a rep from BAA could come to explain their support. Patricia Bell Hearst said the BABCNC President Robert Ringler should explain why they supported the project.

Charley Mims moved that: The Federation supports the decision of the City Planner in disapproving the requested clarification of the "Q" condition for 662 N. Sepuveda Blvd. and 647 Acanto Street. Granting such a "Q" condition could set a precedent for permitting over-height buildings in the area. The motion passed 11 - 2 with Wendy-Sue Rosen opposed to the process.

Marian thanked Mark Stratton and Lois Becker for the cookies and Patricia Bell Hearst for the cupcakes and brownies.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Recording Secretary,

Donna Messinger

Members Present:

Bel Air Skycrest POA

Mark Stratton

Barbara Dohrmann

Lois Becker

Benedict Canyon Assn.	Nickie Miner
Cahuenga Pas Neigh.	Joan Luchs
Franklin Ave/Hollywood Bl	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Resid. Assn.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights Assn.	Donna Messinger
Los Feliz Improvement	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
N. Beverly/Franklin Canyon	Robert Levy
Outposts Estates HOA	Ray Schuldenfrei
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Dan Palmer
	Tensie Palmer
Sherman Oaks HOA	Niles Chapman
Studio City Resid. Assn.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville Canyon	James Provenzano
	Wendy-Sue Rosen

Guests Present:

LA City Attorney Office	Tina Hess
CD 11	Joaquin Macias
Franklin Ave/Hollywood	Candice Harding
Save Franklin Canyon	Audrey Gallant
	Ellen Scott
	Rob Warner
	Steve Song
	Steve Weinberg
Maraga	Michael Ravin
	Terry Ravin
	Katherine Bard