

**Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
September 5, 2012**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:20. President Marian Dodge was in attendance but suffering from laryngitis. Members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

No corrections were made to the July 11th minutes. The minutes were approved.

III. Guest Speakers**Paul Edelman, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)**

Paul Edelman spoke regarding measures HH and MM on the November 6th ballot. The special assessments created by these two measures will allow the MRCA to continue acquiring land and providing essential services in the Santa Monica Mountains, including trash pickup; maintenance of overlooks, trails, watersheds; ongoing land acquisition, water quality and wildlife protection services; and fire prevention services, ranger services and patrol.

Measure HH proposes a \$24 per year assessment on parcels from the 405 east to Griffith Park, and funds will be earmarked for services in that area of the Santa Monica Mountains. Total assessments for this district will come to about \$685,000 a year.

Measure MM proposes a \$19 per year assessment on parcels west of the 405, from Mulholland Drive north to the Valley floor, and funds will be earmarked for hillside services in Encino, Tarzana, and Woodland Hills. Total assessments for this district will come to about \$315,000 a year.

All assessment money will be locally raised and locally spent. Only developed parcels will be assessed. If a house straddles two parcels, only one will be assessed. Only those subject to the particular assessment will vote on it. These special assessments will last a maximum of ten years and will be subject to independent citizen oversight.

For more information go to www.yesonhh.org or www.yesonmm.org

MOTION: Carol Sidlow moved to support the two assessments; seconded by Bob Locker. The motion passed.

Jackie Hunsicker, “No Litter Zone”

Longtime resident Jackie Hunsicker has made cleaning up the litter in the Coldwater Canyon/Mulholland Drive area her personal cause. At first she did all the work herself, then she hired a helper. After years of self-funding, she is asking for support and donations from HOAs and individuals alike and for ideas on how to raise money and expand her “No Litter Zone” organization (website: nolitterzone.com) to other communities. Carol Sidlow recommended that everyone support Jackie and her efforts and commended her for having made “a visible and dramatic difference.”

III. Officers’ Reports**A. President’s Report – Marian Dodge**

Marian sent a get well card on behalf of the Federation to CD-11 Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

The Federation's annual holiday party has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 5th at the Mulholland Tennis Club.

The Federation will host a Mayoral Candidates Forum at its October meeting.

A judge temporarily halted the sale of UCLA's Hannah Carter Japanese Garden, but it is still in danger. The LA Conservancy is asking that people continue to support it.

Assemblyman Blumenfeld has introduced a new measure that will define mobile billboards on the backs of trailers.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

Don reported on the account balances. All bills are paid. Membership is currently at 40, all paid, which is the best it has been in six years.

Don announced that he is looking for volunteers to work on the holiday party.

Don also reported on a July 23rd Executive Committee meeting discussion of how to evaluate requests for financial support. The Executive Committee is in the process of drafting a policy based on past history. Looking back over 12 years of records, Don found only a very few donations (Tree People, the Southwest Museum) and one major lawsuit, in which the Federation was a co-litigant. Special provisions were made to acquire money for this lawsuit. There were no donations to individual member associations, and all the causes supported had Federation-wide and citywide ramifications: billboard blight, density ordinance, etc. Don is doing further research to determine whether additional rules may apply as the Federation is now a 501c3.

Charley moved to receive and file the treasurer's report. Wendy seconded. The motion passed.

C. Communications Tower Update – Vice President Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy reported on a last minute gut-and-amend passed by the legislature, exempting 286 communications towers in the City of L.A. from environmental review, including the 180-foot tower at San Vicente Peak on the Mulholland Corridor, in the middle of Conservancy land.

IV. New Business

A. Community Care Facilities Ordinance – Maria Fisk (Granada Hills)

Maria reported on an ordinance drafted by the City Attorney that would regulate group homes. There has been a proliferation of these homes, which are essentially unlicensed boarding houses, in residentially zoned neighborhoods, including hillside areas, over the past several years, and this ordinance would be a regulating tool. The motion, which was authored and is being promoted by Councilmember Englander, would regulate leases in single family residential areas and will not affect state licensed homes.

MOTION: Steve Twining moved that the Federation support the proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance as drafted. The motion carried with one abstention.

V. Old Business

A. 9169 W. Crescent Drive – Steven Poster

After more than a year of waiting, a determination has finally been issued on this 12,000 square foot home on a very substandard road. In spite of strong opposition, which included the Federation and the Conservancy, the determination allowed every deviation

from code that had been requested. According to those who attended the hearing, the Hearing Officer did not respond to community questions and concerns, and there was no Staff Report and little due diligence. An appeal has been filed with the West LA Planning Commission, objecting to and appealing every part of the determination. The Federation will write a letter supporting the appeal.

B. Stanley Hills Drive Lawsuit – Tony Tucci

___ Tony gave an update on the ongoing dispute and neighbors' lawsuit over a project on Stanley Hills Drive.

MOTION: Speaking on behalf of Cassandra Barrère, Tony moved that the Federation make a financial contribution of \$3,000 to help continue the fight to keep the Stanley Hills Wildlife Corridor intact. The motion died for lack of second.

The Conservancy and MRCA attest to the value of the wildlife corridor in question but have not contributed financially. The Federation has already written 5 letters.

C. NBC Universal – Marian Dodge

Marian reported on the new iteration of the massive NBC Universal Evolution project, from which the residential component has been removed in exchange for more hotel units, which will be an improvement in terms of impact.

Back when the Draft EIR came out, they said the project would comply with the Mulholland Specific Plan, but they then proposed removing two acres of land from the Mulholland Scenic Corridor (in order to allow electronic billboards). They also claimed that the project site was not a true wildlife corridor. (Mountain lion P22 apparently didn't read the EIR.) The Federation wrote a letter at that time. The amendment to the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan is still part of the Final EIR. The CPC hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 27th in Van Nuys.

D. Cell Towers Ordinance – Chris Spitz (Pacific Palisades)

In April, 2010 the Federation and 50 other organizations citywide came up with a motion which was submitted to the City Council asking for adoption of a comprehensive ordinance with clear and consistent procedures regulating cell towers. The City Council finally came out with the report last year. PLUM and Public Works adopted recommendations, and it is now going to full Council on September 11th.

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has written a letter with additional requests that would bring the ordinance in line with those of other cities. These include elimination of the utility pole provision, expanded area of notice, enhancement of aesthetic provisions, imposition of permit duration limits, expansion of right of appeal to all aggrieved persons; also a requirement for the applicant to map all existing and future facilities in area – a kind of cell towers master plan. Chris also spoke of the need for a temporary moratorium or interim ordinance while the ordinance is being drafted, although this is not part of the PPCC letter.

MOTION: Bob Locker moved to support the ordinance and adopt the additional conditions. The motion carried.

Chris Spitz was lauded by the Federation for the phenomenal work she has done on this ordinance

E. Grand View Drive – Tony Tucci

Zoning Administrator Maya Zaitzevsky denied everything in the Grand View Drive determination. A win for the neighborhood and for the Federation.

F. Tower Lane update – Nickie Miner

A Saudi prince is building a giant complex. Neighbors sued on a very narrow issue and lost. There is much more to go on this project. Nickie will keep us informed.

G. Linda Flora update – Steve Twining

The haul route hearing for the Linda Flora project was postponed and is now set for September 18th. The developer has recirculated an inadequate MND. The Federation already took a position to recommend postponement of the hearing.

MOTION: Steve Twining moved that the Federation oppose the MND for the Linda Flora project due to inadequate project description and other inaccuracies and failure to address the severe environmental issues. The motion passed.

H. Due Process lawsuit – Dan Wright, Silverstein Law Firm

There was a major victory with Judge Jones on the Hollywood Gower project. Judge Jones sent the project back on grounds of CEQA and due process violations. A recent *LA Weekly* article used this project to show the egregious way the City treats the public throughout the administrative process. In this case it was discovered that key information (new findings with a 56-page parking study) needed for decision-making was added at the last minute, had not been reviewed by the decision makers, and was not posted for the public until the day after the hearing. Judge Jones said this was a violation of due process. (The City purposely conflates Brown Act with your right as an appellant to Due Process of Law. Not the same thing.) A writ of mandate was issued that requires complete overturn and a new EIR.

If anyone has appeals coming, talk to Dan.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

George Abrahams gave a post-adjournment update on the Hollywood Community Plan lawsuit.

Acting Secretary Lois Becker

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Tom Freeman
	Don Keller
Canyon Back All.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Ave/Hlywd Bl	Don Andres
Franklin Hills	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland HOA	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon Civic	Kit Paull
Lake Hollywood	Tom Workman
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Jim Nelson
	Tony Tucci

Lookout Mountain	Carolyn Carradine Steven Poster Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington Alli.	Daniel Wright
Oak Forest Canyon	Arnold Newman
Pacific Palisades Res.	Robert Locker Chris Spitz
Res. Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks HOA	Niles Chapman, MD
Studio City Residents	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	James Provenzano

Guests:

MRCA	Paul Edelman Carolin Atchison
No Litter Zone	Jackie Hunsicker
Granada Hills resident	Maria Fisk Paul Shepherd