

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
November 7, 2012**

I. Call to Order

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

Guest Speakers:

A. Kim Lamorie – Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation

The Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation is similar to the Hillside Federation except that it is located in LA County in the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains. They have 25 member associations. They are active on the state level fighting for CEQA. Wendy-Sue Rosen visited one of their meetings. Las Virgenes is proposing joint committees on such mutual interests as: Wildlife Corridor Committee, Defend CEQA Committee, Streams Stewards Committee, and Oak Tree Committee. Carol Sidlow recommended adding a Ridgeline Ordinance Committee.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation form an alliance with the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation by supporting joint committees, sharing newsletters, and sharing information. The motion passed.

V. Old Business (taken out of order)

D. Billboard update - Dennis Hathaway, Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight (CBBB)

This is a watershed moment in the ongoing battle to rid our City from the blight of digital billboards. In 2006, the City Council entered into a backroom deal with two billboard companies, CBS and Clear Channel, authorizing them to install hundreds of digital billboards throughout the City. The City Council euphemistically referred to the digitalization of billboards as “modernization.” Another billboard company, Summit Media, sued the City, contending that the deal was illegal. In 2009, a Superior Court Judge agreed, calling the deal “poison.” That decision is now on appeal. City Councilmembers Krekorian and Reyes introduced a motion to the Council for the legalization of the digital billboards installed before the court’s decision. The Krekorian/Reyes motion, which bypassed PLUM and Finance Committees, would legalize the already-installed digital billboards. If this effort succeeds, other billboard companies will no doubt be permitted to install digital billboards as well. After receiving negative publicity and press inquiries, Reyes’s staff revealed that the motion was drafted by billboard lobbyists. The timing of this motion comes right before the Court of Appeal is scheduled to make its final determination in the Summit Case. The appellate court’s tentative decision was to affirm the lower court’s ruling against the digital billboards. But the Krekorian/Reyes motion would render the court’s decision moot. It is essential that community members contact their council offices and ask them to oppose this motion and abide by the court’s decision. For more information go to: [the Digital Billboard Preservation Act: A Brief History](http://theDigitalBillboardPreservationAct.org) at <http://banbillboardblight.org/?p=7446>.

Guest Speaker

B. Sheila Irani, CD 4 - Smokey Bear campaign

Hollywood United Neighborhood Council has funded six No Smoking Smokey Bear signs for heavy tourist traffic areas in the Dell and on Canyon Drive. The 6 ½ ft. X 30 in. signs from a licensed vendor cost \$12,009.53 for four signs.

Andrew Morales of CD 4 drives around the area on weekends asking people not to smoke. Organizations may contact Sheila for more information about the Smokey Bear signs. (sheila.irani@lacity.org)

Hollywoodland prefers to design their own large no smoking signs with the international symbol, but were told by HUNC they had to have Smokey Bear signs.

C. Ron Galperin – Quality and Productivity Commission

The Commission looks at what the city is doing right to see how the city can replicate those practices to better use its resources. The city owns two asphalt companies while our pot holes go unfilled. The city could be selling that asphalt to other districts to generate the revenue we need to repair roads. Construction costs are out of control. For example, one police station was 760% over budget. Only 16% of purchasing contracts are with businesses in LA; the city should be supporting local businesses instead of paying sales taxes to other jurisdictions. In December the Commission will be giving awards for efficiency. A seemingly mundane change in the oil change schedule for General Services vehicles saves the city \$300,000 a year. A reduction in the number of internal mail stops will save \$100,000 a year.

D. Ray Verches - SoCalGas Advanced Meters

SoCalGas is doing public outreach to HOAs and Neighborhood Councils on its Advanced Meter program to update 6 million meters to an electronic version in 12 counties from the Central Valley to Orange County. The California Public Utilities Commission has approved the project, and they have briefed individual council offices. They will add a small box to your existing meter. The battery powered device is only on for two minutes per year. They are working with the Bureau of Street Services to attach the 4,000 networking devices to existing street light poles wherever possible although they will not mount the device to historic street lights. The automatic system will replace 1,000 meter readers and truck, reducing labor costs and pollution from the trucks. They have worked with the unions to reduce the job loss. Most will be covered by retraining or attrition as the project will not be completed until 2017. They are working on an opt-out program.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes of October 3 were approved as corrected with the addition of Kim Lamorie.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Measures HH and MM to keep funding the MRCA both passed. HH passed by 76% and MM by 68%. Paul Edelman of the MRCA thanked the Federation for its support.

The Federation sent a letter to City Council opposing the October 16 motion regarding legalizing illegal billboards; however the motion passed.

The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is celebrating its 34th birthday with a tree planting on Sat. Nov. 10.

MOTION: Charley Mims proposed the nomination of Steve Twining for Chair Emeritus upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Charley listed some of the highlights of Steve's career which meet the five criteria to become Chair Emeritus: President of the Federation for 2 years, Chairman for 4, President of Bel Air/Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council for 3 years plus member of Land Use Committee, President of Roscomare Valley Association for 10 years, on the Western Region Alliance of Councils, and the West Los Angeles Community Police Advisory Board. The motion passed. Congratulations, Steve!

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Federation finances are about the same as last month.

The Executive Committee discussed the policy and process of giving financial support to an organization. The policy is in agreement with IRS rules for 501(c)(3)s. The federation does not routinely give money. The issue must be one of broad impact. The application must be submitted at least 7 days prior to the monthly meeting.

Congressman Adam Schiff is supporting the Rim of the Valley which would add more park area and services to a large circle around the city that includes the Santa Monica Mountains and Griffith Park. Informational public hearings are being held throughout the area in December.

Don was advised that the LA Dept. of Transportation may be changing the policy on preferential parking districts so watch for announcements.

Don urged everyone to attend the Holiday Party on December 5.

IV. New Business

A. 3200 Durand Drive - Crosby Doe

Hollywoodland has historic stone walls that have been designated as Historic-Cultural Monument #535. According to the Hollywoodland Specific Plan no fence can be built within 3 feet of the front lot line in order to preserve the character of the community. The six-foot fence at 3200 Durand Drive violates 5 city ordinances. The city issued an Order to Comply to remove the unpermitted, over-height fence in 2003, but it has not been enforced. The Hillside Federation supported Hollywoodland in 2010 on this issue. The owner appealed to City Council which approved his appeal. Hollywoodland sued the city for violating CEQA. They appealed to the Supreme Court who would not hear the case. Allowing the illegal fence to remain would set a dangerous precedent that would destroy the character of the neighborhood. They have not received any support from the Office of Historic Resources.

MOTION: Sarajane Schwartz moved that the Hillside Federation support Hollywoodland's request for an EIR for the fence at 3200 Durand Drive and that Order to Comply #108303 be enforced. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. Hastain Trail victory - Ellen Scott and Eric Edmunds

Ellen sat down in front of a bulldozer on the Hastain Trail 1 ½ years ago. The property owner put a gate across the trail in Franklin Canyon Park, which is one of the jewels of our hillside. About half of the trail is on private property. Ellen formed Friends of Hastain Trail and hired land use attorney Stephen Jones to sue the property owner. The MRCA joined the suit with Eric Edmunds representing them. They had to locate hikers who had hiked the trail since before 1972. They had MRCA Rangers take the judge and court reporter up the trail to see what was a stake. After a two-week trial, the judge ruled that the trail is a public easement. The property owner will have to remove the fences. He is suing the city for discrimination. The trail runs through the middle of three of his lots so it will be difficult for him to build.

Friends of Hastain Trail is having a celebratory picnic this Sunday at 12:30 at the meadow by the Doheny Ranch. Although Steve Jones took the case at a discounted rate, they still owe him about \$20,000 and are accepting donations.

Ellen, Eric, and Steve Jones will be honored at the Holiday Party.

B. Crescent Drive victory - Carol Sidlow and Steven Poster

Lookout Mountain won their appeal denying all the variances including a waiver on a substandard roadway. Forty community members attended the hearing. They thanked everyone who came to support them and wrote letters, especially Don Keller. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to support their appeal. The property owner will probably continue.

Announcements:

Marian Dodge announced that there is a new Facebook page (a beta version) for the Federation and encouraged all to visit it.

George Abrahams distributed invitations to a fundraiser for SaveHollywood.org.

Sarajane Schwarz – Next year is the 90th anniversary of Hollywoodland.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Donna Messinger, Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	Eric Edmunds

Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back All.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Crests Neighborhood	Ron Galperin
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights	Donna Messinger
Hollywoodland HOA	Sarajane Schwartz
	Crosby Doe
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mt. All.	Carol Sidlow
	Steven Poster
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Oaks Homeowners	Gerry Hans
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Studio City Resid.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	James Provenzano
	Elodie Lorenz

Guests Present:

CD 4	Sheila Irani
Ban Billboard Blight	Dennis Hathaway
Las Virgenes HO Fed.	Kim Lamorie
Friends of Hastain Tr.	Ellen Scott
SoCalGas	Ray Verches
	Lizette Verduzco
	Juan Gonzalez