

**Hillside Federation
April 3, 2013
Minutes**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Charley Mims called meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

City Attorney Candidate Forum

Charley Mims made an opening statement that the questions for candidates were prepared in advance and there would be no questions from the floor. Don Andres served as time keeper. Each candidate for City Attorney, Mike Feuer and Carmen Trutanich, made a 2-minute opening statement. City Attorney Trutanich spoke first about his independence, public trust, protecting the most vulnerable; he wrote 245 ordinances this year; crime is down 23%; 92% success rate and \$285 million saved.

Mr. Feuer spoke about his long time times with the Federation, his contributions while in the Assembly including new open space for the Santa Monica Mountains; new park space; worked on helicopter noise issues; fire safety.

1. Neighborhood Prosecutor:

Mr. Feuer wants to protect neighborhoods and revitalize and elevate the role of the Neighborhood Prosecutors Program. The City Attorney should have a major impact on quality of life issues.

Mr. Trutanich followed up that the Neighborhood Prosecutors office is alive and well. He has combined the meetings between the Neighborhood Prosecutors and the Gang Prosecutors for better coordination. The City Attorney's office has met their budget.

2. Voluntary Conditions:

Mr. Trutanich spoke about the problems for the community re: voluntary conditions not being adhered to. He spoke about a fix that when an agreement is made, the nexus agreements should be attached to the record and then the Planning Commission can support the agreements.

Mr. Feuer spoke about discretionary and by-right differences as voluntary conditions are not an issue on discretionary actions. The City Attorney must engage in early intervention; advise City departments more effectively and provide more training of the Planning Department by the City Attorney's office.

3. System of writing ordinances:

Mr. Feuer wants a robust Clean Hands ordinance in place. ACE (Administrative Code Enforcement) Ordinance needs to be a key focus and needs to be adopted.

Mr. Trutanich said the ACE Ordinance was his idea. He pulled it out of Budget and Finance. The City Attorney's office is a law office, not a policy office.

4. Reducing the risk of litigation such as the billboard litigations.

Mr. Trutanich stated that they have won all billboard cases. Supergraphics are down. He can only advise the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Feuer said we should prevent lawsuits from happening in the first place. The City Attorney should be a risk management leader.

5. Hillside quality of life issues:

Mr. Feuer said the revitalization of the Neighborhood Prosecutors office will establish your priorities. The City Attorney's Office is a public interest law firm.

Mr. Trutanich mentioned that as a result of consolidation, all appropriate departments, such as Environmental Justice, Code Enforcement, Building and Safety, meet weekly to discuss issues.

6. Top three priorities:

Mr. Trutanich: It is a law office, not a policy office.

Mr. Feuer: Neighborhood Prosecutor program; gun violence prevention unit; risk management; teamwork with neighbors and city offices.

Closing statements:

Mike Feuer was honored by the primary outcome with broad support. He wants to establish a new set of priorities and wants the office to be respected again. We are in this together.

Carmen Trutanich has been in public service for 3 years and in private practice for 22 years. There are 475 lawyers in the City Attorney's Office. His job is about keeping us safe. The City Attorney's Office is

running better. Cell Tower ordinance needs to get done. His office has produced more with less; it is much better today than 4 years ago.

President Dodge thanked the candidates for attending.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes of March 13, 2013 were approved as written. President Dodge thanked Lucy Gonzalez for taking the minutes of the March meeting.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Marian Dodge introduced a new group to the Hillside Federation, Upper Nichols Canyon Neighborhood Association and representing UNCNA, Cyd Zeigler.

Nominating Committee – Election of Officers

Barbara Dohrmann spokesperson for the Nominating Committee which included Lucy Gonzalez and Don Keller announced the slate to Federation members:

President - Marian Dodge

Chairman - Charley Mims

1st Vice President - Mark Stratton

2nd Vice President - Wendy-Sue Rosen

Secretary - Carol Sidlow

Treasurer - Don Andres

Executive Secretary – Donna Messinger

Members in good standing were allowed to nominate from the floor; 39 groups are eligible, each group has 1 vote. Barbara asked for nominations from the floor; there were none made. Barbara asked if anyone preferred a written ballot; no hands raised. Barbara called for a motion to accept the slate by show of hands. The slate was elected unanimously and all stated that they were willing to serve.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don Andres gave an update of funds. Hillside Federation currently has 39 paid members out of 41.

IV. New Business - none

V. Old Business

A. Millennium Hollywood project: Greg Johnson of Hollywood Dell gave an up-date.

The Planning Commission hearing was held and at least 6 groups oppose the project as presented; however, the City Planning Commission moved to approve the project. One of the approvals, the Development Agreement, was found not to be valid as one of the members of the City Planning Commission (Roschen) is a paid consultant. The Commission voted that the project could move ahead without the development agreement. The proposed development will be two towers – 50 and 45 stories.

Councilman LaBonge attended the hearing; Councilman Garcetti sent his representative and both supported reduced height of the buildings.

Marian Dodge stated that at the hearing the Oaks HOA said that there are 57 potential projects in Hollywood; however, none are taller than 30 stories. A sign up sheet for donations to support the appeal was distributed. President Dodge will send information to Federation groups regarding donating.

Dan Wright, whose law firm has been retained to represent some of the groups opposing the project, spoke about additional issues regarding the Millennium development.

B. 1500 Gilcrest update - Wendy-Sue Rosen

The Zoning Administrator's hearing was attended by approximately 60 neighbors who oppose the project. Ron Galperin spoke on behalf of the Crests Neighborhood Association in opposition to the proposed changes. Wendy-Sue Rosen testified that the Hillside Federation also opposed the changes. Jonathan Brand from CD 4 spoke supporting the community in their opposition. The Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council voted to support the Crests Neighborhood Association in their opposition to project changes.

There was a discussion of the policies of the Federation regarding positions taken. President Marian Dodge reminded everyone that if a member group has an issue, the Request for Action form is on the website and all the requirements listed must be provided.

C. Curtis School update - Mark Stratton

The City Planning Commission hearing has been postponed to the end of April. The Hillside Federation, Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association, and Brentwood Residents Coalition have actively opposed the project because, among other reasons, the applicant is seeking a grading variance from the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO). The requested variance would establish a dangerous precedent that could impair the future integrity of the BHO's grading limitations.

D. Off-site Digital Billboards - Wendy-Sue Rosen

Marian Dodge and Wendy-Sue Rosen were among those invited to participate in a series of meetings organized by the City Planning Department to discuss the future of digital billboards in the City. The group, named the Billboard and Visual Landscape Visioning Group, was led by an outside facilitator retained by the City. On March 26 PLUM asked Planning to prepare a draft ordinance. The group concluded that the City needs more time to consider the many complex issues raised by the use of digital billboards outside of specially designated "sign districts."

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Recording Secretary,
Carol Sidlow

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
	Tom Freeman
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Allian.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Greg Johnson
	Alexa Iles Skarpelos
Hollywoodland HOA	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Tony Tucci
	Jamie Hall
	Jim Nelson
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington HO All	Dan Wright
Oaks Homeowners	Caroline Schweich
Pacific Palisades	Barbara Kohn
	Chris Spitz
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer
Upper Nichols Canyon	Cyd Zeigler

Officials Present:

City Attorney	Carmen Trutanich Nick Trutanich and staff
former Assemblyman	Mike Feuer Gail Ruderman Feuer Nicole Carcel and staff

Guests Present:

Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
thefrontpageonline.com	Ari Noonan
LAPD	Jeff Kiser
Hollywood Dell	Tom Meredith George Skarpelos David Evans Judy Kass Mary Leddihy
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Ali Semard
misc.	Skip Haynes Bill Kabaker Chris Blacksmith