

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
May 1, 2013**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

The April 3, 2013 minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

We have a new group in the Hillside Federation, Upper Nichols Canyon, for a total of 41 organizations.

Marian thanked Mark Stratton and Lois Becker for providing coffee.

The NBCUniversal project was approved by the LA County Board of Supervisors. All off-site advertising signs will be visible only from the interior of the project. Billboards will not be visible outside the project.

Please email Don Andres a map showing your neighborhood's boundaries. He will compile the maps to show the extent of the Hillside Federation and remind City Council of our size and population and that we vote.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Dues have been received from 40 out of our 41 members.

Installation of Officers

Steve Twinning, joined by two Chairs Emeritus, Patricia Bell Hearst and Shirley Cohen, installed the officers.

IV. New Business

A. SB 31 (Billboards for AEG) - Marian Dodge

An article in the LA Times pointed out that SB 31 was written specifically to help AEG with Farmers Field. It would allow billboards along highways. It violates the Federal Highway Beautification Act. Scenic America is lobbying to stop the bill. It has passed the State Senate and it is now in the Assembly. The Federation will keep tabs on the progress and keep members informed if action is needed.

B. AB 162 - cell towers

Barbara Kohn and Chris Spitz have been tracking AB 162 (Holden) which would prohibit local governments from regulating cell towers (Above Ground Facilities AGF). It would require the local government to act on a facilities request within 45 days instead of the usual 90 days. The company would no longer have to prove that there is a gap in coverage. The Federation sent a letter opposing the bill. The May hearing was cancelled and may be rescheduled in 2014.

C. Consolidation of Planning Department and Building and Safety - Marian Dodge

The Mayor's budget calls for the consolidation of the two departments as recommended after an efficiency study by Austin Beutner several years ago. Mayor Villaraigosa sees this as part of his legacy. Planning will be the lead organization as it is specifically mentioned in the City Charter. Pro – if the two entities are part of one department, communication may improve. Con – if there is only one voice then the department may become insular and not make the best decisions. There will be a 6-month transition period. Wendy-Sue Rosen and Carol Sidlow presented a revised mission statement for the new department. Charley Mims expects Bud Ovrom, current Building & Safety Dept. head, to become the head of the new Economic Development Department to replace the CRA. The unions are not thrilled. LA Fire Department has serious concerns about violations of state code. Sandy Brown made the point that if this consolidation works to shut HOAs out of the process then we will make our frustration known.

Planning Director Michael LoGrande will be the guest speaker at the June meeting. Please email Marian any question you would like asked.

V. Old Business

A. Billboards - Summit Media ruling - Marian Dodge

Judge Green ordered Clear Channel to shut off the digital billboards. City Council called a Special Meeting (only 24-hour notice). Dennis Hathaway, Barbara Broide, Marian and others asked Council to comply with the judge's order. Council went into closed session where City Attorney Special Assistant Jane Usher advised them of their options. Council wants to figure out a way to make the digital billboards legal because they think they bring in revenue. We will need to be vigilant.

B. Cell Towers on Mulholland Dr. - Michael Meyer

Outpost Estates is fighting a Verizon cell tower on Mulholland Drive at the Jerry Daniel Scenic Overlook above the Hollywood Bowl. The Mulholland Design Review Board opposed it. It is in the middle of the view of the Hollywood Sign. Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council opposed it. After much finger pointing between the PUC and the City, putting pressure on Tom LaBonge, and a media event, Verizon listened to complaints from HOAs and Tom LaBonge's office and will move the pole 100 feet west to a less obtrusive location. But they need to go through the permit process again to put it in a new location; in the meantime the cell pole is active.

There is another cell tower proposed on the western end of Mulholland. MDRB approved the pole. They have the right to put poles in the public right of way. Patricia Hearst said they should create a map with overlays of each company's pole locations to show coverage. Lois Becker - the MDRB needs list of questions to ask before they approve a pole. The Federation should write them a letter.

C. Stanley Hills Drive - Tony Tucci

The wildlife corridor easement was settled in January, 2013. Now the developer/owner's lawyers and the conservancy's lawyer are fighting over contract language and ignoring the easement that Paul Edelman negotiated. SMMC needs to address the problems with the wildlife easement.

Matt Friedman appealed the ZAD to the Building & Safety Commission. They have had no response in four months. Dan Wright said there is no requirement that they respond. A Building & Safety appeal does not stop anything. The public hearing was waived for two of the three houses. The third permit has expired. Tony will send Marian a time line of events and so she can send a letter to LoGrande asking about status of the appeal.

Announcements:

Marian announced Pacific Standard Time Presents exhibits on post-war architecture throughout the city and the Garden Conservancy Open Days on May 5 near Griffith Park.

Steve Twining - The Hannah Carter heirs are suing UCLA because of sale of the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden. Shirley Cohen - Building & Safety enforced the removal of lawn signs supporting the garden for more than 30 days although they don't have time to enforce building code violations.

Charley Mims - Los Angeles City Historical Society lecture series is on Saturday.

Herb Wesson will speak to LANCC this Saturday, May 4.

Dan Wright - He received the Millennium Hollywood determination letter Monday, but without the attachments so notice is not adequate. They are asking them to rescind the determination letter and reissue a complete letter.

Dan Wright - Ann Walnum is suing the city over the practice of calling Special Meetings for controversial issues. He is trying to work with CalAware. He is looking for organizations to do an amicus brief. He passed out a flyer on the Southwest Museum.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Acting Recording Secretary,
Lucy Gonzalez

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills HA	John Given
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Allian.	Lois Becker
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland HOA	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Tony Tucci
	Jim Nelson
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington HO All	Dan Wright
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Oaks Homeowners	Gerry Hans
Outpost Estates	Michael Meyer
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	Elodie Lorenz

Guests Present:

Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
	Shirley Cohen
Mt. Washington	Ann Walnum