

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
June 5, 2013**

I. Call to Order

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

Helicopter Noise Relief - Bob Anderson of Sherman Oaks encouraged everyone to attend the Helicopter Noise Relief hearing on June 10, 7 - 9 pm at the Autry National Center in Griffith Park. Congressman Adam Schiff will chair the hearing with representatives from government (Congressman Cardenas, Supervisor Yaroslavsky), homeowners (Bob and Gerry Hans from Friends of Griffith Park), and pilots. Schiff is opposed to the FAA report released May 31 which basically says the issue is too complex to solve at this time due in part to the negative impact on the helicopter industry. Even though it does not appear that there will be any changes to the regulation at this time, Bob encouraged everyone to attend the hearing to voice their concern on the record.

Terrorism Awareness Symposium - Officer Danny Pesqueira

Hollywood Division of LAPD is sponsoring a Terrorism Awareness Symposium on June 25. One of the speakers is a woman on the Navy Seals team that located Bin Laden. Chief Downing, LAPD terrorism specialist, will also speak. Officer Pesqueira reminded everyone that we all need to be alert and learn what to watch for and the symposium is a good place to start.

Realignment of the Planning and Building and Safety Departments - Alan Bell, Deputy Director of City Planning

City Council has already approved the consolidation of the Departments of Planning and Building and Safety. The name of this new department will be the Department of Planning and Development. The new department will incorporate staff from other city departments that deal with land use issues, including LADOT, BOE, and LAFD, and have a total of approximately 1200 employees. The consolidation process will begin July 1, 2013. A consulting firm will be brought on board to work with the city and engage in a robust community outreach process for a six-month planning period in order to work through all the details of the merger. Full implementation is expected to occur by January 1, 2014. Planning staff has looked at other cities with consolidated planning and development services functions, including Denver, San Antonio, Dallas, Atlanta and others.

The city's goal is to provide better services for all residents and applicants. The department will be reorganized to increase efficiency and transparency. Alan described the realignment of city departments. He said the reform strategy will be a three-pronged approach: (1) **CERTAINTY** will include comprehensive zoning code reform providing consistent interpretation of the code, updated community plans coordinating land use and transportation planning, and robust public outreach. The City of LA is about to launch a five-year, \$5-million-dollar project to comprehensively update the City's zoning code for the first time since 1946. The project is called re:code LA Zoning Reform Initiative. The city has selected the consulting firm Code Studio from Austin, Texas with 15 sub-consultants who are mostly local to head the update. They will kick off the project July 8 with a weeklong listening tour of neighborhood councils, resident groups, and businesses. They will have a new website for the five-year reform of the Zoning Code to keep the community informed; (2) **TECHNOLOGY** will move the current paper-based system to an internet-based system called BuildLA. The funding and process is already in place for this system. Projects will be filed electronically and the files will be accessible to all city departments and community members at the same time. This means community groups will have instant access to applications and plans making the process more transparent and inclusive; (3) **EFFICIENCY** will be the result of a realignment of planning and development functions and process improvements bringing all the decision-makers together to address a project. One Planner will be assigned to each project from beginning to end. A surcharge may be added to

each permit to provide a steady funding source for code enforcement and compliance through the life of the project, increasing efficiency and bolstering enforcement. The one development services function will resolve inefficiencies by catching problems on the front end so they don't fall through the cracks.

Alan explained that the devil is always in the details. There is the promise and opportunity to deliver the best service to Los Angeles or risk confusion and chaos if the process is not handled properly. That is why the consulting firm will launch a series of community meetings and form a Stakeholder Advisory Committee to work with them through the process. The ordinances for the new department will include: a mission statement that is designed to achieve the goals of consolidation, the regulatory teeth to assure compliance with the law, technical updates to the code, etc. The City Attorney will begin drafting the package of proposed ordinances for approval by the City Council in October of this year. At that time the City Council could decide not to move forward with the consolidation.

Marian asked if Code Studio could come to the July Federation meeting. Alan said he would send a schedule of community meetings and keep the Federation updated on all aspects of the zoning code update, consolidation, and BuildLA.

II. Approval of Minutes - The May 1, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian cautioned everyone about the inappropriate use of the Hillside Federation name. The Federation only speaks on behalf of those issues that have already been formally supported by the Federation. Only authorized officers may speak on behalf of the Federation or use its name.

Marian asked that each member organization show Don the boundaries of their organization so he can complete the large maps depicting the areas that each member group represents.

The January meeting will be changed to Wednesday, January 8 to avoid the New Year's holiday.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don announced that all 41 members have paid their dues. Don added that there has been a rash of home break-ins in the Hollywood Hills. Be watchful.

IV. New Business

A. 8866-72 Wonderland Ave. - Steven Poster

Steven described his concern regarding a project that will include three houses with underground parking on a 75' lot where the existing single-family home was illegally demolished. The property has a long history of problems. The developer is claiming the three houses are by-right projects, but according to Steven they are not. Steven has been unable to find any documentation on the project although the Property Activity Report shows that most aspects of the project have been "cleared." However, the BHO requires a Joint Referral Form with slope density, soils, geology, topo, floor ratio, setbacks, etc. and none have been submitted. Lookout Mountain Alliance has sent a letter supporting the neighbors' opposition to the project.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation oppose the Wonderland Ave. project as by-right and request a review of the project by all relevant city agencies and review compliance with the Baseline Hillside Ordinance because the project would be precedent setting in the area. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. Millennium Hollywood update - George Abrahams

The project went to PLUM yesterday. The applicant asked that it be continued at the last minute. It will be heard at PLUM on Tuesday, June 18 and go to City Council on Wednesday, June 19.

B. Cell tower on Mulholland - Barbara Dohrmann

Barbara thanked the Federation for its support. The cell tower will be located on the north side of Mulholland where it has a lesser impact on residents. The City's new cell tower ordinance is still in the City Attorney's Office and has not been sent to Council for approval.

C. I-405 Construction - Barbara Dohrmann

The I-405 contractor has withdrawn its request to dump 120,000 cubic yards of soil in Mission Canyon directly below homes in Bel Air Skycrest. The hill they are removing adjacent to Sepulveda Blvd. has landslide problems. The hill had served as a noise buffer to the community protecting it from freeway noise. Now that the hill is being removed, there are new noise issues with sounds bouncing off the retaining walls on the other side of the freeway and into the community.

D. Mulholland/Laurel Canyon property - Wendy-Sue Rosen

CD-5 Deputy David Giron reported by e-mail that the property at Laurel and Mulholland was approved for Prop K funding. Now the city will work with the MRCA to make sure the purchase is completed. Due to redistricting, CD 4 LaBonge will now handle the matter.

E. Amicus Brief - Dan Wright

Dan updated the Federation on his client's case before the state court of appeal where he is arguing that the Department of Recreation and Parks' frequent Special Meetings violates the Brown Act. There was discussion about the Federation getting involved with this type of a case by filing an amicus brief, whether the Federation had done so in the past, would do so now, and what type of precedent it could set.

F. Stanley Hills Drive - Matt Friedman

Matt reported that he had met with City Attorney Jane Usher regarding the conditions of approval for the Stanley Hills project and asked the City Attorney to enforce those that the developer has been violating. Jane told him that she had read the CUP and the conditions were poorly written, vague and unenforceable. According to Matt, Building and Safety has given the City Attorney false information to make it appear that there are no violations. LAFD has not signed off on the project. This continues to be a problem and the community is frustrated at the lack of support from the city.

G. Van de Kamps - Laura Gutierrez

There is supposed to be a community college in the old bakery site. There is a Draft EIR on four different projects. Laura wants people to object to the use of tax payer dollars to support the current tenants and ask for the community college that was promised. Comments are due June 27.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm. The next meeting will be on July 10.

Acting Recording Secretary,
Don Andres

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
Canyon Back Allian.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Kagel Canyon	Linda Hornick
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington All.	Dan Wright
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Oaks Homeowners	Wayne Schlock

Res.of Beverly Glen
Studio City Res.
Upper Nichols Can.

Gillian Calof
Claudia Freedle
Cyd Zeigler

Guest Present:

Planning Dept.
Hollywood LAPD
Benedict Canyon
Laurel Canyon

Alan Bell
Danny Pesqueira
Mindy Mann
Ali Semard
Skip Haynes
Matt Friedman
Patric Caird
Linda Marder
Werner Herzog
Stuart Lichtman
Wendel Meldrum
Judith Pagnam
Gloria Walther
Susan Williams
Bob Anderson
Laura Gutierrez
Scott Frager

Wonderland Ave.

Sherman Oaks
Van de Kamps
Pinz Bowling Center