

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
October 2, 2013**

I. Call to Order

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

Guest Speakers:

Eric Menjivar, Field Representative for Assemblymember Gatto (43rd District), reported on legislation proposed by the Assemblymember this term and the status of each of his bills. He also asked that anyone who has ideas about the need for new state legislation should contact the office directly. Constituent suggestions have inspired new legislation in the past. Eric took questions from the audience. Members asked him to report back to Assemblymember Gatto that the Hillside Federation and its member groups strongly opposed legislative efforts to weaken CEQA and explained that CEQA protections against adverse aesthetic, parking and traffic impacts are essential to community efforts to protect the environment and quality of life in hillside areas. Eric said he would convey that message to Assemblymember Gatto and said that he would check-in regularly to keep the Federation informed about matters of interest.

Daniel Tamm, Office of the Mayor, was delayed and reported during Old Business.

Daniel spoke about his background and role as the mayor's Westside representative. He then described some of the mayor's priorities. He said that the Mayor is focused on a "back to basics" agenda, emphasizing City services such as tree trimming, street paving and other basic services. He emphasized that economic recovery is the Mayor's No. 1 issue. Wendy-Sue Rosen commented that the Federation is concerned that the City has often failed to adhere to its own codes, which are designed to balance development and community interests. The community relies on the code to achieve the necessary balance and, as others expressed, focus on economic interests should not be at the expense of our quality of life; these need not be mutually exclusive.

Carol Sidlow spoke about the Code Compliance Unit within the Department of City Planning as a positive step towards addressing stakeholders' concerns and the enforcement of conditions.

Jamie Hall asked what lessons the City and Mayor have learned from the Millennium Hollywood project.

II. Approval of Minutes – The September minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

Marian reported that the Planning and Conservation League has established a group, "CEQA Works," which is a coalition of Californians from all walks of life working together to prevent the California legislature from weakening our state's landmark environmental protection laws. See www.ceqaworks.org. The Board voted to join the CEQA Works coalition by reaffirming its previously adopted policy to oppose legislative efforts to weaken CEQA.

Marian also announced that the Planning Department was establishing a Zoning Advisory Committee to provide feedback on the Department's 5-year plan to update and rewrite the City's Zoning Code and that she had sent a letter to the Department recommending that Wendy-Sue Rosen and Carol Sidlow be appointed to represent the Federation on the Committee.

Marian asked Federation representatives to take advantage of the opportunity to place messages, articles or information in the Federation's Newsletter, which is a great way to get information out to the member organizations. Articles or announcements of activities should be submitted at least 10 days before the next Federation meeting.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

Don gave a report on the Federation's finances. He also reported that Upper Riviera HOA will be joining the Federation.

The Federation's annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2013, at the Mulholland Tennis Club. This year, for the first time, the club will be closed to its members on the night of the party, which will allow the Federation to use the main dining room and make parking much easier than in the past. This year the Federation will be honoring County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky for his historic success in preserving open space in the Santa Monica Mountains and Congressman Adam Schiff for his efforts to protect the natural hillside environment.

IV. New Business

A. 8150 Sunset project report - Carol Sidlow, Steven Poster

This is an approximately 333,000-square-foot development on the corner of Crescent Heights and Sunset Blvd in Los Angeles, abutting the City of West Hollywood. There was a full discussion about the project's potentially significant adverse impacts on the neighboring hillside communities, including impacts from the proposed rooftop dining and the proposed heliport, as well as traffic, parking and density impacts. The Initial Study on the project's potential environmental impacts has been released; questions and comments are due by October 15.

MOTION: Don Andres moved that a letter be submitted asking questions about the project and its potential impacts so that the information will be included in the draft EIR. The motion passed.

B. Hollywood Sign Buses - Lucy Gonzalez

The project was removed for later consideration.

V. Old Business

A. Millennium Hollywood update - George Abrahams

George gave an update on the project, his community's ethics complaint, and the status of the seismic risks investigation. He requested that the Federation make a monetary contribution to his community's lawsuit. There was a discussion on the issue of whether the Federation should be funding litigation, during which it was explained that, historically, the Federation has not made monetary contributions in support of litigation, except in the rare instances where the Federation was a party to the litigation. Concern was expressed that, if the Federation contributed to this community's litigation, on what basis would it not be obligated to contribute to litigation brought by other member organizations. This type of focus on funding litigation would detract from the Federation's mission and compromise its effectiveness as its Board officers and members would have to dedicated significant time to assessing the merits of various requests for contributions and litigation funding. A consensus was reached that the Federation would not generally contribute to litigation in which it was not a party.

B. Curtis School update- Mark Stratton

Curtis School has proposed to double its square footage, excessively grade a prominent ridge, build over-in-height buildings visible from the Scenic Corridor, reduce its open space and carve a secondary access roadway into the hillside through Caltrans property – all through an abbreviated Plan Approval process which would then allow Curtis School to evade the requirements of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, Specific Plan review, and other approvals that would be required for a project of this magnitude. In opposition to this improper process and flawed environmental review, three legal letters were submitted to the record by attorney John Given on behalf of Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Association and Brentwood Residents Coalition and two legal letters and hundreds of pages of documentation were submitted to the record by attorney Tom Freeman on behalf of the Hillside Federation. The night before the hearing the community was notified that the hearing would be continued. Twelve community representatives appeared at the hearing including Paul Edelman from the SMMC and Tom Freeman, the Hillside Federation's attorney just in case the matter was not continued. Marian's written testimony was submitted for the record. Curtis, however, was granted its *fourth* continuance on this project. The City Planner advised us that they would take this time to look at our papers and try to address our concerns. The case was continued to December 19, 2013. We have set up a meeting with Councilmember Koretz to discuss our concerns. Carol Sidlow mentioned that, despite longtime Federation requests, there was still no Master Plan for the Mulholland Institutional Corridor.

C. Laurel Canyon Slope Remediation – Carol Sidlow

Carol gave an up-date on the slope remediation project on the 1800 block of Laurel Canyon Blvd. A haul route hearing took place on October 1, which was attended by Federation members Carol, Steven Poster, Jamie Hall and Tony Tucci. The Board of Building and Safety Commissioners voted to approve

the haul route for the removal of 50,000 cubic yards of earth from the slope above Laurel Canyon Blvd. The project could begin soon. The community expects significant traffic delays during this project.

D. 360 Stone Canyon – Steve Twining

There was a Zoning Administrator’s hearing conducted on September 25 on the second property at this address, where a variance for an over-in-height residence is being requested. Steve will keep the Board posted when more information is available.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Carol Sidlow,
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Mindy Mann
Brentwood Hills HA	John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Don Keller
	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Allian.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Tony Tucci
	Jamie Hall
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Oaks Homeowners	Caroline Schweitz
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
	Shirley Cohen
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	Upper Mandeville

Guests Present:

AD 43 rep	Eric Menjivar
Office of the Mayor	Daniel Tamm
Upper Riviera HA	Stacia Thompson