

**Hillside Federation  
Newsletter  
February, 2013**



[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)

# Take Them Down!



TakeThemDown.org is collecting signatures on an online petition to get City Council to honor the Court of Appeal decision in the Summit Media case. The court declared the city's back room deal with CBS Outdoor and Clear Channel Outdoor to install 100 digital billboards illegal and that the permits for those billboards must be revoked. Councilmembers Krekorian and Alarcon have submitted motions to try to make those billboards legal. Summit Media, having won the case, wants the illegal billboards removed per the court decision.

## Agenda

**February 6, 2013**

**7:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order  
Guest Speaker - TakeThemDown.org
- II. Approval of Jan. 9, 2013 minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
  - A. President's Report  
Approval of Nominating Committee
  - B. Treasurer's Report
- IV. New Business
  - A. 1500 Gilcrest Dr. - Juliana Maio
  - B. Zoning Code Revisions - Mark Stratton, Wendy-Sue Rosen
- V. Old Business
  - A. NBCUniversal & Sign District update - Wendy-Sue Rosen
  - B. Curtis School Project- Tom Freeman
  - C. Hollywood Community Plan lawsuit George Abrahams
- VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, March 6, 2013

**Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli**  
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604  
CA 101 between Coldwater Canyon exit  
and Laurel Canyon exit

***Hillside Federation mission:*** To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

## Congressman Adam Schiff at Hillside Federation



Qiao Li

After a hectic 2012 Congressional session, Congressman Adam Schiff visited the Hillside Federation. He will be continuing Congressman Howard Berman's efforts to regulate helicopter noise. He is also working on the Rim of the Valley Corridor to preserve more open space in the hillside area surrounding the San Fernando Valley. They are considering expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Although the official comment period has ended, Schiff encouraged everyone to continue to send in their comments. Summaries of the Rim of the Valley proposal alternatives can be found at

[www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley](http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley)

Comments may be submitted to

[pwro\\_rimofthevalley@nps.gov](mailto:pwro_rimofthevalley@nps.gov)

## Fossil Treasure in Our Hills



*Safari Arnie shows students on "Elementary News" how to cut open slabs of shale to reveal the fossils.*

*[The following letter was written to the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study by Dr. Arnold Newman, President of Oak Forest Canyon HOA and Executive Director of the International Society for the Preservation of the Tropical Rainforest.]*

I work with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Paleontology Department of the L.A. County Museum of Natural History in identifying parcels applicable for acquisition into the SMMNRA. I was principally involved in the identification of paleontological resources that evolved into the establishment of the Fossil Ridge Paleontological Park in Sherman Oaks. Having established a dialogue with NPS staff, Anne Dove and Margie Steigerwald, they

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**PRESIDENT**  
Mariane Dodge  
**CHAIRMAN**  
Charley Mims  
**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Mark Stratton  
Wendy-Sue Rosen  
**SECRETARIES**  
Carol Sidlow  
Donna Messinger  
**TREASURER**  
Don Andres

**ORGANIZATIONS:**  
Beachwood Canyon  
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
Bel Air Ridge Association  
Bel Air Skycrest POA  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Brentwood Hills Homeowners  
Brentwood Residents Coalition  
Cahuenga Pass Property Owner  
Canyon Back Alliance  
Crests Neighborhood Assn.  
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W.  
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.  
Highlands Owners Assn.  
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.  
Hollywood Heights Assn.  
Hollywoodland Homeowners  
Holmby Hills HOA  
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.

Lake Hollywood HOA  
Laurel Canyon Assn.  
Lookout Mountain Assn.  
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mt. Washington Homeowners  
Nichols Canyon Assn.  
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon  
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.  
Oaks Homeowners Assn.  
Outpost Estates Homeowners  
Pacific Palisades Residents  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Roscomare Valley Assn.  
Shadow Hills Property Owners  
Sherman Oaks HOA  
Studio City Residents Assn.  
Sunset Hills HOA

Tarzana Property Owners Assn.  
Torreyson Flynn Assn.  
Upper Mandeville Canyon  
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

**CHAIRPERSONS**  
**EMERITUS**  
Shirley Cohen  
Jerome C. Daniel  
Patricia Bell Hearst  
Alan Kishbaugh  
Gordon Murley  
Steve Twining  
Polly Ward

**CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIAM**  
Brian Moore

suggested I enter the following data as part of the public record concerning “The Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study.”

The above study states, “The SMMNRA contains one of the most extensive and diverse assemblages of fossil material known in the national park system.”

I wish to illuminate the particularly prolific vertebrate fossil resources in and around Fossil Ridge and adjoining areas of the late Miocene Modelo formation.

There has long been a virtual consensus that the visiting public would be quite interested in the pre-historic processes these fossils reveal, which include the fascinating seismic plate tectonic formation of these mountains only some 10 million years ago from a deep sea – a process that continues to this day as evidenced in the temblors generic to the region.

Mass die-offs of oceanic vertebrates and invertebrates, caused by red tides – an intriguing bioluminescent algal bloom which released toxins. These dense populations resulted in depauperate oxygen levels, resulted in deceased schools of fish settling to the sea floor and relatively quickly covered by diatoms and other sediments, preserving the fossil record easily read today in these mountainous formations.

Whole schools of herring, as well as other fish, remains of shark and porpoise have been recovered. The diatomaceous shale is so rich in some of the schooling fish that some 15 percent of the shale contains fish scales.

Of momentous event was the discovery, in 1990, by the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History paleontologists, of a new species of whale, common named the “golden sperm whale”, named for the golden color of its fossilized bones. This discovery was made just east of Fossil Ridge Paleontological Park and some remains found on park property. In speaking recently to Sam McCleod, one of the principle museum paleontologists to exhume these exciting remains, confirmed that it is, indeed, a new species – as yet not given a scientific name.

The NPS might well consider a paleontological field station within the scope of its “Resource Study” for the Rim of the Valley Corridor. While shale cannot be removed from parklands, there is an extensive amount of the material that yearly sloughs off

due to “day lighting” of the shale in road cuts of certain canyons, due to rain expanding the material. This shale, most of it quite soft and unstable, can be collected (a service to the Los Angeles Street Services). The public, including children, under the supervision of park rangers, then can easily turn the pages of these “fossil books” with dull butter knives and expose the fossils within.

While I was Nature Host and Director of Science on the four-time Emmy winning TV show “Elementary News,” grade school children very effectively followed the above procedure and, on-camera, shrieked with joy when finding fossil fish remains. In the fourteen years of the show’s run – this was the only segment we recreated, such was the candid exuberance of the children.

In closing, such a Paleontological Field Station could be seen as an educational gem in the crown of the NPS program.



*The children’s work reveals a school of 10-million-year-old sardines.*

Note: Although to official deadline to comment on the **Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study** has passed, Congressman Schiff says they are continuing to accept comments. The National Park Service wants to hear your opinion and your suggestions.

Summaries of the Rim of the Valley proposal alternatives can be found at

[www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley](http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley)

Comments may be submitted to

[pw\\_rimofthevalley@nps.gov](mailto:pw_rimofthevalley@nps.gov)



**Hillside Federation  
January 9, 2013  
Draft Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest Speakers:**

A. Eric Menjivar - representative from Assemblyman Mike Gatto's office

Assemblyman Gatto represents the 43<sup>rd</sup> District which represents various communities, including the Oaks, Hollywoodland, Hollywood Dell, Los Feliz, Franklin Hills, Beachwood Canyon and Lakeridge Estates among others. The Assemblyman chairs the Appropriations Committee and serves on the Transportation Committee, Wildlife and Parks Committee and Banking and Finance Committee. Wendy-Sue Rosen mentioned that it would be important for Assemblyman Gatto to keep in regular contact with the Hillside Federation especially as he sits on the Wildlife and Parks Committee. Wendy-Sue Rosen additionally asked if Assemblyman Gatto would be meeting with newly elected Assemblyman Richard Bloom and he said yes. Tom Freeman asked about several of the Assembly bills sponsored by Assemblyman Gatto. AB61 which addresses broken parking meters is one of the bills he is working on in the Assembly that would close the loophole allowing cities, including Los Angeles, from opting out of the bill. Wendy-Sue Rosen asked that he take a message of good wishes on behalf of the Federation.

B. Eric Bruins - Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

The Bicycle Coalition is a non-profit organization representing bicyclists all across the County with 11 local chapters and 5 local groups. Eric presented information regarding the implementation of the Los Angeles Bike Plan. There are 1680 miles of bikeways planned. They will be looking at where the gap in the network of bike lanes exist and connect them. They are looking at major corridors and hope to have bike lanes from downtown to the beach. They are looking at safety issues and standardization for streets. Wendy-Sue Rosen mentioned the Complete Street mandate legislation.

Michelle Mowery, City Senior Coordinator from the Department of Transportation spoke

about the Cahuenga/Lankershim bike lane plan. DOT will be moving forward to implement a 5 year Strategic Plan. The Lankershim/Cahuenga area is 1<sup>st</sup> which would extend bike lanes from the Hollywood Bowl to the Red Line and the NoHo Arts District via Cahuenga. She will send their PowerPoint presentation to Marian for the Federation.

Don Keller asked about signage to advise motorists about bike lanes. Patricia Weber voiced concerns about taking a lane of traffic away on Cahuenga and the potentially negative impacts to the community. George Abrahams added a few suggestions about the alternative areas for the location of bike lanes on Cahuenga.

There will be public hearings for a presentation by the Department of City Planning on the following dates: February 19, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Los Angeles DOT Parking Enforcement Office, 11214 Exposition Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90064 and on February 21, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, North Hollywood Regional Library, 5211 Tujunga Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91601.

C. Congressman Adam Schiff - 28th Congressional District

Schiff represents the area from West Hollywood to West Pasadena. Some of the issues he is working on are:

Helicopter Noise issue - Howard Berman, Brad Sherman and Congressman Schiff sponsored legislation requiring the FAA to regulate helicopter traffic. He is working with Senator Feinstein and is planning on re-introducing the legislation in February.

**Save these dates for Hillside  
Federation meetings**

**March 6**

**April 3**

**May 1**

**June 5**

Rim of the Valley Corridor Study - Congressman Schiff introduced a bill for the expansion of the preservation and protection of the Rim of the Valley area to preserve wildlife connectivity and increase recreational uses. The National Park Service is considering expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to further protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources in the area. It would establish greater cooperation and sharing of expertise of all the agencies involved. Public comment was due on Jan. 7, but Congressman Schiff mentioned that although the official comment period is over, they will continue to accept comments. The Congressman supports a hybrid of alternatives C and D and will supply the Hillside Federation with a copy for distribution.

Contact information for Congressman Schiff:  
Burbank office: (818) 450-2900  
Washington D.C. Office: (202) 225-4176 – Hamden McBeth

## **II. Approval of November 7 minutes**

The minutes were approved as written.

## **III. Officers' Reports**

### A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian thanked everyone, especially Don Andres, for a great Holiday Party.

MOTION: Marian moved to approve Carol Sidlow as Acting Secretary in Donna Messinger's absence. Motion passed.

Request for Action forms must be sent in a timely manner at least 7 days before the meeting to get on the agenda.

The Executive Committee approved sending a letter of support for the Rim of the Valley Corridor to meet the Jan. 7 deadline. The letter supports a hybrid of alternatives C and D. Marian will email the letter to all.

Marian circulated the latest Friends of Griffith Park Newsletter.

A presentation by Alan Bell and Erick Lopez from the Planning Department regarding the Zoning Code Revision sponsored by the Pacific Palisades Community Council will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – noon at Palisades Charter School, 15777 Bowdoin Street, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) is request that City Council postpone any vote on the Street repair bond of \$3 billion until Neighborhood Councils can weigh in.

The Sign Ordinance will go before the Planning and Land Use Committee on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. All are encouraged to attend as the City is going to attempt to allow the illegal digital billboards to be included in spite of the recent court case decision. Ban Billboard Blight suggests that people write to the Planning and Land Use Committee and that they support the "Turn Them Off" campaign.

### B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don gave an up-date on the Holiday Party which was very successful with 130 people attending. Don gave a year end financial report. Dues notices to be sent out shortly. Dues are \$150 per year.

Don mentioned that Hillside Federation meeting room will be changing to across the hall at Pinz perhaps as early as March.

## **III. New Business**

### A. Community Care Facilities - Tony Tucci

Tony Tucci spoke about the pending Community Care Facilities Ordinance and wanted to make the HF members aware that there was a letter written by Laurel Canyon Assn. asking that an amendment be added to the Community Care Facilities Ordinance asking for a site review for these types of facilities located in High Fire Severity Zones or on substandard streets.

### B. Stanley Hills Appeal - Matt Friedman

Matt Friedman from the Stanley Hills area spoke about his appeal to the Department of Building and Safety regarding the failure of the Department to enforce the many conditions originally attached to the approval of the 3-house development on Stanley Hills Dr. Members discussed the issue of enforcement by the Department of Building and Safety with respect to conditions that are in the determinations issued by the Zoning Administration which continues to be an issue in our hillside areas.

MOTION: Mark Stratton moved that the Federation support Matt Friedman's appeal to the Department of Building and Safety. Motion passed.

### C. Cell Tower on Mulholland Dr. - Barbara Dohrmann

Barbara spoke about the proposed cell tower being planned for the Bel Air Skycrest area on Mulholland Drive next to the scenic overlook. The Board of Public Works is to hear the issue in March. MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation oppose the placement of cell phone towers in close proximity to a scenic overlook and

that this request is returned to the Mulholland Design Review Board for further review. Motion passed.

#### IV. Old Business

Due to the late hour, the update on NBCUniversal's Sign District and Curtis School will be put on the February agenda.

#### VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Recording Secretary,  
Carol Sidlow

**Mulholland Scenic Parkway  
Design Review Board**  
Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month,  
6:30 pm  
Marvin Braude Constituents Service  
Center 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys  
1st floor conference room

**Web Site**

The Hillside Federation has a new web site,  
[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org).  
One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association's web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.

You may also visit the web site for letters on positions taken by the Federation and past newsletters and minutes.

#### Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
	Barbara Dohrmann
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills HA	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
	Tom Freeman
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back All.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Resid.	Charley Mims
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mt. All.	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Oaks Homeowners	Gerry Hans
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Resid.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	Elodie Lorenz

#### Officials Present:

28th Congressional Dist.	Adam Schiff
	Qiao Li
AD 43 (Gatto)	Eric Menjivar

#### Guests Present:

LA Co Bicycle Coal.	Eric Bruins
	Alek Bartnosout
LADOT	Michelle Mowrey
	Tim Fremaux
City Planning	David Somlis
Stanley Hills Appeal	Matt Friedman

#### Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website [www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)) with documentation and send it to [president@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org) no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.