

**Hillside Federation  
September 7, 2016  
Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guests:** Anita Sokolsky & Charles Malki

Charley Mims introduced Anita Sokolsky and Charles Malki. Anita Sokolsky has been a driving force behind acquisition of land in the area. She thanked the Hillside Federation and individuals including Beth and Alan Dymond of Studio City Resident's Association, and gave a special thanks to Carol Sidlow for her work over many years. Charles introduced the Hillside Federation to the 3.3-acre land parcel known as Laurel-Pegita, located on Laurel Canyon Boulevard near Dona Pegita Drive just north of the intersection of Laurel and Mulholland Drive. Charles has been in touch with Paul Edelman who has expressed interest. The property has water running through it. He has invited anyone interested in touring the area to get in touch with him. It is zoned RE15, and is on the market.

**II. Approval of minutes**

The July minutes were approved as drafted.

**III. Officers' Reports**

A. President's Report – Charley Mims

Charley introduced Jamie Hall, who announced two MRCA ballot measures on the November ballot. Measures FF & GG would add a special tax on hillside property owners for maintenance and open space preservation. Hillside property owners to east of the I-405 Freeway would pay \$35 per parcel and those west of the 405 would pay \$15. More information will follow at future meetings.

Senator Ben Allen has been nominated for Presidential Champions Award by the Turtle Island Restoration Network for his leadership in introducing a bill to protect California's marine wildlife by ending the use of deadly drift gillnets.

President Charley Mims presented Wendy-Sue Rosen an award for her tireless and outstanding service to the Hillside Federation and all of her efforts towards preservation of open space and her commitment to protect wildlife and natural resources. Thank you, Wendy for your service on the Executive Committee and helping to serve so many people in many ways. Wendy will continue being a representative of her group to the Hillside Federation.

B. Treasurer's Report – Marian Dodge

Marian Dodge provided the Treasurer's report in the absence of Don Andres. Marian reminded everyone that the Hillside Federation Holiday party will be

December 8, 2016 at the Mulholland Tennis Club. More information will follow.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A. Hastain Trail** – Tom Freeman

Tom provided an update regarding the Hastain Trail. The Hastain Trail is located primarily on parkland. A developer wanted to cut access to the trail. Ellen Scott started “Friends of the Hastain Trail.” “Friends” filed a lawsuit, represented by Stephen Jones. The MRCA, represented by Eric Edmunds, joined. The trial judge ruled for petitioners, finding that the public had a right to access the trail. A split Court of Appeals reversed the trial court decision in July. Tom has been retained by MRCA. Friends and MRCA will appeal to the California Supreme Court to preserve the Hastain Trail and avoid a catastrophic precedent that could apply to many other trails. Tom is bringing this to the attention of the Hillside Federation to request an amicus letter supporting the Supreme Court hearing the case.

***Motion:*** The Hillside Federation supports an amicus letter to the California Supreme Court in support of the MRCA. The motion passed.

##### **B. 2471 Nalin Drive** – Robin Greenberg/J. Hall

Robin Greenberg of the Bel-Air Hills Association and BAHA’s attorney, Jamie Hall, spoke about an appeal filed on a proposed project at 2471 Nalin Drive. The appeal focuses on the Categorical Exemption from CEQA, among other issues. The appeal argues that the proposed single family home should not be exempt from CEQA due to unique circumstances. The board discussed the basis of the appeal, Hoag Canyon, the unique circumstances, neighborhood concerns, and support from the MRCA and other groups.

***Motion:*** The Hillside Federation supports the appeal of the 2471 Nalin Drive approval. The motion passed with 1 abstention.

##### **C. Second Dwelling Unit Ord.** – Carlyle Hall

Carlyle thanked HF members for writing letters and meeting with City Council members. Charley recognized the support of Councilmembers Ryu and Koretz in slowing down the process, which CMs Krekorian, Martinez, and Blumenfeld joined. Carlyle provided a history of the SDU ordinance. Charley noted that the City grandfathered existing permits and rejected the repeal.

The Planning Department will try to customize the ordinance for neighborhoods. Meanwhile Planning Director Bertoni must present a new memo. He has claimed this may take a long time. There is concern that Director Bertoni may make changes beyond the Council instructions which directed him to draft a memo to remove discretionary authority to make the ordinance consistent with state law. The Director and City Attorney may attempt to reduce the minimum lot size to less than 7,500 square feet. Carlyle is requesting a letter to Planning asking for a timely report back with the administrative memo. There must be a transparent process. Carlyle thinks the Mayor's office may be behind the effort to repeal the current ordinance.

**MOTION:** Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter to Council President Herb Wesson supporting a timely and transparent response from the Planning Director to fix the ordinance and protect restrictions on SDUs in hillsides. The motion passed with one abstention.

D. Sign Ordinance – Wendy-Sue Rosen

Councilmember Mitch Englander sits on PLUM. He had support from the sign industry for his unsuccessful run for LA County Supervisor. CM Englander recently criticized Dennis Hathaway, the head of the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight, publicly, accusing him of publishing incorrect information. Wendy read a draft letter recommending that CM Englander recuse himself from deliberation and action on the sign ordinance.

**MOTION:** Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support a letter requesting that Council Member Englander recuse himself from consideration of the Sign Ordinance. The motion passed.

E. BMO/BHO Update – Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy reported that the City is trying to “clarify” the Baseline Mansionization and Baseline Hillside Ordinances so that they do not apply to institutional uses. This action would have a huge impact in the institutional corridor along Mulholland Drive. The PLUM hearing has not yet been scheduled.

F. Curtis School – Mark Stratton

The proposed expansion undermines the BHO by exceeding grading limits. The height of the building is not compliant with the Mulholland corridor restrictions. A secondary access road on Caltrans property would block wildlife corridors. Federation officers and others met with new Head of School Meera Ratnesar. She appears to understand the community’s concerns. Her view is that new plans must make education better. Mark reports that community members are cautiously optimistic.

**V. New Business**

Mary Ledding reports that the FAA is reorganizing flight paths across Los Angeles for commercial aircraft to incorporate their new satellite navigation system and apparently lowering the elevation of aircraft during flight approaches to airports. Senators Feinstein and Boxer wrote to the FAA because of noise complaints from constituents. Contact your member of Congress if you have concerns.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marian Dodge  
Chair and Acting Recording Secretary

**Members Present:**

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel-Air Assn.	Bruce Kuyper
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
Canyon Back Alliance	Tom Freeman
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Mary Ledding
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon	Jamie Hall
Lookout Mtn. Alliance	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Res. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Bel-Air Hills Assoc.	Robin Greenberg
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Heidi Mackay
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle

**Guests:**

Anita Sokolsky	
Charles Malki	
Bel-Air Association	Maureen Levinson
Res. of Beverly Glen	Kira Palmer
Studio City Res.	Allan Dymond
	Beth Dymond
CLAW	Skip Haynes
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Suellen Wagner