

Hillside Federation Newsletter May, 2015



www.hillsidefederation.org

Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park Re-Dedicated

Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park was re-dedicated in a ceremony by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) at the park on April 3. MRCA invested \$125,000 in LA County Funds allocated from the 3rd Supervisorial District. The park is the eastern gateway to Topanga State Park, with a 20,000-acre network of trails and open space known as the "Big Wild." Councilmember Marvin Braude's support over three decades for establishment of the park was central to its creation in 1995.

Speakers at the event included Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, former City Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski, and Marvin Braude's daughter, Liza Braude-Glidden, whose rededication remarks follow on page three.



Supervisor Sheila Kuehl with HF President Marian Dodge in front of new kiosk. Photo by Lois Becker.

Agenda

May 6, 2015

7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

Special Order: Installation of Officers

Kevin James, President,
Board of Public Works

Guests: Tim Pershing AD 50

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers' Reports

- A. President's Report
- B. Treasurer's Report

IV. New Business

- A. Greek Theat. Contract—Barbara Ferris
- B. Runyon Canyon Zipline—Don Andres
- C. 10101 Angelo View Dr.—Aaron Green
- D. 3003 Runyon Cyn. Rd.—Stacy Sillins

V. Old Business

- A. Rim of the Valley
- B. Re:codeLA update—Carol Sidlow
- C. Millennium H'wood—G. Abrahams

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604

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.



Hillside Federation Council District 4 Candidate Forum: John Given, Charley Mims, candidate Carolyn Ramsay, Marian Dodge, candidate David Ryu, and Don Andres.

Hillside Federation Council District 4 Candidate Forum

The Hillside Federation held its final candidate forum for the current city council election cycle on April 29, between Council District 4 run-off candidates Carolyn Ramsay and David Ryu. The run-off election will be held on Tuesday, May 19. The forum was moderated by the Hillside Federation’s Executive Secretary, John Given. Treasurer Don Andres served as timekeeper. Our special thanks go to Hillside Federation board member Steven Poster, who once again provided the meeting hall of the Cinematographer’s Guild for the forum venue.

With voter turnout expected to be low, every vote will be important. We urge all eligible voters to get out to the polls and vote for the candidate of their choice!



NELA Greenspace sponsored a community hike in Walnut Canyon on Sunday, April 19. Around 150 people participated. Faculty and students of the LA River School acted as guides. NELA Greenspace is searching for funding to maintain Walnut Canyon as a public park.

Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park: A Re-Dedication Talk

by Liza Braude-Glidden

My dad, Councilman Marvin Braude, and my mom, Dr. Marjorie Braude, MD, were inspiring and challenging parents for my sister Ann and me. They were raised in Chicago and educated at the University of Chicago. Social scientists, like Marvin's mentor, Ed Schills, influenced them both. But perhaps their greatest influence was John Muir, the 19th century wilderness visionary and founder of the Sierra Club.

"I have run wild," Muir wrote, "As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm and avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can."

If you had asked my dad, my mom, my sister Ann or me for our best memories of family life, you would have received the same answer. Even as babes in arms, we were out on the trail. Our time out of doors, hiking, biking, and backpacking brought out the best in us as a family. These are the memories my sister and I most treasure. But the enjoyment of the wilderness was not just an esthetic appreciation; it was also an activist commitment we all shared.

"If people in general could be got into the woods," John Muir wrote, "even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish." Now we would think Muir naïve perhaps to believe this. However, it remains a deep truth that contact with nature brings out the beauty in people and their relationships. Beginning in about 1960, the opportunity to experience that beauty inspired activism in our whole family.

To invite people into an experience of the natural world, to bring the people to the wilderness, and the wilderness to the people was the essential drive behind my Dad's decades of



MRCA-SMMC Executive Director Joe Edmiston presenting flowers to Marvin Braude's daughter Liza Braude Glidden

tireless public service. It's that dedication to the public enjoyment of the natural world that we are here today to celebrate as we rededicate the Marvin Braude Gateway Park.

As children, we relished this time of year in the Santa Monica Mountains. April was wildflower season. The firebreaks we loved to hike on were clothed in glorious fields of blue lupine, orange California poppy, and yellow mustard. They waved in the fresh and temperate sea breeze among

Marvin Braude Gateway Park Re-Dedication, continued:

the green rye grass, that would soon turn golden as summer approached. For those brief weeks of spring flowering, our Santa Monica Mountains looked to us like the Swiss Alps. We felt like the Trapp Family breaking into song in our beloved hills.

Los Angeles is an unusual city because it has a wilderness inside its boundaries. My dad felt this was one of the city's great strengths, one he wanted future generations to enjoy. And now here we are—so let's enjoy and care for this beautiful land.

In this time of ecological loss, the natural world has more to teach us than ever. Our communities come together best when they have open spaces like this one. Here we honor nature and welcome everyone. Children and adults alike learn from the processes of nature and feel the freedom her beauty brings. As an idealistic young married couple with two little kids, that's what my parents dreamed of, and we're here today to honor and continue that dream. Thank you.



Friends of Runyon Canyon Group Hike

Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation (FORC) invited several elected officials to join them on a group hike of the Canyon in early April. FORC board members (wearing white t-shirts, above) were joined by California Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, State Senator Ben Allen, State Treasurer John Chiang, and community members.

Runyon Canyon is comprised of 133-acres in the heart of Hollywood. FORC's mission includes preservation and maintenance of the park. For more information about FORC and Runyon Canyon, please visit: <http://www.friendsofrunyoncanyon.com>.

Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
April 1, 2015

I. Call to Order – Marian Dodge

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guests:

Janet Turner from Congressman Ted Lieu's office reported that the first step in helicopter noise reduction has been achieved: the FAA has announced a dedicated helicopter noise complaint hotline 424-348-HELI (4354). Complaints can also be emailed to heli-noise-la.com.

At a meeting with the National Parks Conservation Association regarding the Rim of the Valley Corridor project, the Congressman reassured members that he will recommend a combination of Plans C and D and implementation funding. The Federation supported this combination in its letter to the National Park Service.

At a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Janet presented a certificate on behalf of the Congressman in recognition of the Conservancy's 35th anniversary. Janet reiterated the Congressman's strong support for the mission of the Conservancy and the Hillside Federation in preserving open space and wildlife habitats.

Congressman Lieu's office circulated a newsletter with the first update on the West LA Veterans Administration campus.

Tim Pershing from Assemblymember Richard Bloom's office reported on a number of bills, including AB 189 (establishing guidelines and criteria for the designation of Arts and Cultural Districts) and AB 888 (banning plastic microbeads, used in

a wide variety of personal care products, which are polluting the oceans and our food supply). Next month Tim will give an update on emergency drought relief measures to be funded with water bond monies.

Eugene Tseng from Senator Ben Allen's office reported that the Senator was one of only eight legislators that signed onto a letter calling for an end to the practice of fracking. Senator Allen has introduced 20 bills in his first month in office; seven of these have to do with climate change and the environment.

II. Approval of Minutes

The March minutes were approved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report: Marian Dodge

President Dodge paid tribute to Madeline O'Donnell, longtime Nichols Canyon representative. President Dodge and Treasurer Don Andres attended Madeline's memorial service on behalf of the Federation.

The Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park at the top of Reseda Blvd. at Mulholland will be re-dedicated on April 3. The event will be a great opportunity to see our open space with improved ADA access and information kiosks. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Senator Fran Pavley, and Councilmember Braude's aide/Council successor, Cindy Miscikowski, are to speak.

With a runoff election approaching in mid-May, the Federation will host its second CD 4 Candidate Forum with Carolyn Ramsay and David Ryu on Wednesday, April 29th at 6:30 pm at the Cinematographers Guild, 7755 Sunset Blvd (thanks to Steven Poster of Lookout Mountain Alliance, who is President of the International Cinematographers Guild, for providing the Guild's meeting hall for the forum).

President Dodge received a note from Hollywoodland, thanking the Federation for supporting them several years ago in their fight against an illegal fence, which was finally removed from one of their historic stone walls.

The LA City Council passed an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) protecting specified neighborhoods from loopholes in the anti-mansionization ordinances: Councilmember Koretz drew a big circle around Bel-Air, and Bonin, who seconded the motion, included protection for some of the flats in CD11 but not the hillsides. The ICO is not a permanent fix but will offer limited protection for a term of 45 days, which can then be extended to a maximum of two years.

There are ongoing attempts to pass a statewide ban on commercial bobcat trapping for pelts. The final Department of Fish and Wildlife hearing date has been pushed to June. Tim Pershing (Assemblymember Bloom's office) said to keep sending correspondence to his office, as the ban will require persistence.

AB 1373 would exempt electronic billboards in downtown L.A. from State restrictions. The exemption was requested by the Greenland Group of Shanghai who is building the Metropolis project along the Harbor Freeway north of Staples Center looming on our architectural horizon. This legislation would violate LA's ban on new billboards outside of sign districts.

MOTION: John Given moved that the Federation oppose AB 1373 which would exempt electronic billboards in downtown L.A. The motion passed unanimously.

Hillside Federation members asked representatives for Senator Allen and Assemblymember Bloom to request our legislators vote "NO" on AB1373 and consider the terrible precedent this legislation

would set by giving favor to one developer at a time through legislation.

Chair Emeritus Alan Kishbaugh recently underwent triple bypass surgery and would love to receive emails or cards, according to a note from another Chair Emeritus, Jerry Daniel.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) celebrated the 35th anniversary of its founding. During that time the Conservancy has acquired 72,000 acres to be preserved as open space.

Bob Anderson of Sherman Oaks urged people to please report their helicopter noise issues to the FAA or they will say we don't have a problem.

April is Earth Month at El Pueblo and includes an art exhibit at Pico House, running April 2-26, closed Mondays.

Friends of the Los Angeles River invite volunteers to participate in the 2015 Great Los Angeles River CleanUp La Gran Limpieza, with sites in the San Fernando Valley being targeted from 9-noon on Saturday, April 11th.

Election of Officers: Barbara Dohrmann

On behalf of the Nominating Committee (Barbara Dohrmann, Yvonne Hessler, and Steven Poster), Barbara confirmed the presence of a quorum and proposed the following slate: Chair—Charley Mims, President—Marian Dodge, First Vice-President—Mark Stratton, Second Vice-President—Wendy-Sue Rosen, Recording Secretary—Carol Sidlow, Executive Secretary—John Given, Treasurer—Don Andres. Barbara invited nominations from the floor, but there were none. George Abrahams moved to accept the slate (second: Elke Heitmeyer). The Nominating Committee slate was elected unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report: Don Andres

All dues have been collected and there are currently 43 member organizations. Three former members have opted out (Bel Air Ridge, Upper Riviera, and Pacific Palisades) and two new organizations having joined (Save Coldwater Canyon! and Rancho Verdugo Estates).

All expenses to date have been paid. A new membership form has been created for organizations that want to join. It will be on the website soon. Don reminded members that information on the Federation roster is kept private.

Wearing his Friends of Runyon Canyon hat, Don reported on Senator Ben Allen's and Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian's recent Runyon Canyon hike with community members. Runyon Canyon is a pretty area with great views, but with 1.5 million visitors a year and no parking or restrooms, it needs a lot of help.

IV. New Business

A. Walnut Canyon

Laura Gutierrez and Tony Scudellari from NELA Greenspace Coalition (NELA), an organization of 500-plus members dedicated to preserving open space, spoke on the renewal of efforts to preserve open space (four canyons) in Glassell Park/Northeast L.A., including 30-acre Walnut Canyon. The Hillside Federation supported this preservation effort in 2007. The original attempt fell by the wayside but a new threat galvanized community activists (a developer proposing 32 single-family dwellings on 4-acres of hillside covered with walnut woodland). NELA met with the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council's land use committee and voiced its opposition to the project. When developers were asked if they would be willing to sell, they said "yes." NELA let the

developers know that the proposed homes would not be consistent with the Glassell Park Specific Plan and there will be lots of community opposition. Now the focus is on finding the funding to purchase the 4-acres. NELA Greenspace is sponsoring a hike of Walnut Canyon on Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 p.m.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support efforts to find funding sources to purchase and maintain Walnut Canyon as open space. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2166 - 2172 Stanley Hills Dr.

Tony Tucci and Matt Friedman asked for the Federation's support in fighting a pair of Zoning Administrator Determinations that allow oversized construction vehicles and traffic impacts on a substandard hillside street.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation write a letter asking that the City conduct or require additional studies and impose conditions to ensure that these projects are built to ensure safety of the condition of the roadway. Seconded by Tony Tucci and passed unanimously.

C. Laurel Canyon Specific Plan/Overlay

Tony Tucci presented the case for a Laurel Canyon ICO and/or moratorium to preserve the status quo and stop new building while a new Specific Plan or Overlay is prepared, referencing Councilmember Tom LaBonge's motion a year ago, CF 14-0468.

The Federation's position is that the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance needs to be amended, the Baseline Hillside Ordinance added, and loopholes closed, and that expediting that will help everybody. Wendy-Sue Rosen pointed out that a motion for a letter on this subject was passed at last month's meeting – now just need to write the

letter. She recommended that Tony collect as much information as possible and share it with us and that he ask LaBonge what he's doing about that motion of a year ago and tie Carolyn Ramsay or David Ryu into the process following the CD4 runoff election.

V. Old Business:

A. Innsdale Drive/The Vineyard update

David Benz gave an update on the ongoing battle over a huge estate proposed for the Lake Hollywood area, next to a 6-acre vineyard and just a half mile from the Hollywood sign. Property owner Kenneth York is suing the City for denying the discretionary approvals he requested. He is seeking \$50-100M in damages. It is currently in the hands of the City Attorney's office. At a Central Area Planning Commission hearing, Zoning Administrator Charlie Rausch admitted to having made a mistake regarding how much dirt had to be moved. LaBonge supported upholding the Baseline Hillside Ordinance and denying the street vacation.

Wendy recommended that David consult with an attorney as soon as possible to see if he would recommend that the group intervene. She suggested that the City Attorney may have a different interest than the community and if intervention was the way to go the sooner the community got into the case the better.

B. Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal

Marian Dodge recently attended a very contentious scoping meeting on the Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal project. One option being considered is a conveyor belt to carry sediment to Lopez Settling Grounds, where it will be trucked to fill gravel pits in Sun Valley. Dan Feinberg of CASM SFV now wants to fill in two canyons in the National Forest, where he claims the sediment came from originally. Marian will speak with the

County regarding this project.

C. LA-RICS Telecommunications San Vicente Peak Tower

Eric Edmunds reported on the current status of the 3-year-old proposal for Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) to build a 180-foot emergency communications tower at the old Nike Missile Tracking Station off Dirt Mulholland. The County Board of Supervisors will be taking it up this month. The County applied for federal funding to connect the entire county, but a number of cities have opted out. San Vicente Peak is beautiful open space with impressive panoramic views. The tower, which offers little or no direct benefit to nearby communities, may soon be obsolete, replaced by satellite technology.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation send a new letter opposing the San Vicente Peak site and asking that it be removed from the project. The motion passed unanimously. Vice-President Rosen agreed to speak at the upcoming hearing on behalf of the Federation.

Reminders:

- CD 4 Candidate forum April 29th.
- The next Federation meeting is May 6th.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Lois Becker,
Acting Recording Secretary

Members Present:

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|---------------------|------------------|
| Beachwood Canyon | George Abrahams |
| Bel Air Skycrest | Barbara Dohrmann |
| | Mark Stratton |
| Brentwood Hills | Eric Edmunds |
| | John Given |
| Brentwood Residents | Wendy-Sue Rosen |
| Cahuenga Pass POA | Krista Michaels |

Canyon Back Alliance Lois Becker
 Franklin Av/Hlwd Blvd Don Andres
 Yvonne Hessler
 Franklin Hills Res Charley Mims
 Hollywood Heights Naomi Kobrin
 Kagel Canyon Kit Paull
 Lake Hollywood David Benz
 Laurel Canyon Tony Tucci
 Alison Simard
 Los Feliz Impvmt. Marian Dodge
 Res. of Beverly Glen Stephen Benson
 Save Coldwater Cyn! Heidi Mackay
 Sherman Oaks Elke Heitmeyer
 Studio City Res. Claudia Freedle

Officials Present:

Cong. Ted Lieu Janet Turner
 St. Sen. Ben Allen Eugene Tseng
 Asmb. Richard Bloom Tim Pershing

Guests Present:

NELA GreenSpace Laura Gutierrez
 Doug Dawson
 Tony Scudellari
 Eric Tallman
 Jennifer Campbell
 Senta Belding
 Stanley Hills Dr. Matt Friedman

Helicopter Noise Update

The Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition announced that the FAA's complaint system for Los Angeles County went live on April 1. There are three different ways to report noise:

1. Call 424-348-4354 (424-348-HELI) and follow the voice prompts;
2. Use the General Complaint Form at <http://heli-noise-la.com/how-to-use/>;
3. Track and complain about a specific helicopter at <http://heli-noise-la.com/webtrak/>

Rim of the Valley Corridor Meetings Scheduled

The National Park Service is holding a series of meetings on the proposed Rim of the Valley Corridor. The Hillside Federation supports a combination of Alternatives C&D. Meetings will be held in La Crescenta (5/4), Newhall (5/5), Thousand Oaks (5/6), Chatsworth (5/21), and Downtown LA (6/2). For more information, including to review the Special Resource Study, please visit: <http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/>.

<p>The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org</p> <p>PRESIDENT Marian Dodge</p> <p>CHAIRMAN Charley Mims</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen</p> <p>SECRETARY Carol Sidlow</p> <p>TREASURER Don Andres</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY John Given</p>	<p>ORGANIZATIONS</p> <p>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 CASM-SFV 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.</p>	<p>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 Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Save Coldwater Canyon! Save Sunset Blvd. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn.</p>	<p>Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Brian Moore Polly Ward</p>
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