

Hillside Federation Newsletter March, 2016



www.hillsidefederation.org

Hillside Federation Continues Its Consideration of the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative

The Hillside Federation continues its consideration of the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative this month. Last month we heard from Jill Stewart and Jack Humphreville, the initiative proponents. This month, join us to hear arguments in opposition from Mark Edwards and Kevin Keller.

Vince Bertoni was confirmed in February as the new director of the Department of City Planning. In a recent interview with The Planning Report, Bertoni was asked several questions about the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative. Bertoni acknowledges that trust of the City planning process is lacking. "I think that the way we build the trust back is to get everyone together to talk about how we actually do meaningful long-range



planning... We need to work together in Los Angeles to figure out a path forward that is unique to us. But it's got to be a real commitment to doing long-range visionary

planning that is long term and meaningful."

The entire interview is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zrskxl3>.

Agenda

March 2, 2016

7:00 pm

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

I. Call to Order

Guests:

Neighborhood Integrity Initiative – con
Mark Edwards, Kevin Keller

II. Approval of Minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

Nominating Committee

B. Treasurer's Report

IV. New Business

A. Linda Flora landscaping - Steve Twining

V. Old Business

A. Harvard-Westlake Parking Improvement Plan

B. Telecommunications Towers in SMMNRA – John Given

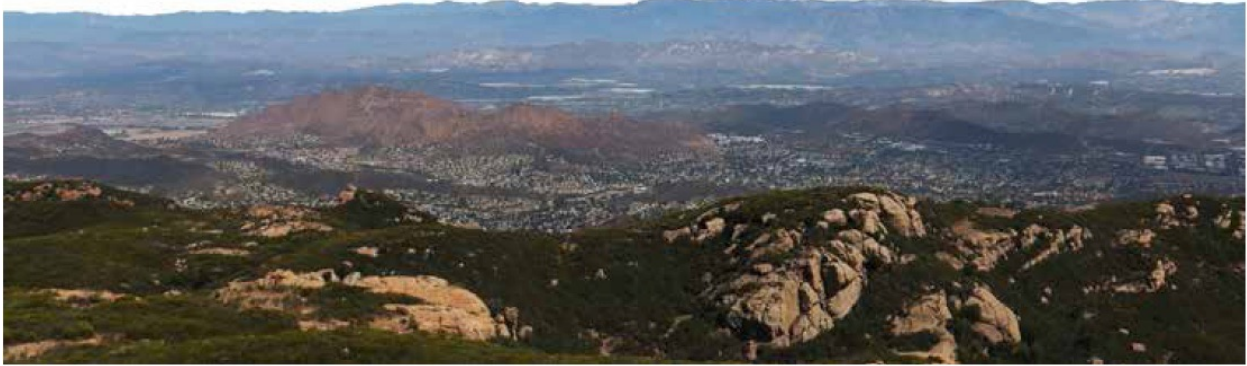
C. Re:codeLA update - Carol Sidlow

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - April 6, 2016

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.*

Natl Park Service Releases Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study



The study area generally includes the mountains encircling the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo Valleys. Photo: NPS.

On February 16, 2016, the National Park Service released the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study. The Hillside Federation's position was in support of Alternative D, including the recreational opportunities associated with Alternative C, a view that was shared by many environmental organizations and individuals. This hybrid appears to be precisely what NPS is now recommending to Congress. Congressional action would be needed to change the Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area to conform to the study's recommendation.

The NPS "selected alternative" as described in the Resource Study:

The National Park Service's final study recommendation, or "selected alternative," is essentially a combination of possible alternatives proposed in the *Rim of the Valley Corridor Draft Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment* released in April 2015. The selected alternative proposes a 170,000-acre boundary adjustment to SMMNRA, which would include portions of the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco corridors, the Verdugo Mountains-San Rafael Hills, the San Gabriel Mountains foothills, the Simi Hills, the Santa Susana Mountains, and the Conejo Mountain area. Existing parks such as Griffith Park, Hansen Dam Recreation Area, Sepulveda Basin (recreation areas and wildlife reserve), Los Encinos State Historic Park, Debs Park, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, and Los Angeles State Historic Park would serve as major portals into the Rim of the Valley Corridor area. The recommended area does not include any areas of the Angeles National Forest or San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

The proposed boundary addition would provide recreational opportunities to a broad range of urban communities. Within the expanded area are: habitat types that contribute to the high biodiversity of the Santa Monica Mountains; functioning wildlife corridors; highly scenic landscapes; historic and archeological sites; geologic and paleontological resources; thousands of acres of open space and recreation areas; and miles of trails, all of which provide exceptional public enjoyment opportunities. In areas beyond the proposed boundary addition, SMMNRA would use existing authorities to partner and provide technical assistance to land managers and private landowners to maintain and enhance habitat connections to the Los Padres and Angeles national forests and to assist local communities in planning for recreational opportunities.

Implementation of the selected alternative would require congressional legislation. In the absence of such legislation, the study remains a recommendation.

The more detailed Rim of the Valley Resource Study Final Summary is available online at: http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/Rim_of_the_Valley_Final_Summary_2016.pdf.

**re:Code LA — Public
Forum Dates Announced**

The Department of City Planning has announced a series of seven public forums throughout Los Angeles during March and April to provide a sneak peek of the new zoning code. The events will include an open house and presentation. For more information about re:Code LA, visit <http://recode.la>.

CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH . 6PM-9PM
Metro Headquarters (near Patsaouras Plaza)
One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012

SOUTH LOS ANGELES

SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH . 9AM-NOON
Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center
3916 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90062

SOUTH VALLEY

SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND . 9AM-NOON
Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center
6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401

WEST

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH . 6PM-9PM
Iman Foundation
3376 Motor Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034

HARBOR

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH . 10AM-1PM
Peck Park Community Center
560 N. Western Ave., San Pedro, CA 90732

EAST

SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH . 9AM-NOON
Boyle Heights City Hall
2130 E. First St., Los Angeles, CA 90033

NORTH VALLEY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20TH . 6PM-9PM
Northridge Recreation Center
18300 Lemarsh St., Northridge, CA 91324

**Councilmember David Ryu
Announces Motion Regarding
Development on Substandard
Hillside Streets**

On February 17, Councilmember David Ryu introduced a motion to the City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management committee intended as an important first step toward mitigating construction impacts on substandard hillside streets.

In his press release announcing the motion, Councilmember Ryu stated that “an increase in single-family home construction in the hillsides, particularly on substandard streets, has exacerbated construction impacts to neighborhoods. In light of this increased development activity, the City should implement clear guidelines, and developers should have a clear understanding of what the City and neighborhoods deem appropriate.”

If passed, the motion would require the LA Departments of Transportation and City Planning to prepare and present a map highlighting all substandard hillside limited streets (generally defined as hillside streets that are less than 20 feet wide) and report back to PLUM with recommendations for mitigating construction impacts on those substandard streets. The recommendations could include development of an overlay zone to better regulate the many impacts associated with hillside development on narrow streets.

The motion, CF# 16-0198, seconded by Councilmember Koretz, is available at http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2016/16-0198_mot_02-17-2016.pdf). The Federation is following the motion and will report back on significant developments.

Fundraising Underway for Runyon Canyon Acquisition

Friends of Runyon Canyon (FORC) is proceeding with fundraising for acquisition of a 14+ acre parcel adjacent to the existing parkland. FORC is working with the national non-profit Trust for Public Land, and as a first step hopes to raise \$300,000 by March 31 to take advantage of a generous matching grant. To donate, please visit: <https://fundly.com/save-runyon-canyon-open-space>. For more information about FORC, visit: <http://www.friendsofrunyoncanyon.com>.

Hillside Federation Draft minutes February 3, 2016

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Guest speakers:

Marian announced that Senator Kevin De León was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to an emergency meeting called by the Governor. Marian will work on re-scheduling him for a future meeting.

Tim Pershing for Assemblymember Richard Bloom

Tim updated the Federation regarding the Climate Change conference recently held in Paris and the work accomplished. The conference produced a 31-page document signed by 195 countries regarding climate change which was unprecedented. Tim spoke about California being an important model for the rest of the world especially due to the reforms enacted in our State. Members asked about an update regarding the reforms on the Alquist-Priolo Act, tax on solar panels, and

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization would like to bring an issue to the attention of the Federation, please complete a Request for Action form (available at the website www.hillsidefederation.org) and send it, along with supporting documents, to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently, while providing the necessary information to allow the Federation to consider your organization's request.

the tax usage fee.

Zak Meyer-Krings for State Senator Ben Allen

Zak works in Senator Allen's Sacramento office. He updated Hillside Federation members regarding the various legislative issues and the bill packages which need to be introduced in Sacramento by February 19th. Senator Allen is a member of the Senate Natural Resource and Water Committee, which oversees water policy for California as well as environmental issues except for certain policies regarding pollution, and the Transportation and Housing Committee, which is working on a possible package from Governor Brown moving forward to expedite re-paving of existing streets and roads. On the legislative front, he is working on bills regarding the Porter Ranch issue, the protection of our coastlines and protesting the change of leadership in the California Coastal Commission, and advancing environmental mitigations and bringing the various environmental communities into discussions earlier towards smarter and more comprehensive engagement.

II. Approval of Minutes

The January minutes were approved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

The comment period for the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) and Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO) amendments has closed. There were over 650 emails submitted on the proposed amendments. The new date for the City Planning Commission meeting regarding these amendments is May 12, 2016.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

Don updated the members with the Treasurer's Report and reminded all that dues are due by March 1, 2016.

V. New Business

A. Runyon Canyon Land Acquisition – Becky Nielsen

Becky Nielsen, from the Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit land conservation organization involved in acquiring private land to put in public ownership, spoke about the proposed purchase of 14 additional acres to be added to Runyon Canyon Park. She handed out maps and a presentation booklet. The Trust for Public Land is partnering with the Friends of Runyon Canyon to preserve this land which is under option for purchase. The groups are actively raising money and have raised approximately \$6 million dollars towards the purchase price of approximately \$10 million dollars. A \$300,000 donation is currently available for matching funds. Additionally, funding is being pursued from Prop A and Prop K monies. TPL and Friends of Runyon Canyon have begun a discussion with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy regarding Measure HH.

The Department of Recreation and Parks will manage the land when acquisition is completed. A discussion ensued regarding the area of acquisition, access to the area, conservation easements, increase of land

without addressing the need for parking and other potential impacts to the surrounding neighborhood, and the public benefit aspects of the additional land acquisition.

MOTION: Don Andres moved that the Hillside Federation support the acquisition of the 14+ acres of open wilderness space to be added to Runyon Canyon Park and to inform its membership of the fundraising link: <https://fundly.com/save-runyon-canyon-open-space>. The motion passed.

B. Neighborhood Integrity Initiative/Coalition to Preserve Los Angeles – Jill Stewart and Jack Humphreville

Jill Stewart described the purpose of the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII). Information sheets were distributed that outline the purpose of the initiative. According to its proponents, the NII would set a two-year moratorium on code exceptions granted to developers to build taller and denser projects than existing zoning and the General Plan allow, halt back room deals that award spot re-zoning to developers, force the City Council to create a rational long-term plan for growth via new citywide General Plan, prevent developers from significantly cutting the parking spaces they must provide, ban developers from writing their own Environmental Impact Reports, which proponents consider an obvious conflict of interest. Proponents argue that a "time out" on major large developer/transit oriented development is needed. Jill is requesting that the Hillside Federation do the following: endorse the Initiative at the March meeting, identify smaller groups and ask them to consider fundraising, and give money or time to the effort.

Members had questions about the Los Angeles Times article regarding Father Gregory Boyle's rescinding of his

endorsement of the NII, AB 283 and the Hillside Federation's lawsuit, the previous ordinance intended to update the General Plan, and the status of meetings with NII representatives and the Mayor.

The Federation shared an online link to the NII language in its February newsletter [the link is: <http://tinyurl.com/hvv6g88>]. The issue will be agendized again for the March Hillside Federation meeting.

V. Old Business

A. Innsdale Vineyard – David Benz, Lake Hollywood HOA

David Benz updated the recent lawsuit by the owner of the property at 6459 Innsdale Drive who was seeking to build an estate deviating from City code. The project included extensive grading, roadway development, construction of a tennis court, pool, wine cellar cave, and a hammerhead turn for the fire department at the end of the gated roadway. The Zoning Administrator and Central Area Planning Commission denied the applicant's requests. David reported that the applicant's petition for writ of mandate to the City of Los Angeles was denied by the Superior Court. An appeal may follow.

B. Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing – Marian Dodge

Marian, John Given, and Elke Heitmeyer attended the Caltrans Liberty Canyon scoping meeting in Calabasas on January 14. Because the comment deadline was before the Federation's next meeting and we had already taken a position supporting one aspect of the project, the Executive Committee approved sending a letter supporting Alternative # 3 (a crossing over both the 101 Freeway and Agoura Rd.).

MOTION: Marian moved that the Federation approve the sending of the letter in support of Alternative 3. The motion passed.

C. San Vicente Peak Telecommunications Tower – John Given

John gave an update regarding the telecommunications tower proposed for San Vicente Peak that was discussed last year by the Federation. Per Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association Vice President Mike Leslie, at the recent Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) meeting regarding the DEIR, the LA-RICS people knew of the Federation letter and confirmed that the San Vicente Peak LTE and LMR towers at the old Nike site are no longer included in the LA-RICS plan. The Federation's position supported eliminating that location from the LA-RICS proposal. Mike and BHHA thank everyone for their support on this issue.

D. Hidden Creeks – Wendy-Sue Rosen

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy appealed approval of the tract map and second appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision regarding the retaining wall exceptions. The applicant's representative sent a letter to the City Planning Commission requesting a continuance, asserting that "due to the current gas leak at the Southern California Gas Company facility at Aliso Canyon, Forestar believes it is prudent to continue this matter until addition information is available regarding the leak." Hidden Creeks is immediately adjacent to Porter Ranch. The proposed homes in the new development would be as close to the gas leak as many existing homes. The project is on hold.

E. 8904 Crescent Dr. – Steven Poster

The Zoning Administrator denied the applicant's requests for exemptions to the code, including the requirement to be exempted from improving the roadway to the specifications of the Hillside Ordinance.

Councilmember Ryu supported the neighbors on this issue.

1400 Linda Flora – Steve Twining

Steve Twining brought up landscaping of the retaining walls along 1400 Linda Flora and was asked to submit an RFA (Request for Action) regarding this issue.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Submitted by Carol Sidlow
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel-Air Assn.	Bruce Kuyper
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	Eric Edmunds
	John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Don Keller
	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
	Steven Kates
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
Franklin Ave/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Mary Ledding

Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Lake Hollywood	David Benz
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Alison Simard
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington All.	Dan Wright
Nichols Canyon	Justine Schmidt
Res. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Heidi Mackay
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Nichols Canyon	Stacy Sillins

Guests Present:

SD 26 (Ben Allen)	Zak Meyer-Krings
AD 50 (Bloom)	Tim Pershing
City of Glendale	Laura Friedman
Trust for Public Land	Becky Nielsen
Coal. to Preserve LA	Jill Stewart
	Laura Gutierrez
Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
GWNC	Jack Humphreville
Bel Air Crest	Irene Sandler
NELA Greenspace	Tony Scudellari
	Doug Dawson
Friends of Runyon Can.	Julie Anderson
Upper Nichols Canyon	Amy Dantzler

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	ORGANIZATIONS Beachwood Canyon Bel-Air Association Bel Air Knolls Property Owners 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.	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 Silver Lake Heritage Trust	Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn. CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Brian Moore Polly Ward
PRESIDENT Marian Dodge			
CHAIRMAN Charley Mims			
VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen			
SECRETARY Carol Sidlow			
TREASURER Don Andres			
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY John Given			