

Hillside Federation Newsletter October, 2016



www.hillsidefederation.org

October Hillside Federation To Focus on Ballot Measures

Please join the Hillside Federation on Wednesday, October 5 to discuss several important measures by the November 8 ballot. In addition to voting for President, Senate, and Congress, LA-area voters will have the opportunity to weigh in on 17 statewide measures, two LA County measures, and a variety of local measures.

MRCA Ranger James Latham will discuss companion measures FF and GG, which would raise revenue for acquisition, conservation, and maintenance of open space, wildlife corridors, and parklands, among other benefits. Measure FF (a \$15 per parcel special tax for ten years) would cover hillside communities in Woodland Hills, Encino, and Tarzana, while Measure GG (a similar \$35 special tax) would cover the Santa Monica Mountains and Hollywood Hills east of the 405 freeway. Both would require independent citizen oversight.

We will also discuss LA County Measure A (parks), Local Initiative Ordinance JJJ (affordable housing and labor standards), and the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (on the March 2017 ballot).

We hope you will join us!

Agenda

October 5, 2016

7:00 pm

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

I. Call to Order

Guest:

Mountains Recreation and Conservation
Authority, Ranger James Latham
– Local Measures FF & GG

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers' Reports

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

IV. Old Business

IV. New Business

- A. LA County Parks & Open Space Measure A
- B. Initiative Ordinance JJJ (Affordable Housing and Labor Standards Related to City Planning)
- C. Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (on March 2017 ballot)

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting – November 2

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.*

Neighborhood Integrity Initiative Certified for March 2017 Ballot

Los Angeles City Clerk Holly L. Walcott announced certification of the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII) in a September 16, 2016 report to the City Council. Following certification, on September 30 the City Council approved the recommended action of its Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee initiative for a Special Election to be called and consolidated with the City's March 7, 2017 Primary Nominating Election. An LA Times story on the NII is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hyy2whl>.

The City Clerk's report and a second report from the City Attorney are both available in the Council File (CF 16-1054). In addition, the language of the council action, including the NII language, is available for review in the Council File at: <http://tinyurl.com/zfruec7>.

Measure A – Parks and Open Space

Measure A, the Los Angeles County Parks and Open Space Measure, is scheduled for the November 8 election. The measure was proposed by the LA County Board of Supervisors in June, 2016, and follows on a 2014 measure that garnered a majority of

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.

voters, but fell short of the 2/3 vote required for the measure to pass. Supporters of Measure A have started a web site listing the reasons to support and noting the large list of community leaders endorsing the measure, most notably Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Hilda Solis. The website is available at: www.YesonAforLAParks.com.

As this newsletter goes to press, the Hillside Federation has found no opposition groups' website or other information.

Reminder: P-22 Day and Urban Wildlife Week is Oct. 16 thru Oct. 22

The National Wildlife Federation's P-22 Day and Urban Wildlife Week will begin with a rally on October 16 at the site of the proposed wildlife crossing in Agoura Hills and will culminate in a public celebration in Griffith Park, and will include a 3-day hike covering more than 40 miles. For more information, visit National Wildlife Foundation California's event page for Urban Wildlife Week on Facebook at: <http://tinyurl.com/zogvqox>.

LA Cultural Heritage Commission Unanimously Supports Designating Lytton Savings Bank Building

The Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission unanimously supported designating the Lytton Savings Bank Building as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument on September 15, 2016. The structure is located on the site of a major proposed development at 8150 Sunset Boulevard.

The commission's recommendation moves on to the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee, where it is not yet scheduled. The commission case number is CHC-2016-2522-HCM. The commission's report is available at Council File 16-1074 at: <http://tinyurl.com/j5548c6>.

Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
September 7, 2016

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 – Thomas Freedman

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 Hastian 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 support 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 Roscomare Valley Association and RVA'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, publically, 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 headmistress 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

SAVE THE DATE!

The Hillside Federation’s annual holiday party will be December 8 at the Mulholland Tennis Club. More details will be provided in coming months.

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
Roscomare Valley	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	_____ Palmer
Studio City Res.	Allan Dymond
	Beth Dymond
CLAW	Skip Haynes
Save Coldwater Cyn!	_____

LA City Council Move Forward on Party House Ordinance

In June 2016, Councilmember David Ryu initiated a motion to address the problem of party houses in Los Angeles (CF 12-1824-

S1). The motion noted that the issue of party houses has plagued the City for many years, and previous attempts by the council to take action during the last 15 years have not produced satisfactory results.

PLUM considered and approved the motion as amended on September 27. The City Attorney will draft an ordinance modeled on a similar ordinance of the City of Newport Beach in consultation with relevant departments, including LAPD. Action now moves to the Public Safety Committee.

Wendy-Sue Rosen Honored



The Hillside Federation’s Wendy-Sue Rosen was recently honored by the Stonewall Young Democrats for her work on LGBT rights. Congratulations, Wendy!

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
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