

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
April 2, 2014**

I. Call to Order:

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

Guest Speaker: Seth Riley – Wildlife Expert with National Park Service

Seth gave a power point presentation on wildlife and reported the condition of wildlife in our Santa Monica Mountains and the negative impacts of anti-coagulant rodenticides. There are over 150,000 acres to protect in our mountains, juxtaposed with constant pressure to see areas developed. Carnivore studies including Mountain Lions, Coyotes and Bobcats began in 1996 to better understand how carnivores live and survive in our urbanized and fragmented landscape and how they are affected by those forces. Significant causes of mortality among carnivores are anti-coagulants (rat poison) and vehicle related deaths.

Mountain lions – many with radio tracking – are being studied. Mountain lions need a large habitat. P-22 – the famous mountain lion photographed in front of the Hollywood Sign and featured on the cover of National Geographic magazine – currently resides in Griffith Park. He successfully crossed over the 101 Freeway from the western Santa Monica Mountains and is now part of the Griffith Park Connectivity Study. Increased connectivity across roadways is necessary for the survival, health and population of wildlife. Tunnels, overpasses and other options for wildlife crossings are being discussed, including a crossing point at Liberty Canyon off the 101 Freeway.

Engagement is needed with decision-makers across cities, counties and the state to generate more interest about this important issue. Currently there is an effort to map wildlife corridors between the 101 Freeway and Griffith Park by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

II. Approval of Minutes

The March minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian reported that a thank-you note was received from the attorney representing the neighbors for our opposition to the variance to deviate from the provisions in the BHO for an over-in-height structure at 10550 Bellagio Road.

Marian reported that a stop-work order had been issued for the unpermitted work at 3461 Abington. At this point the project is going to be heard by the Mulholland Design Review Board.

Marian reported that she and Vice President Wendy-Sue Rosen attended a meet-and-greet for

Bobby Shriver, who is running for the County Board of Supervisors seat being vacated by Zev Yaroslavsky, at a beautiful property in the western Santa Monica Mountains.

Marian reported that the “State of the City” speech is being given by Mayor Eric Garcetti on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at the Science Center, by invitation only.

Steve Twining, Chair of the Nominating Committee, made a motion to approve the slate of officers to be elected at the May meeting of the Hillside Federation. Motion duly seconded.

President – Marian Dodge
Chairman – Charley Mims
Vice Presidents –
 Wendy-Sue Rosen and
 Mark Stratton
Treasurer – Don Andres
Recording Secretary – Carol Sidlow
Executive Secretary – John Given

Tony Tucci made a motion for members to vote individually for each office. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Board voted unanimously to approve the slate of Officers.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Don Andres

Don gave Treasurer’s report. 43 of the 44 organizations who have joined have paid dues. Don thanked everyone for the increase in membership and helping make the Hillside Federation stronger than ever. The Executive Committee will continue its efforts to increase membership, especially in hillside areas in the City not currently represented by the Federation.

IV. New Business

A. Sale of Surplus City Properties

Tony Tucci requested that the Federation write a letter to the Mayor, City Attorney, and City Council asking that the City follow State law regarding the sale of surplus City properties and that those properties be environmentally protected in perpetuity as open space. Tony made an additional request to ask that the Hillside Federation establish a new policy for the Department of General Services. The policy would call for the Department to notify abutting property owners and communities receiving the mutual public benefit of the existing open space.

The Hillside Federation members discussed this request in the context of State law, City policy and the importance of the City following State law. Further discussion ensued about current policies and procedures with respect to selling surplus City-owned properties, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy’s ability to acquire properties and the legal and political elements involved.

Marian reported that the Department of General Services had been invited to attend the Hillside Federation meeting to make a presentation but did not respond to her request. Marian will arrange a meeting with appropriate parties and report back to the Hillside Federation Board at a future meeting.

B. Local Coastal Program - Kim Lamorie

Kim Lamorie, President of Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation and sister organization to the Hillside Federation, spoke regarding the Local Coastal Program (LCP) covering 52,000 acres which has been championed for seven years by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. The County Board of Supervisors voted in February to support the Local Coastal Program. On April 10, 2014, the California Coastal Commission will meet in Santa Barbara to vote on certification of the Local Coastal Program which is part of the Land Use Plan.

A Local Coastal Program identifies ground rules for future development in the coastal zone. Each LCP includes a land use plan and its implementing measures. These programs govern decisions that determine the short and long term conservation and use of coastal resources. The Coastal Commission formally reviews LCPs for consistency with Coastal Act standards. Major environmental organizations and elected officials including Assemblyman Richard Bloom and State Senator Fran Pavley are in support of the LCP.

Kim requested the Hillside Federation support the report voted on by the Board of Supervisors with recommended changes by Coastal Commission staff. Charley Mims moved to support the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program as adopted by the County Board of Supervisors with recommended changes by Coastal Commission staff. Motion duly seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. 11767 Bellagio Road – Small Lot Subdivision

Bruce Kuyper, representing neighbors around a proposed Small Lot Subdivision on Bellagio Road, spoke about the demolition of a single family residence to be replaced by six townhomes on a small lot in Bel Air located above Moraga and east of Sepulveda. The applicant originally requested variances but those requests have been withdrawn. An Advisory Agency hearing was held on February 26, 2014 for a Tentative Tract Map and is currently under advisement. Hillside Federation members discussed Small Lot Subdivisions in general, this Small Lot Subdivision in particular, lack of consistency with the Bel Air Beverly Crest Community Plan, and the potential negative impacts and precedent this type of development could bring to the various neighborhoods nearby.

Charley Mims moved that the Hillside Federation express its concern about 11767 Bellagio Road due to its impact to the character and nature of the existing neighborhood. He further moved that should the result of the Tentative Tract Map approval process come out without sufficient time for the full Board of the Hillside Federation to act upon it at its next meeting, that the Executive Committee could make a timely reply based upon the findings. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. Curtis School – Mark Stratton

Mark Stratton reported that the Curtis School project came before the City Planning Commission on March 27, 2014. The staff report was issued days prior to the hearing and recommended disapproval of the access road on Caltrans property, but approval of all other deviations to the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Prior to the CPC hearing, Marian, Tom Freeman (Hillside Federation legal counsel), and other members of the Executive Committee met with Councilmember Koretz to ask that he oppose the access roadway being cut into the hillside on Caltrans property. At the time Koretz said he was concerned that if the roadway were constructed on Caltrans property it could disturb the wildlife corridor. At the CPC hearing, however, his deputy opposed the roadway, but left open the possibility that it could be constructed in the future if Curtis could get permission from Caltrans.

The Commission discussed at length the traffic study, the improper baseline used for the project, and wildlife easements that the Conservancy had requested. The Commission asked that Curtis go back and do a proper traffic study, which will require recirculation of the MND, a new staff report and another round of hearings. The community will continue to oppose the City bypassing the grading limits of the BHO, the exceptions to the Specific Plan, and the access roadway being constructed on Caltrans property.

B. Hollywood Sign Traffic – Lucy Gonzalez

Lucy Gonzalez spoke about the terrible traffic congestion and dangerous roadway conditions created in the hillside areas around the Hollywood Sign by visitors hoping to view the iconic sign. Meetings have been held with the communities impacted and some solutions have been proposed, including Temporary Preferred parking on Saturday, Sundays and Holidays from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. The Recreation and Parks Department is building a gate at the top of Beachwood, which would be locked to vehicular traffic but allow for pedestrian traffic and hikers. The area is closed while the gate is being constructed.

C. Hollywood Community Plan Update

George Abrahams reported that the City Council voted to rescind the 2012 Hollywood Community Plan. However, there is controversy regarding making infrastructure reporting ‘discretionary’ and not mandatory as part of the General Plan Framework that will make it inconsistent with many current community plans in the City. George reported that the recent Neighborhood Council elections for the Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council has brought in a new majority of pro-resident members to weigh in on issues in Hollywood.

D. Slope Remediation – 1825 Laurel Canyon

Carol Sidlow reported that a cement truck fell down the hill at the top of the landslide on

Crescent Heights Blvd. The news reported the incident and stated that the driver was lucky to make it out alive. The company doing the remediation work sent a letter out explaining what happened and included mitigations to hopefully prevent this from happening again.

E. Re:code LA – Carol Sidlow

Carol Sidlow reported that the last of the Planning Forums are being held over the next two weekends – Saturday, April 5, 2014, in Van Nuys at Van Nuys City Hall, and Saturday, April 12, 2014, in San Pedro. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. Further information is available at: www.recodela.org.

VI. Announcements

Don announced that Cyd Ziegler, delegate from Upper Nichols Canyon to the Hillside Federation, is the newly elected Vice President of the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Canyon Back Allian.	Lois Becker
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
	Alison Simard
Lookout Mountain	Wendell Meldrum
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Oaks HOA	Gerry Hans
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
	Shirley Cohen
Upper Mandeville	James Provenzano

Guests Present:

AD 50 field rep	Tim Pershing
Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
Las Virgenes H Fed	Kim Lamorie
CLAW	Skip Haynes
Lake Hlwd Estates	Brett Kornblatt
Bel Air	Bruce Kuyper
	Pat Nation