

**Hillside Federation  
Minutes  
May 7, 2014**

**I. Call to Order**

Charley Mims, Chairman filling in for Marian Dodge, called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

George Abrahams recommended changes to the May minutes. The May minutes were approved as amended. Motion made by Don Andres; seconded by Alex Rose.

**III. Officers' Reports**

A. President's Report – Charley Mims

Charley Mims announced that the Los Angeles Times printed a story about the Hollywood Fault line locations.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

Don reported that the Hillside Federation has 44 member groups. Next month, Don will be making an announcement regarding a new group that has just been formed called Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation.

Following Officers' Reports, Chair Charley Mims asked for a moment of silence in memory of Polly Ward and former Hillside Federation Secretary Liz Tigar.

Induction of Officers – **Guest: Ron Galperin**, Los Angeles City Controller

Charley Mims thanked Ron Galperin for attending the meeting and inducting the Officers to the Hillside Federation.

Ron began his remarks by expressing his thanks to the Hillside Federation for the work it does to preserve our hillside communities in Los Angeles in spite of obstacles and competing interests. As a member of the Hillside Federation, he knows about the work the Hillside Federation members do to protect our hillsides and resources.

Before the induction, Ron spoke about the future audits being done by his office including an audit of the of 3-1-1 system.

The Officers of the Hillside Federation were inducted and each presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for their service to the Hillside Federation and the City of Los Angeles. After the induction, Ron reminded members to visit the Controller's data website to better understand the financial state of the City. See: [www.controller.lacity.org/Financial\\_Reports/index.htm](http://www.controller.lacity.org/Financial_Reports/index.htm).

Wendy-Sue Rosen expressed thanks and gratitude on behalf of the Hillside Federation for Ron's attending the meeting and doing such a great job as Controller.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### A. Solar Farms – Nancy Woodruff, Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council

Nancy Woodruff spoke about Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's FiT (Feed-in-Tariff) Program in which solar generated electrical energy is sold to the LADWP through various long term contracts. LADWP started the program in 2013 by selecting a number of future project sites from submitted applications to help the City reach its goal of creating 33% of its energy from renewable sources by the year 2020. Although the primary source of power is to be generated on rooftops and existing parking lots, a number of bare-land projects in non-conforming areas such as residential neighborhoods have been included. Woodruff said the DWP has not engaged the public with respect to those sites. There are concerns about the lack of a planning process that would normally occur when an electrical generating plant is developed in a residential R-zoned neighborhood instead of C (commercial) or M (manufacturing) zones, and also the lack of transparency with regard to where these large projects will be developed. Councilmember Felipe Fuentes of CD 7 put forward Council Motion #14-0331 requesting the City take more control of the placement of these power generating plants as well as require LADWP to disclose the locations of similar projects.

Motion made by Wendy-Sue Rosen and seconded by Alex Rose: The Hillside Federation supports Councilmember Fuentes' Motion 14-0331 and will write a letter to express support for the motion, environmental protection, and broader notice. Motion adopted unanimously.

#### **V. Old Business**

##### A. Cell Towers – Alexander von Wechmar, Los Angeles Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (WTF) Working Group Member

Alexander von Wechmar spoke about the proliferation of Above-Ground Facilities (AGF) in hillside communities, which is especially frustrating because the community and City have been working on wireless telecommunication facilities regulation since 2010.

In September 2012, the City Council voted unanimously to update and revise the City's AGF ordinance, and directed the City Attorney to draft an updated ordinance. In October 2013, a draft of the revised Ordinance was presented by the City Attorney's Office at a joint hearing of the Public Works and PLUM Committees. The new AGF ordinance would remove the pole exemption clause, expand notification requirements, and provide the ability to appeal the decision by residents and homeowner associations. After nineteen months, however, the new AGF ordinance has not been presented to the City Council for approval. This is allowing an increase in cellphone transmitters and related equipment being placed in our hillside neighborhoods.

Motion made by Alexander von Wechmar and seconded by Steve Twining to write a letter to

City Attorney Mike Feuer and City Council members to request they finalize the Above Ground Facilities Ordinance as soon as possible and send to the City Council for approval. Motion adopted unanimously.

#### B. Sale of Surplus Properties

John Given reported on the sale of surplus properties by the City of Los Angeles discussed at the April Hillside Federation meeting. There are two state statutes relating to the sale of surplus properties in play—Government Code Section 54222 and Public Resources Code Section 33207(b). The Government Code addresses what cities can and cannot do with surplus properties in general; the Public Resources Code statute gives the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy ("SMMC") a right of first refusal on surplus properties located within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone. It appears that SMMC has not been receiving appropriate notice regarding surplus parcels located within the Santa Monica Mtns. Zone that have been offered for sale, including a Willow Glen property in Laurel Canyon.

The Willow Glen property was discussed at the April Hillside Federation meeting. Marian, Wendy and John attended a meeting with Councilmember Tom LaBonge and his Chief of Staff Carolyn Ramsay to discuss Willow Glen and the City's surplus property notification protocol in general.

Tony Tucci reported that the SMMC has filed an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's Determination regarding the Willow Glen property. Wendy suggested that the Hillside Federation invite Paul Edelman of SMMC to attend our next meeting to discuss these issues.

#### C. 8150 Sunset Blvd.

Alex Rose, Christopher Rice and Andrew MacPherson from Save Sunset Strip reported on a large construction project proposed for the corner of Crescent Heights and Sunset. The Applicant requested an expedited CEQA process via designation as an Environmental Leadership Development Project (ELDP) through the State. Under this designation, all judicial review of the project following certification of the Environmental Impact Report would be limited to 270 days, which would be impossible to meet. Christopher described the types of projects that the State legislation was meant to include, for example large stadiums and solar projects. This project does not fit the requirements and would be precedent-setting. The City of West Hollywood, which is adjacent to the project, sent a letter to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee opposing the designation and expedited process (but not necessarily the development).

Motion made by Wendy-Sue Rosen and seconded by Don Andres to oppose the designation of the proposed development at 8150 Sunset as qualifying as an Environmental Leadership Development Project.

#### D. 1500 Gilcrest

Wendy-Sue Rosen reported that the case went before the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission this afternoon. A continuance was requested and granted by the Area Planning

Commission as the parties are working on a settlement.

E. Recode LA

Carol Sidlow reported the next meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee will be Wednesday, May 21, 2014 with an update being presented to the City Planning Commission on May 22, 2014.

F. Update on P-22

Wendy-Sue Rosen spoke about P-22—our beautiful Griffith Park mountain lion who was featured in National Geographic—who was recently discovered to be suffering from mange apparently caused by ingestion of rat poison. To date, mountain lions who have developed mange have not survived. However, P-22 was treated and re-collared and according to the National Parks Service who monitors and tracks, P-22 appears to be acting as a normal mountain lion—tracking prey and hunting. We will keep our fingers crossed that P-22 will completely recover.

G. Rodenticide motion

Ali Simard reported about a hearing and report presented by Rec and Parks to the Rec and Parks Committee. Councilman O’Farrell has sent the item back to Rec and Parks. He is requesting three scenarios to be presented to the Rec and Parks Committee in thirty days.

H. Wildlife Corridor

Tony Tucci passed around a motion made by Paul Koretz regarding wildlife corridors. It was suggested that a representative from Councilman Koretz’s office attend the next Hillside Federation meeting to make a presentation.

**VI. Adjournment** – The Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Canyon Back Allian.	Lois Becker
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Kagel Canyon	Nancy Woodruff
Lake Hollywood	Jane Goichman
Laurel Canyon	Ali Simard
	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow

Mt. Olympus

N. Beverly/Franklin  
Oaks HOA

Roscomare Valley

Save Sunset Bl.  
Sherman Oaks HOA

Mel Remba

Sean Benaroya

Robert Levy

Alexander von Wechmar

Steve Twining

Shirley Cohen

Alex Rose

Elke Heitmeyer

**Guests Present:**

N. Beverly/Franklin

Save Sunset Bl.

Connie Levy

Andrew MacPherson

Christopher Rice