

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
June 4, 2014**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Speaker: J.B. Blevins, Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation (FORC)

Don Andres introduced J.B. Blevins from the newly formed organization Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation, which is working to restore, manage and enhance Runyon Canyon Park in partnership with the public and the City for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Foundation is working with and soliciting support from various groups and individuals including local NCs, Council Districts 4 (LaBonge) and 13 (O'Farrell), and is in the process of securing an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks allowing Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation to be the community liaison for the City to the park.

FORC has three initial goals: (1) park trail maintenance and infrastructure improvements, (2) public water fountains and restrooms, and (3) park maintenance and management so that the work done will be maintained with long-term goals, including parking. An awareness and fundraising campaign will be launched this summer through a variety of outlets and groups including social media. More information can be found at: www.FriendsofRunyonCanyon.com

Paul Koretz, Councilmember (CD5)
Wildlife Corridor Motion and Other Updates

Paul Edelman, Deputy Director, Natural Resources and Planning, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Councilmember Koretz reported on the following motions:

1. Rodenticide Motion (Council File: 13-1580)—rodenticides create severe and unintended consequences not only for wild animals, but for dogs and cats as well. The more wildlife deaths, the more the rodent population grows. It is important to ban the use of rodenticides on City property and reduce its impact in our hillsides.

2. No Smoking in Hillsides Motion (Council File: 14-0713)—it is imperative that hillside areas have an adequate number of and properly located “No Smoking” signs and that fines for violations are sufficient to act as a deterrent. The City Attorney is reviewing the feasibility of a \$1,000.00 fine; if feasible the amount would be posted on “No Smoking” signs in hillside areas.

3. Tree Trimming Policy Motion (Council File: 14-0019)—there was discussion today [June 4] at the City Council’s Energy & Environment Committee. There have been complaints about the City’s contractors over-trimming and not trimming properly. These are concerns that were raised by the Hillside Federation in a letter. The Committee directed the Bureau of Street

Services to create a better policy with a report back in one month.

4. Wildlife Corridor Motion (Council File: 14-0518)—wildlife corridors are vital to aid movement so that animals can move freely without getting killed and to help maintain genetic diversity. P-22 is an example of a mountain lion that crossed the freeway successfully and survived ingesting rodenticide. A mountain lion was recently killed crossing the 101. We need wildlife corridors and this motion will ensure that the City of LA takes wildlife corridors into account during the planning process. The Wildlife Corridor motion will be heard by the Planning and Land Use Committee of the City at a future date.

Paul Edelman added that Councilmember Koretz should be applauded for his Wildlife Corridor Motion. If passed, the motion would protect wildlife movement from the I-405 to Griffith Park. The City would require that all hillside properties within the boundaries of the BHO are reviewed prior to any approval to look at ways to ensure valuable wildlife connectivity be preserved as part of the planning process. Each project would have to demonstrate that it would not negatively impact wildlife connectivity and if impacted mitigation would be required. This would lead to permanent habitat protection. According to Paul this can be done with little cost to the homeowner or developer most of the time.

Members of the Federation discussed the Wildlife Corridor motion and asked Councilmember Koretz to request that a separate Planning and Zoning category be created on ZIMAS to ensure that the Wildlife Corridors are considered separately from the BHO. Marian thanked Chief of Staff Joan Pelico for all her work on the Motion.

MOTION: Tony Tucci moved that the Hillside Federation support the Wildlife Corridor motion. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Wendy asked Councilmember Koretz to clarify his position regarding the Curtis School project as it relates to wildlife corridor protection on the Caltrans property. CM Koretz assured the Federation that he supports preserving a functional wildlife corridor on the property and will communicate that to his Planning Deputy. Tom Freeman suggested that Councilman Koretz's Environmental Deputy work more closely with communities to address these important environmental issues and concerns.

Tom Freeman asked Councilmember Koretz if he would pick up the gauntlet of the Clean Hands Ordinance which is in the City Attorney's office. CM Koretz asked that the Hillside Federation meet with him to brief him on the Ordinance.

Steven Poster asked Paul Edelman to report on Measure HH and how much money had been collected and spent. Paul reported that approximately \$681,000 will be collected annually. So far the money has been spent on three parcels: Laurel-Mulholland, Laurel Canyon, and Universal Overlook.

Paul Edelman (SMMC), Sale of Surplus City Property / Willow Glen Road Appeal

Paul Edelman explained that the City made a deal with a developer on Willow Glen Road to buy an adjacent City-owned parcel so the developer could build two houses instead of one. Even

with the additional land, the developer needs deviations from code. The ZA granted the deviations and included the City-owned property in the approval. Paul appealed on behalf of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Public Resources Code section 33207(b) requires that the City allow the Conservancy an opportunity to exercise its first right of refusal before the City may dispose of any surplus property within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone. The Conservancy exercised its first right of refusal on this property, but the City is erroneously using a section of the Government Code to exempt the property. The appeal will be heard by the South Valley Area Planning Commission in July.

Members of the Federation asked that Councilmember Koretz address this problem so that open space parcels that have important biological resource value and wildlife connectivity are not sold to developers instead of being offered to the Conservancy to be preserved as required by statute. Koretz asked for a briefing and suggested he would consider an amending motion.

MOTION: Tony Tucci moved that the Hillside Federation support the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy appeal of the Zoning Administrators Determination regarding the property at 8145 Willow Glen Road. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Tim Pershing, Assemblymember Richard Bloom's Office, Legislative Update

Tim updated the Federation on various bills that have moved to the Senate unobstructed by the Assembly, including Bloom's rodenticide bill, micro-beads and film tax credit bills.

II. Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

Marian thanked Charley Mims and John Given for their help while she was away.

Gerry Hans gave an up-date regarding the Helicopter Noise issue.

Marian reported on Mayor Garcetti's press conference regarding the L.A. River Revitalization Plan and the recommendation by the Army Corps of Engineers to adopt Alternative 20, the most comprehensive habitat restoration plan.

Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation is having a wine tasting fundraising event on June 19, 2014. Marian will forward the invitation to all.

CLAW (Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife) is selling wildlife stamps. Find more information on their website: www.CLAWonline.org.

Marian distributed the recent Los Angeles Times article regarding the City Council's abuse of Charter Section 245 which has been a topic of discussion by the Hillside Federation.

The Westside Mobility Plan meetings are scheduled for June 5, 2014 at Westside Pavilion Community Meeting Room and June 9, 2014 at Venice High School cafeteria. Additional information is available on the Westside Mobility website: www.westsidemobilityplan.com.

A lawsuit has been filed regarding the property at 360 N. Stone Canyon Road in Bel Air where an over-height residence was approved by the City Council exercising jurisdiction under Charter Section 245.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

Don Andres reported on membership status.

IV. New Business

A. Baseline Mansionization Ordinance

Dick Platkin, Adjunct Instructor/University of Southern California and former City Planner Dick presented some of the history and current status of the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) enacted in 2008 which applies in the flatlands not in the hillsides. There is a need to amend the BMO to address issues that undermine it. Amending the BMO would be the most effective way of addressing the problems. Changes Platkin would like to see are: (1) reduction of by-right Floor Area Ratio in smaller R-1 lots from 0.52 to 0.42; (2) simplification or reduction of bonuses; (3) elimination of exemptions like garages. The amended BMO should be simple, enforceable, transparent and promote financial and environmental sustainability. Councilmember Koretz has introduced a motion to carefully examine the BMO and remove the exemptions and bonuses. Wendy asked if there are similar problems with the Baseline Hillside Ordinance and Platkin said similar problems exist. Wendy asked CD-5 Chief of Staff Joan Pelico to look into the possibility of similar amendments to the BHO.

B. Wildlife Corridor (see above)

C. Election Update – Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy reported the results of the June 3 election for seats that impact Hillside Federation members, including Congress, State Senate and County Supervisor.

V. Old Business

A. 8145 Willow Glen Appeal (see above)

B. 8150 Sunset – Andrew Macpherson

Andrew updated the status of the proposed development at 8150 Sunset Blvd. He distributed a handout on SB 743, the Environmental Leadership Development Project designation that is fast-tracking the project's environmental review. Save Sunset Blvd. has hired attorney Robert Silverstein and will file a lawsuit. Marian requested that Save Sunset Blvd. keep the Hillside Federation updated.

Janet Turner, District Representative for State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District introduced

herself and spoke briefly about Senator Lieu's Senate Bill SB-1155 which would mandate that developers and City officials treat an unzoned earthquake fault line just like a zoned earthquake fault line, plus add an additional setback of 75 feet. Janet.Turner@sen.ca.gov .

C. 1500 Gilcrest – Juliana Maio

Juliana Maio reported that the parties have entered into a settlement agreement. The West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission will hear this case again on June 18, 2014 to approve or disapprove the revised project resulting from the settlement agreement. Wendy and Carol complimented Juliana and Michael Phillips for their hard work and determination in spite of many obstacles.

D. re:codeLA – Carol Sidlow

The Staff Report with four recommendations along with thirty concepts will be addressed by a Special Meeting of the City Planning Commission on June 6, 2014. The Zoning Advisory Committee meeting for re:codeLA will be Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at City Hall, from 6:00–8:00p.m. Federation members expressed concerns about the vagueness of the Staff Report, lack of mention or attention to Specific Plans, scenic corridors, wildlife corridors, open space and the protection of our hillside areas.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter of concern to the City Planning Commission to address the lack of specificity in the Planning Department Staff report regarding protection of the hillside communities, aesthetics, Specific Plans, streamlining and concerns regarding CEQA protections. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Carol Sidlow
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
	Lois Becker
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
Canyon Back Alliance	Tom Freeman
CASM-SFV	Craig Smith
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez

Kagel Canyon	Susan Friend
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
N. Beverly/Franklin Cyn.	Robert Levy
Oaks HOA	Gerry Hans
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
	Shirley Cohen
Save Sunset Blvd.	Andrew Macpherson
	Joanna Parol
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res. Assn.	Alan Dymond
	Beth Dymond
	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	James Provenzano
Upper Nichols Cyn.	Stacy Sillins
Upper Riviera HOA	Stacy Thompson
	Nina Rosenfield

Officials Present:

CD-5:	CM Paul Koretz
	Chief of Staff Joan Pelico
	Env. Dep. Andy Schrader
Assemb. Dist. 50:	Tim Pershing
State Senate Dist 28:	Janet Turner
Mayor's Office:	Daniel Tamm

Guests Present:

SMMC	Paul Edelman
Crests	Juliana Maio
	Michael Phillips
N. Beverly/Franklin	Connie Levy
BeverlyWilshire HOA	Dick Platkin
Bel-Air Beverly Crest NC	Michael Kemp
CLAW	Alison Simard
	Skip Haynes
Friends of Runyon Cyn. Fdn.	B.J. Blevins

Other Guests:

Scott Drost
Teri Drost
Lorraine Johnson