

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
July 9, 2014**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves. Lois Becker had new name cards for members.

State Senate District 26 Candidate Forum

HF Chairman Charley Mims moderated the candidate forum, including asking questions submitted to the HF Executive Committee prior to the meeting. Vice President Mark Stratton served as the time keeper.

Candidate One-minute Opening Statements

Ben Allen stated that he was born and raised in the district, went to public school, worked in Washington DC for Jose Seranno, and attended law school at UC Berkeley. He was the student member of the University of California Board of Regents where he was able to get an important sustainability measure through and make other changes. He serves on and is a past president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education.

Sandra Fluke stated that she is a social justice attorney and an advocate for reproductive rights. She has experience with policy for health care access, education affordability, early childhood education and criminal justice issues working with local organizations.

Questions from Moderator Charley Mims

1. CEQA

Ms. Fluke: CEQA protection is one of her top three priorities to protect the coast and the mountains. She is against any reform that would weaken CEQA.

Mr. Allen: He is very concerned about weakening CEQA, particularly attempts to remove the aesthetics component of CEQA, which is critical to the quality of life in this area. He is supported by environmental champions Sen. Fran Pavley, Zev Yaroslavsky, Alan Sieroty, Ed Edelman and Terry Friedman who all played critical roles in helping to preserve and protect the Santa Monica mountains. Ben knows the mountains because he has been hiking them since he was a little kid and preserving and protecting them and CEQA is a priority.

2. SB 1818 / AB 2222 (affordable housing density bonus)

Mr. Allen: He is in favor of AB 2222 because the loss of affordable housing is the result of terrible unintended consequences. He is supported by Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian who authored AB 2222 and Santa Monica for Renters Rights, an organization fighting for affordable housing in our area. Affordable housing is a crisis in Los Angeles that must be addressed.

Ms. Fluke: She also supports the reform of SB 1818 with AB 2222. She met with Assemblymember Nazarian to discuss ways to amend SB 1818 even further. She is supported by Councilmember Mike Bonin who is a leader on this issue and others. The State needs the federal government to restore cuts made to housing during sequestration. She wants to simplify the

process of qualifying for housing assistance so that those who need it the most get it.

3. Earthquake Fault Lines

Ms. Fluke: Earthquake mapping needs adequate funding. She is concerned that local decision makers do not have all the information to make appropriate decisions for all the construction in Hollywood. To insure public safety we need more education including taking a strong stand against fracking. She supports a moratorium on fracking because it has seismic consequences. Fluke is supported by Sen. Holly Mitchell.

Mr. Allen: He also opposes fracking. The State Geologist is concerned about the safety of the Millennium project; however City Council seems determined to move it forward. As a UC Regent he worked on the fault lines around the Berkeley stadium. We must be careful about Millennium because of its proximity to fault lines and because of its size.

4. Wildlife Corridors

Mr. Allen: The creation of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is what got him into politics. It contributes to our quality of life. He wants to work on habitat connectivity and on the preservation of open space. We need to leverage state and federal funding for open space. He supports the Rim of the Valley Corridor and extending the SMMNRA into the San Gabriel Mountains. He wants to help expand wildlife easements.

Ms. Fluke: The state can do a lot to protect and expand wildlife corridors. You need to involve all the jurisdictions. She is supported by Nancy Sutley, former chair of White House Council on Environmental Quality and Jonathan Parfrey (of LA League of Conservation Voters).

5. Rodenticides

Ms. Fluke: She cited Assemblymember Bloom's bill banning certain rodenticides. The loopholes should be closed by additional legislation.

Mr. Allen: He is supported by Assemblymember Bloom. Government agencies' use of second generation rodenticides is a loophole that should be closed. We need to be aggressive about getting stronger restrictions.

6. Drought & Water Needs

Mr. Allen: Water is a complex issue. There are a lot of antiquated "use it or lose it" mechanisms. We have to sit down with holders of old water rights. We should require drip irrigation in the Central Valley. We need to expand water recycling and capturing statewide.

Ms. Fluke: She has developed a comprehensive plan that includes rainwater capture, incentivizing statewide conservation, water meters, increase recycling for example at the Hyperion Treatment Facility which currently dumps water into the bay.

7. Solar Rights Act

Ms. Fluke: You need local control over solar farms, but need incentives and a streamlined process to encourage residential solar panels. The electrical grid needs to be improved to handle more solar panels.

Mr. Allen: He agrees with Ms. Fluke. They have done innovative solar work in the Santa

Monica-Malibu School District. Mel Levine, author of the initial bill, has endorsed him. Councilmember Fuentes is addressing the issue to see that solar farms don't avoid local review and negatively impact the hillside community.

Candidate Closing Statements

Mr. Allen: Both agree substantively on many issues. He brings deep roots in community. He grew up in these mountains, has substantial policy-making experience and a track record of getting difficult measures passed by bringing diverse people together. As the youngest member of the UC Regents, he got a very important sustainability measure passed as well as other progressive measures. Ben is proud of his public service as well as state and local experience that gives him the right combination to represent the district.

Ms. Fluke: This is her chosen home with values she shares. She has experience getting bills passed; she got the Catholic Church on board for reproductive rights. She can reach across the aisle as well as be an advocate who stands her ground. She chose to run for state office to champion environmental issues.

Questions from the Audience

8. Supporting Issues at the Local Level

Ms. Fluke: She supports assuring that the SMMC has first right of refusal on property acquisition. The City Council isn't abiding by state law. State lawmakers can weigh in to encourage them to comply. She would call current Sen. Lieu's office to ask him to put pressure on City Council to obey the state law. If a City Councilman is doing the wrong thing in her community, she'll call them.

Mr. Allen: He agrees.

9. Strengthening the Alquist-Priolo Act

Mr. Allen: The suggestions make sense. The State Geologist office should be granted more powers.

Ms. Fluke: She generally agrees, but the suggestions should be looked into in more detail.

10. Funding the State's Pension Liability

Ms. Fluke: Legislators have already started the process with everyone at the table and everyone sacrificed. The solution can't negatively impact the state's finances.

Mr. Allen: A good deal was struck, but it has saddled school districts with enormous fees. We need to look at pension abuse.

11. High-Speed Rail

Mr. Allen: Conceptually, he likes high-speed rail, but it must be affordable. It's easy to build it in the Central Valley, but getting over the mountains and out of LA is difficult. The rail funding could totally fund the expansion of public transit in LA. The key to its success is getting the train from LA to SF.

Ms. Fluke: She believes in the vision of high-speed rail; it is environmentally sound. It's an

affordable way to link the state. The fiscal management of the project is a challenge. It might work better as a public/private partnership. We must invest in local transit and bring the subway to the sea. The LA area seems more interested in high-speed rail than the Central Valley.

12. Delta Water Tunnels

Mr. Allen: It has complex environmental issues. We need upgrades to our water system. A lot of water in aqueducts is being lost to evaporation; they could be covered with solar panels. He does not favor the current tunnel proposal.

Ms. Fluke: She is concerned about the environmental impact of the tunnels. Stakeholders were left out of the process. She prefers natural solutions.

13. Water storage

Ms. Fluke: She supports Assemblymember Rendon's water bond because it is more locally oriented. Users of stored water need to be monitored.

Mr. Allen: He also supports the Rendon version. Santa Monica is close to being self-sufficient in water. They sued past polluters of ground water to fund the clean up.

14. As a new legislator, how would you hit the ground running?

Mr. Allen: You need to talk to people to understand their issues. He has experience in Sacramento from serving on the Board of Regents. This is the beginning of many conversations with our group and our members.

Ms. Fluke: She has drafted and worked to get state legislation passed for about ten years. She has been endorsed by the Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins, Karen Bass, Carol Liu, Holly Mitchell, and Hannah-Beth Jackson because she has worked with them on legislation. She'll learn from their experience. She's also endorsed by The Argonaut and the Daily News.

Janet Turner - Sen. Ted Lieu's office

Sen. Lieu, who is running for the 33rd Congressional seat will attend the Federation meeting in September. The Senator got more money in the state budget for state geologists so that earthquake fault mapping can continue. He got a \$1.5M grant for finding innovative ideas to address climate change. Sen. Lieu supports the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy in protecting wildlife corridors.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

Friends of Griffith Park is hosting a talk on rodenticides and their effects on bobcats, July 17, 7:00 at the Griffith Park Visitor Center auditorium.

There is no Hillside Federation meeting in August. The September meeting will include a candidate forum for the 33rd Congressional District (Rep. Waxman's seat).

B. Treasurer's Report – Marian Dodge (for Treasurer Don Andres)

Forty-three members have paid dues. All expenses are paid.

The Holiday Party will be at the Mulholland Tennis Club on Thursday, December 11.

IV. New Business

A. No Smoking ordinance – Marian Dodge

The no smoking ordinance (CF #14-0713), which would install no smoking signs in high fire danger areas and impose a \$1000 fine for violatons, was continued for 90 days by the Public Safety Committee in order to get staff reports.

B. Building & Safety Enforcement on the Mulholland Scenic Corridor – Michael Meyer (Hollywood Hills West NC / Outpost Estates)

The house under construction at 7080 Mulholland Dr. has numerous violations. Mr. Meyer brought violations to the attention of the Mulholland Design Review Board and CD 4 requesting enforcement of the Mulholland Scenic Corridor Specific Plan, but got no response. He then took it to HHWNC. Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council has joined with HHWNC to address the issue of lack of enforcement.

Michael is forming a coalition to address the issue. They got a response from the Mayor's Office. Kevin Keller has been assigned to come up with a solution to enforce the conditions. Wendy-Sue Rosen said she would like to see examples of the violations to take to Kevin Keller to address as a global problem. Michael will send the Federation as much documentation as he can locate, and we will arrange a meeting with Kevin Keller. Wendy thanked Michael for taking on the issue because it is important for all of us.

Short-term party rentals - It is already illegal to rent your house to party givers or a short-term rental in an R-1 area. Significant fines could fund the personnel needed by the Department of Building and Safety to handle enforcement. It is an allocation of resources decision.

C. AB 2222 Amendments to SB 1818 – Wendy-Sue Rosen

AB 1818's intent was to increase low income housing. The Federation joined in a successful lawsuit several years ago regarding the City's process for implementing AB 1818. Many incentives were available to developers who included some low-income housing; however, the law failed to assure that there would be a net increase in low-income housing. Yet, bonus incentives are being given even when there is a net decrease in low income units. This is hurting our communities.

Councilmember Bonin worked with Assemblymember Nazarian, who sponsored AB 2222 to address the loophole in SB 1818. This fix would require a net increase in low income units and that they must remain low-income for 50 years instead of the current 30 years. It passed the Assembly and is now in the Senate.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support AB 2222 as a fix to SB 1818 and send a letter in support to the Senate Committee. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. Sign Ordinance – Marian Dodge

PLUM held a hearing June 24. No decision was to be made; it was just for information. Alan Bell of the Planning Dept. made a brief presentation. The last part of the report was what to do with off-site signs outside of the Sign Districts. The whole concept of Sign Districts was to confine off-site signs to the Sign Districts; the rest of the city would have none. Options were: a) prohibit off-site signs, b) allow off-site signs only on city property so content can be controlled, c) work out a deal where sign industry puts up off-site signs but pays some revenue to the city.

There were many speakers from labor unions and non-profits brought in by the sign industry. The Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight had four speakers. Marian's impression was that the meeting was called by the sign industry to set us up for more signs.

B. Above Ground Facilities (AGF) Ordinance - Alexander von Wechmar

The working group has been working on the ordinance since 2006. The final revised version is now in the City Attorney Office, and will go to Council soon. All pole-mounted cell installations will require a permit. Notification with the right of appeal has been expanded to property owners and residents within 250 feet of the site. Homeowner associations will be notified and have right of appeal and a hearing with the Board of Public Works. Meanwhile the wireless industry asked that the small installations under two cubic feet be exempt. Councilmember Buscaino asked the City Attorney to include an exemption for small installations. The wireless industry wants the exemption to be for installations under three cubic feet, which would exempt almost every cell tower installation.

The working group will meet with CM Buscaino and other officials next week to discuss the exemption and try to keep it at two cubic feet. The working group would prefer no exemption because technology is reducing the size of cell installations. Marian thanked Alexander and Chris Spitz for their persistence on the ordinance.

C. 1500 Gilcrest – Wendy-Sue Rosen

At the Area Planning Commission hearing, the parties presented aspects of a settlement that had been worked out prior to the hearing. The Area Planning Commission accepted the terms submitted. Wendy testified on behalf of the Federation that we were concerned about process and the conditions that impacted the hillside environment.

D. Re:code LA – Marian Dodge

The next *re:code LA* meeting is at City Hall Room 525, July 23, 6:00-8:00 pm. Carol Sidlow sent a pdf of the "Planning 101" that explains basic planning terminology and procedures. Marian will send it to the membership and post it on our website.

E. 8150 Sunset – Adara Salim, Andrew Macpherson (Save Sunset Blvd.)

Adara invited members to an event at Bar Marmont on July 24 to meet and hear attorney Robert Silverstein discuss the community's options. The DEIR is not out yet. SB 743 limits a community's ability to address project impacts related to aesthetics, parking impacts, and traffic,

as normally allowed by CEQA. Save Sunset Blvd. wants development to be in scale. The Governor did not recognize all the letters from the public opposing the project being declared an Environmental Leadership Development Project (ELDP). Declaration of ELDP status has no appeal. The cumulative development of six projects on Sunset Blvd. on an earthquake fault will have a huge impact.

Announcements

Michael Meyer – Outpost Estates got Verizon to move the cell tower that they installed near a scenic overlook on Mulholland Drive.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Marian Dodge, Acting Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
	Steven Kates
Canyon Back Allian.	Tom Freeman
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
N. Beverly/ Franklin Canyon	Robert Levy
Oaks HOA	Alexander vonWechmar
Outpost Estates	Michael Meyer
Res. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
	Shirley Cohen
Save Sunset Blvd.	Andrew Macpherson
	Adara Salim
Studio City Residents	Claudia Freedle
Upper Nichols Cyn.	Susan Mullins
Upper Riviera HOA	Stacy Thompson

Officials Present:

Assemb. Bloom	Tim Pershing
State Senator Lieu	Janet Turner

Guests Present:

Ben Allen Team

Ben Allen
Edena Allen
Michael Allen
Nikki Bell
Ari Friedman
Matt Haney
Peter Harding
Diane Jahangani
Josh Lapper
Jamie Reina

Fluke for Senate

Ty
Sandra Fluke
Lindsay Bubar
Rini Sampath
Alec White
Adam Mutterperl

Res. of Beverly Glen
Hlwd. Hills West NC

Kira Palmer
Grant Wallensky

Homeowners

Connie Levy
Wayne Marmurstein
Yoshiko Rabin
Julie Wallach