

Hillside Federation Minutes September 3, 2014

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Candidate Forum 33rd Congressional District
Elan Carr
State Senator Ted Lieu

Executive Secretary John Given moderated the candidate forum. Questions were submitted to the Hillside Federation Executive Committee prior to the meeting. Vice President Mark Stratton served as time keeper.

Candidate Two-minute Opening Statements

Elan Carr: As a criminal gang prosecutor, he has spent years protecting American families and America's kids. If elected to Congress, he wants to protect people; take care of our kids and fix our schools. He is concerned that business and job creation is being driven out of California. Congress is broken and dysfunctional. He is not about parties or labels but about solutions.

State Senator Ted Lieu: He is from an immigrant family who operated a small business and achieved the American dream. He served in the Air Force and continues to serve in the reserves. After the Air Force, he went to law school and practiced law and then went into politics. He was elected to the State Assembly in 2005 and then to the State Senate in 2011. His priorities are job creation and is proud that California now leads the way in that area; has an on-time budget; has reinvested in education and paid down the debt. He supports open space preservation and is endorsed by several environmental groups. He believes we need a Federal solution to immigration reform.

Questions from Moderator John Given – Two minute response time

1. Pending Federal legislation that impacts our quality of life in the Santa Monica Mountains

Senator Lieu: He voted for bill by Senator Richard Bloom that would ban anti-coagulant rodenticides in California. However, there are 4-6 pieces of Federal legislation to relax restrictions on rodenticides and he would vote against them. He supports the Rim of the Valley Corridor study. He fully supports open space preservation and more trails.

Mr. Carr: He grew up in an outdoor loving family. The environment is a critical component in a healthy and wholesome life. We need to preserve the Santa Monica Mountains and need to keep our air and water clean in Los Angeles. He stated that you can make California more attractive place for business while also preserving the environment.

2. The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study

Mr. Carr: Was not familiar with Rim of the Valley Corridor Study issue. He supports finding a balance where Californians can enjoy the outdoors while, at the same time, allowing for home ownership and development. He objects to "all development/all business" or "all outdoors/all preserved" and there is no development. It is important to find the balance between a robust growing economy and the wide open beautiful spaces California is known to provide.

Senator Lieu: Supports Rim of the Valley Corridor Study because he believes that what comes from the study together with the Backbone Trail and Coastal Slope Trail, the whole system, will result in more trails and more wildlife corridors to help wildlife connectivity. Once you degrade an environment it's impossible to get it back. His instinct and his initial reaction is first to preserve.

3. National Park Service Funding

Senator Lieu: He fully supports funding for the Park Service. He discussed past history regarding the state of the economy in California over the past several years. Just a few months ago, California passed an on-time budget; paid down the debt; re-invested in education; unemployment is down and California's credit rating improved so there are additional resources for funding. He would support environmental protection resources.

Mr. Carr: Youth unemployment is in double digits and unemployment is at 8%. The reason we have to cut funding to education is because business is being driven out of California. The Park Service needs to be funded. However, he feels we have to deliver services in a more efficient way. The Federal Government has broken down and needs to be fixed. This requires a smarter more focused Federal government.

4. Wildlife Corridors

Mr. Carr: He thinks it is a mistake to pick any one appropriation and look at it in a vacuum. Wildlife crossings are a good idea but what are the trades-offs? What would we cut funding to – schools, prisons? He feels that the most important job of the government is to protect the American people and keep our communities and families safe. If California can afford a wildlife overpass at Liberty Canyon, he would support it.

Senator Lieu: He supports full funding of wildlife corridors and over his career, he has always championed wildlife and animal welfare legislation. He has been endorsed by the Humane Society and has authored several pieces of legislation regarding wildlife. He would prioritize full funding.

5. Helicopter Noise Issue

Senator Lieu: He fought to put reasonable regulations on helicopters and as a member of Congress, he would co-author Congressman Adam Schiff's legislation and continue to fight and press forward on this issue.

Mr. Carr: Transportation issues generally are profoundly important for Southern California. We have a very poor infrastructure for transportation and it's costing us in lost productivity and quality of life. We need to look at transportation globally. A lot of helicopter traffic is law enforcement, Medivacs and press. He thinks we need to look at our broken and antiquated infrastructure.

6. Early Earthquake Warning System

Mr. Carr: He feels this is a major issue and has to be a focus. We are in danger if we don't have an early warning system for natural disasters. The Government must invest in research and development of the most advanced early warning systems.

Senator Lieu: He fully supports earthquake early warning system funding. In the State legislature, they recently passed the water bond for the November ballot. An earthquake would have a devastating effect on the water supply. Part of the water bond provides an opportunity for grants to fund an earthquake warning system. In addition, he authored a bill that addresses the 7,000 miles of earthquake faults of which 5,000 have been zoned and mapped. The bill addressed the 2,000 miles of faults that have not been zoned or mapped but the bill didn't pass. However, he was successful in getting more staff hired for the State Geologists office who will now map the remaining 2,000 miles of faults.

7. Partisan environment in Washington

Senator Lieu: Be persistent. Legislation takes time. You need to keep making the arguments and eventually you will win. That is what he has done in the Legislature and that's what he will do in Congress.

Mr. Carr: One of the most distressing problems facing America today is the fragmentation in Congress. There is too much hyper-partisanship. What is critically important is to send to Washington fresh, independent voices that are going to bring a culture-change. He is optimistic that the new Congress will not tolerate business as usual.

8. Drought and Water issues

Mr. Carr: The infrastructure is antiquated. He spent time in Israel and what they are doing is jaw-dropping. They are leagues ahead of the United States regarding desalinization. There is a breakdown in Washington. We have to get back to taking care of people.

Senator Lieu: The water bond that recently passed the State Legislature and will be on the November ballot, won't immediately affect the drought, but it is something for the future. However, California now has passed historic ground water legislation. Recycling/re-use/conservation is the best way to deal with the drought. 80% of water usage goes towards agriculture and there needs to be a better use of water by

agri-businesses. Regarding desalinization plants, California has signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Israel to get that technology to California. We need to attack this from all areas.

9. Subway to the Sea/Fast Train

Senator Lieu: He supports Subway to the Sea and had supported Measure R in the past and would support something like Measure R in the future as well. He would fight for Federal funding for California. Regarding High Speed Rail/Fast Train, he voted for it for many reasons including the up-grade of the light rail system.

Mr. Carr: He loves the idea of High Speed Rail but we can't afford it. Federal Government needs to put money into Education and other critical needs that we face. Subways are a critical component to public transportation. We need an underground rail infrastructure in Los Angeles. We will have to make sure the path to the subway is safe. He supports 100% a subway to the sea and that would be part of that infrastructural improvement discussed earlier. California's astronomical taxes are why people are fleeing the State. He does not support sales tax increase until California's fiscal house is in order.

Closing statements given.

II. Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

The Coastal Commission and the County Board of Supervisors approved the Local Coastal Plan. This is a huge protection for the Santa Monica Mountains coastal area. Credit must be given to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and his Planning Deputy Ben Saltsman.

AB 2222 (amended SB 1818 allowing for density bonuses for low income units) – Legislature voted to support AB 2222 with the following amendments:

1) allow replacement units to be either rental or for-sale units; 2) count the replacement units towards the density bonus; and 3) exempt applications for density bonuses submitted before January 1, 2015. AB 2222 was approved on August 27, 2014 and is now on its way to the Governor for signature.

Noah Mulhstein from Councilman Paul Koretz's office gave up-date on motions proposed by Councilman Koretz : Wildlife Corridors (Motion # 14-0518) – still pending a hearing at City Council PLUM committee; Amending of Baseline Hillside Ordinance (Motion # 14-1059 regarding grading and cumulative impacts in hillsides); Citywide impact fee study (Motion # 14-1059 S1) – waiting for a report back from Building and Safety and Planning Department by November; Administrative Code Enforcement (ACE Ordinance 182610) - City is moving forward with a pilot program involving LAPD and Animal Services.

Carol Sidlow brought up the history of the ACE Ordinance originally passed in 2013 and asked about the implementation and recommendations made in the City Attorney's report including the hiring of outside vendors. Wendy suggested that the City Attorney come to a Hillside Federation meeting to discuss this issue.

Don Keller inquired about a Ridgeline Ordinance which has yet to be addressed by Councilman Koretz or the current motions put forward by Councilman Koretz. Per Noah Muhlstein, ridgeline protection is not included in the recent motions.

SAMO Fund (Santa Monica Mountains Fund) is having an event on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 5:30 - 9:00 pm at Calamigos Ranch in Malibu. Steve Winter (National Geographic photographer who photographed P-22 for the cover of the magazine) and Jeff Sikich (National Park Service) will be attending. Tickets are \$100 - food & wine with proceeds going for mountain lion research.

Sad note regarding the passing of Louise Frankel, five-term president of the Tarzana Property Owners Association and Robert Locker, long-time representative from Pacific Palisades. Marian called for a moment of silence in their memory.

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

All accounts are in balance. The Holiday Party will be Thursday, December 11th at the Mulholland Tennis Club.

IV. New Business:

A. Tumbleweed Alert – Dr. Arnold Newman – Oak Forest Canyon Homeowners Association

Tumbleweeds and the fire hazard they pose are a problem. They are growing in spite of drought conditions. Councilman LaBonge is working on this issue. A link will be provided in the Hillside Federation Newsletter so members can up-date their groups and be on the lookout for tumbleweed as well as contact their Council offices to report the problem.

B. 12400 Big Tujunga Canyon Road – Frank Buchanan

Frank Buchanan, former Recording Secretary and former representative to the Hillside Federation along with members of the Sunland Tujunga Alliance spoke about a proposed 242-home development in Big Tujunga Canyon on 110 acres of land zoned A1 (agricultural – must have 5 acres to build) without infrastructure. The development will require exemptions/deviations from the Code including a zone change and density change, which would alter the area significantly.

MOTION: Tom Freeman moved and John Given seconded that the Hillside Federation write a letter of concern regarding zone change and increased density to the City. Motion passed unanimously.

C. 10220 Scenario Lane – John Campbell

Neighbors in Residents of Beverly Glen area expressed concerns about a proposed development on Scenario Lane which currently is requesting a Lot Line Adjustment. The Lot Line Adjustment request is seeking to create 2 lots and possibly to develop 2 homes on this property. Neighbors are concerned with density, slope stability, lack of access for emergency vehicles and other negative impacts to this area where the streets are narrow and ingress and egress are challenging. Wendy recommended that the neighbors keep the Hillside Federation informed about any new up-dates regarding the project.

D. Studio City Senior Living Center Project – Alan Dymond – Studio City Residents Association

There is a proposed development at 4141 Whitsett in Studio City which is now home to the Weddington Golf and Tennis facility. This proposed project would include the construction of 200 condominiums with six new buildings that will be 45 feet high with an underground garage and would require the excavation of over 30,000 cubic yards of earth. This parcel was previously down-zoned with a condition that it would be used for public recreational as it has been since 1974. Various entitlements will be required including a Zone change and exceptions to the Community Plan with impacts that will be significant to open space.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been submitted with comment period submittals due September 15, 2014 although a 15-day extension has been requested. Studio City Residents Association supports Alternative D, the L.A. River Natural Park Project. Point of clarification: Tennis courts and driving range would not be removed under Alternative D as posted in the DEIR.

MOTION: Wendy- Sue Rosen moved and Steven Poster seconded that the Hillside Federation support the Studio City Residents Association and the clarified Alternative D in the DEIR. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. 17767 Bellagio Road – Small Lot Subdivision – Bruce Kuyper

The Deputy Advisory Agency approved the proposed Small Lot Subdivision project in Bel Air on Bellagio Road on August 6, 2014. The Small Lot Subdivision will be five units not six as originally proposed by developer. The approval decision is being appealed and Bruce will keep the Hillside Federation informed regarding the date the appeal will be heard by the Area Planning Commission.

B. SB 743 & Amendments to CEQA

The bill requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to amend the CEQA Guidelines to provide an alternative to level of service for evaluating transportation impacts. There is some concern that the draft does not consider cumulative impacts for multiple large developments, topography, or street closures for events, among other issues. Comment period ends October 10, 2014. Marian will distribute the links so that Hillside Federation members can comment.

C. 6643 & 6659 Innsdale Drive - Sheila Irani

Zoning Administrator Charlie Rausch denied several of the applicant's requests for deviations from the Los Angeles Municipal Code however, the applicant is appealing the Determination. Sheila will keep the Hillside Federation informed as to the date of the Appeal hearing before the Area Planning Commission.

D. Target Hollywood Lawsuit/Millennium Hollywood Up-date – George Abrahams

The court will not allow the 75-foot building height Target was in the process of building. The height Variance and findings were rejected by the Court. Target was denied an emergency appeal but the case will go to appeal.

If the the Millennium Hollywood developer cannot verify through valid scientific studies that a fault does not exist on site, it is likely the state's geologist will adopt the draft prepared earlier this year showing a fault right below the project site.

The next Hillside Federation meeting will be October 1, 2014. We are waiting on confirmation regarding the Candidate Forum for County Board of Supervisors candidates Sheila Kuehl and Bobby Shriver.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Carol Sidlow
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
	Steven Kates
Canyon Back Allian.	Tom Freeman
Lake Hollywood	Sheila Irani
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Oak Forest Canyon	Arnold Newman
Resid. Beverly Glen	Katherine Bard
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Save Sunset Blvd.	Andrew Macpherson
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res. Assn.	Alan Dymond
	Claudia Freedle

Officials Present:

State Senate 28	Sen. Ted Lieu
	Janet Turner
Cong. candidate	Elan Carr
	Jim

Guests Present:

Bel Air	Bruce Kuyper
La Tuna Canyon CA	Frank Buchanan
Stop Canyon Park Dev	Liliana Sanchez
Scenario resid.	John Campbell
	Sue Campbell
Studio City Resid.	Beth Dymond
Save Coldwater Canyon	Jeff Jacobs
STA	Robin Siegel-Meares