

**Hillside Federation  
Minutes  
April 1, 2015**

**I. Call to Order – Marian Dodge**

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guests:**

**Janet Turner from Congressman Ted Lieu's office** reported that the first step in helicopter noise reduction has been achieved: the FAA has announced a dedicated helicopter noise complaint hotline 424-348-HELI (4354). Complaints can also be emailed to [heli-noise-la.com](mailto:heli-noise-la.com).

At a meeting with the National Parks Conservation Association regarding the Rim of the Valley Corridor project, the Congressman reassured members that he will recommend a combination of Plans C and D and implementation funding. The Federation supported this combination in its letter to the National Park Service.

At a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Janet presented a certificate on behalf of the Congressman in recognition of the Conservancy's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Janet reiterated the Congressman's strong support for the mission of the Conservancy and the Hillside Federation in preserving open space and wildlife habitats.

Congressman Lieu's office circulated a newsletter with the first update on the West LA Veterans Administration campus.

**Tim Pershing from Assemblymember Richard Bloom's office** reported on a number of bills, including AB 189 (establishing guidelines and criteria for the designation of Arts and Cultural Districts) and AB 888 (banning plastic microbeads, used in a wide variety of personal care products, which are polluting the oceans and our food supply). Next month Tim will give an update on emergency drought relief measures to be funded with water bond monies.

**Eugene Tseng from Senator Ben Allen's office** reported that the Senator was one of only eight legislators that signed onto a letter calling for an end to the practice of fracking. Senator Allen has introduced 20 bills in his first month in office; seven of these have to do with climate change and the environment.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The March minutes were approved.

**III. Officers' Reports**

**A. President's Report: Marian Dodge**

President Dodge paid tribute to Madeline O'Donnell, longtime Nichols Canyon representative. President Dodge and Treasurer Don Andres attended Madeline's memorial service on behalf of the Federation.

The Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park at the top of Reseda Blvd. at Mulholland will be re-dedicated on April 3. The event will be a great opportunity to see our open space with improved ADA access and information kiosks. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Senator Fran Pavley, and Councilmember Braude's aide/Council successor, Cindy Miscikowski, are to speak.

With a runoff election approaching in mid-May, the Federation will host its second CD 4 Candidate Forum with Carolyn Ramsay and David Ryu on Wednesday, April 29th at 6:30 pm at the Cinematographers Guild, 7755 Sunset Blvd (thanks to Steven Poster of Lookout Mountain Alliance, who is President of the International Cinematographers Guild, for providing the Guild's meeting hall for the forum).

President Dodge received a note from Hollywoodland, thanking the Federation for supporting them several years ago in their fight against an illegal fence, which was finally removed from one of their historic stone walls.

The LA City Council passed an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) protecting specified neighborhoods from loopholes in the anti-mansionization ordinances: Councilmember Koretz drew a big circle around Bel-Air, and Bonin, who seconded the motion, included protection for some of the flats in CD11 but not the hillsides. The ICO is not a permanent fix but will offer limited protection for a term of 45 days, which can then be extended to a maximum of two years.

There are ongoing attempts to pass a statewide ban on commercial bobcat trapping for pelts. The final Department of Fish and Wildlife hearing date has been pushed to June. Tim Pershing (Assemblymember Bloom's office) said to keep sending correspondence to his office, as the ban will require persistence.

AB 1373 would exempt electronic billboards in downtown L.A. from State restrictions. The exemption was requested by the Greenland Group of Shanghai who is building the Metropolis project along the Harbor Freeway north of Staples Center looming on our architectural horizon. This legislation would violate LA's ban on new billboards outside of sign districts.

**MOTION:** John Given moved that the Federation oppose AB 1373 which would exempt electronic billboards in downtown L.A. The motion passed unanimously.

Hillside Federation members asked representatives for Senator Allen and Assemblymember Bloom to request our legislators vote "NO" on AB1373 and consider the terrible precedent this legislation would set by giving favor to one developer at a time through legislation.

Chair Emeritus Alan Kishbaugh recently underwent triple bypass surgery and would love to receive emails or cards, according to a note from another Chair Emeritus, Jerry Daniel.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) celebrated the 35th anniversary of its founding. During that time the Conservancy has acquired 72,000 acres to be preserved as open space.

Bob Anderson of Sherman Oaks urged people to please report their helicopter noise issues to the FAA or they will say we don't have a problem.

April is Earth Month at El Pueblo and includes an art exhibit at Pico House, running April 2-26, closed Mondays.

Friends of the Los Angeles River invite volunteers to participate in the 2015 Great Los Angeles River CleanUp La Gran Limpieza, with sites in the San Fernando Valley being targeted from 9-noon on Saturday, April 11th.

#### **Election of Officers:** Barbara Dohrmann

On behalf of the Nominating Committee (Barbara Dohrmann, Yvonne Hessler, and Steven Poster), Barbara confirmed the presence of a quorum and proposed the following slate: Chair–Charley Mims, President–Marian Dodge, First Vice-President–Mark Stratton, Second Vice-President–Wendy-Sue Rosen, Recording Secretary–Carol Sidlow, Executive Secretary–

John Given, Treasurer–Don Andres. Barbara invited nominations from the floor, but there were none. George Abrahams moved to accept the slate (second: Elke Heitmeyer). The Nominating Committee slate was elected unanimously.

#### B. Treasurer's Report: Don Andres

All dues have been collected and there are currently 43 member organizations. Three former members have opted out (Bel Air Ridge, Upper Riviera, and Pacific Palisades) and two new organizations having joined (Save Coldwater Canyon! and Rancho Verdugo Estates).

All expenses to date have been paid. A new membership form has been created for organizations that want to join. It will be on the website soon. Don reminded members that information on the Federation roster is kept private.

Wearing his Friends of Runyon Canyon hat, Don reported on Senator Ben Allen's and Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian's recent Runyon Canyon hike with community members. Runyon Canyon is a pretty area with great views, but with 1.5 million visitors a year and no parking or restrooms, it needs a lot of help.

### **IV. New Business**

#### A. Walnut Canyon

Laura Gutierrez and Tony Scudellari from NELA Greenspace Coalition (NELA), an organization of 500-plus members dedicated to preserving open space, spoke on the renewal of efforts to preserve open space (four canyons) in Glassell Park/Northeast L.A., including 30-acre Walnut Canyon. The Hillside Federation supported this preservation effort in 2007. The original attempt fell by the wayside but a new threat galvanized community activists (a developer proposing 32 single-family dwellings on 4-acres of hillside covered with walnut woodland). NELA met with the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council's land use committee and voiced its opposition to the project. When developers were asked if they would be willing to sell, they said "yes." NELA let the developers know that the proposed homes would not be consistent with the Glassell Park Specific Plan and there will be lots of community opposition. Now the focus is on finding the funding to purchase the 4-acres. NELA Greenspace is sponsoring a hike of Walnut Canyon on Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support efforts to find funding sources to purchase and maintain Walnut Canyon as open space. The motion passed unanimously.

#### B. 2166 - 2172 Stanley Hills Dr.

Tony Tucci and Matt Friedman asked for the Federation's support in fighting a pair of Zoning Administrator Determinations that allow oversized construction vehicles and traffic impacts on a substandard hillside street.

**MOTION:** Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation write a letter asking that the City conduct or require additional studies and impose conditions to ensure that these projects are built to ensure safety of the condition of the roadway. Seconded by Tony Tucci and passed unanimously.

#### C. Laurel Canyon Specific Plan/Overlay

Tony Tucci presented the case for a Laurel Canyon ICO and/or moratorium to preserve the status quo and stop new building while a new Specific Plan or Overlay is prepared,

referencing Councilmember Tom LaBonge's motion a year ago, CF 14-0468.

The Federation's position is that the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance needs to be amended, the Baseline Hillside Ordinance added, and loopholes closed, and that expediting that will help everybody. Wendy-Sue Rosen pointed out that a motion for a letter on this subject was passed at last month's meeting – now just need to write the letter. She recommended that Tony collect as much information as possible and share it with us and that he ask LaBonge what he's doing about that motion of a year ago and tie Carolyn Ramsay or David Ryu into the process following the CD4 runoff election.

## **V. Old Business:**

### **A. Innsdale Drive/The Vineyard update**

David Benz gave an update on the ongoing battle over a huge estate proposed for the Lake Hollywood area, next to a 6-acre vineyard and just a half mile from the Hollywood sign. Property owner Kenneth York is suing the City for denying the discretionary approvals he requested. He is seeking \$50-100M in damages. It is currently in the hands of the City Attorney's office. At a Central Area Planning Commission hearing, Zoning Administrator Charlie Rausch admitted to having made a mistake regarding how much dirt had to be moved. LaBonge supported upholding the Baseline Hillside Ordinance and denying the street vacation.

Wendy recommended that David consult with an attorney as soon as possible to see if he would recommend that the group intervene. She suggested that the City Attorney may have a different interest than the community and if intervention was the way to go the sooner the community got into the case the better.

### **B. Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal**

Marian Dodge recently attended a very contentious scoping meeting on the Pacoima Reservoir Sediment Removal project. One option being considered is a conveyor belt to carry sediment to Lopez Settling Grounds, where it will be trucked to fill gravel pits in Sun Valley. Dan Feinberg of CASM SFV now wants to fill in two canyons in the National Forest, where he claims the sediment came from originally. Marian will speak with the County regarding this project.

### **C. LA-RICS Telecommunications San Vicente Peak Tower**

Eric Edmunds reported on the current status of the 3-year-old proposal for Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) to build a 180-foot emergency communications tower at the old Nike Missile Tracking Station off Dirt Mulholland. The County Board of Supervisors will be taking it up this month. The County applied for federal funding to connect the entire county, but a number of cities have opted out. San Vicente Peak is beautiful open space with impressive panoramic views. The tower, which offers little or no direct benefit to nearby communities, may soon be obsolete, replaced by satellite technology.

**MOTION:** Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation send a new letter opposing the San Vicente Peak site and asking that it be removed from the project. The motion passed unanimously. Vice-President Rosen agreed to speak at the upcoming hearing on behalf of the Federation.

## **Reminders:**

CD 4 Candidate forum April 29th.

The next Federation meeting is May 6th.

**VI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Lois Becker,  
Acting Recording Secretary

**Members Present:**

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Barbara Dohrmann
	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	Eric Edmunds
	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
Franklin Av/Hlwd Blvd	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res	Charley Mims
Hollywood Heights	Naomi Kobrin
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Lake Hollywood	David Benz
Laurel Canyon	Tony Tucci
	Alison Simard
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Res. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Heidi Mackay
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle

**Officials Present:**

Cong. Ted Lieu	Janet Turner
St. Sen. Ben Allen	Eugene Tseng
Asmb. Richard Bloom	Tim Pershing

**Guests Present:**

NELA GreenSpace	Laura Gutierrez
	Doug Dawson
	Tony Scudellari
	Eric Tallman
	Jennifer Campbell
	Senta Belding
Stanley Hills Dr.	Matt Friedman