

**Hillside Federation**  
**September 2, 2015**  
**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest Speakers:**

**Rachel Zaiden**, for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

Supervisor Kuehl will be opening a Westside office shortly. Members asked Rachel about better coordination with the City of West Hollywood; Barham off ramp issue; current status of San Vicente Peak with LA-RICS (Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System telecommunications tower).

**Cathy Schoonmaker** – National Park Service

The Nature Neighbor program has been established to bring community awareness to our wildlife neighbors in the Santa Monica Mountains. Recently two coyotes were collared— one near downtown Los Angeles and the other in the Valley—to better track the movements of our coyotes in an urban environment. In order to keep our mountains pristine, we need to protect the wildlife as well.

The National Park Service has been studying mountain lions and bobcats for over ten years looking at urban association, movement, diet, and causes of mortality. Vehicle collisions and exposure to rodenticides are increasing the mortality of mountain lions, and bobcats. In the case of mountain lions, causes of deaths are: 1) killed by vehicles, 2) fighting with other mountain lions, and 3) exposure to anti-coagulant rodenticide poison. Many of the animals being studied have had exposure to anticoagulant rodenticide poisons in their diet: 83% of the coyotes, 95% of bobcats, and 91% of mountain lions tested were exposed to rodenticides.

Several cities have passed resolutions asking homeowners and businesses to stop using rodenticides, but Los Angeles is not one of those cities. However, the Department of Recreation and Parks has agreed to stop using second generation rodenticides in their parks. Alternatives to rodenticides for removal of rats and rodents are snap traps, and zapper traps among other solutions.

**Daniel Tamm** – Rep. for Mayor Garcetti

Los Angeles has launched a bid for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. More information can be found at [LA24.org](http://LA24.org). The Mayor's strategy for ending homelessness is focused on veterans. The Housing Community Investment Development is partnering with Homes for Heroes, a United Way effort and is encouraging a partnering with landlords in helping our homeless veterans. LADWP is having a Customer Service Saturday in West Los Angeles at 1394 S. Sepulveda. More information can be found at [www.ladwp.com/Saturdays](http://www.ladwp.com/Saturdays).

**Angie Aramayo** – for Asm. Adrin Nazarian

Assemblyman Nazarian will be holding a Family Disaster Preparedness Education seminar on Saturday, September 12, 11:00-1:00 pm at 15226 Parthenia in North Hills. Walgreens will be offering free flu shots at the event.

**Pacoima Surface Mine** – Sakaida and Sons

Michael Carpenter, a consultant retained by Sakaida & Sons for the Foothill Aggregate Reclamation Project, and Dan Sakaida, of Sakaida and Sons, presented a strip mine project proposal for a 73-acre site north of the 210 Freeway and adjacent to the Pacoima Dam in the foothills above Sylmar. The company is proposing to operate a surface mine in the area to excavate 3 million cubic yards of aggregate material, decomposed granite, over a 5 to 10 year period on 23 acres of the property. At the end of that period the mining area may become open space or perhaps an equestrian area, according to Sakaida.

The Notice of Preparation was completed and released to the public. The operation would generate 230 truck trips per day down Hubbard Street. Discussion included: impacts to the surrounding community, truck routes, height and width of surface-mined “benches,” possible benefits to the impacted communities, amount of grading, and proximity to Rim of the Valley. A site hike is scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. Meet at El Cariso Park.

## II. Approval of Minutes

The July minutes were approved as submitted.

## III. Officers' Reports

### A. Presidents Report - Marian Dodge

AB 57, which takes away local control over the placement of cell towers, passed the State Senate and Assembly. It will go to Governor Brown for his signature.

The presentation from the Re:code LA team which was made to the Hillside Federation at the special July 21 meeting is linked on the Hillside Federation website. Carol Sidlow reported that feedback from the consultants and Planning Department was very positive and a lot of good information was passed to the consultants as they move forward with the residential hillside portion of the Re:code LA project. Everyone was encouraged to read the minutes which details the presentation.

Friends of Runyon Canyon are hosting two community outreach events conducted by Mia Lehrer & Associates, an international landscape architecture firm. The events will be: Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 8:00-11:00 am at the Fuller entrance of Runyon Canyon Wilderness Park near the Friends of Runyon Canyon banner and Thursday, September 17, 2015 from 6:30 -8:30 pm, International Cinematographers Guild, 7755 Sunset Blvd. with parking in the rear of the building. More information can be found at [www.friendsofrunyoncanyon.org](http://www.friendsofrunyoncanyon.org).

### B. Treasurer's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian updated Hillside Federation members on behalf of Treasurer Don Andres. The Holiday Party will be Thursday, December 10, from 6:30 -9:00 p.m. at the Mulholland Tennis Club. All are encouraged to attend.

## IV. New Business

### A. 8904 West Crescent Drive - Steven Poster

Steven described the proposed demolition of an existing house and the construction of a new house at 8904 Crescent. The applicant is seeking an exemption from the Baseline Hillside Ordinance to avoid improving the roadway to 20 feet and an adjustment to reduce the required rear yard setback. Crescent is one of the most substandard hillside streets in Laurel Canyon, with no curbs, berms, gutters, lights, or guardrails, and only eight feet of width in some places. In 2008, the City paid out \$1.75M in a lawsuit where the survivors claimed a 'dangerous condition' at this location. The potential for roadway failure is of great concern especially as it relates to the properties below on Wonderland Avenue.

A Zoning Administrator hearing was held in August and Planning Deputy Renee Weitzer of Councilman Ryu's office spoke strongly about the need to uphold the Baseline Hillside Ordinance and to deny these exemptions. The Hillside Federation has frequently opposed deviations from code in similar circumstances, and has written three letters previously regarding roadway improvements and impacts to public safety on Crescent Drive projects.

**MOTION:** Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation oppose the applicant's request for waiver from the Baseline Hillside Ordinance requirement to widen the roadway to 20 feet or to allow the adjustment to reduce the rear yard setback. The motion passed unanimously.

### B. 2251 Nichols Canyon - Michael Peretzian, Nichols Canyon Association

There is a proposed development of a 9,800 sq. ft. house on a very steep lot in Nichols Canyon. The Hillside Federation discussed the impact of the stream on the buildable square footage of the lot, the application of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, steepness of the slope, and impacts to the neighborhood. Michael was asked to do further research about the proposed project and return next month to give an update on the status of the stream among other issues.

### C. Mosaic Church Historic-Cultural Monument Designation - Janet Carper, Save Residential Hollywood

The lot at the corner of La Brea and Hollywood Blvd. (7107-7129 Hollywood Blvd.) is the site of the historic Fifth Church of Christ Scientist, currently the Mosaic Church. A developer is seeking to demolish the church, which will negatively impact the quality of life of residents including those residing in the hills above Franklin Avenue. An application has been submitted to the Cultural Heritage Commission, which will be meeting on September 17, 2015, to have the current structure declared a Historic-Cultural Monument. The 1959 church is an example of mid-century modern architecture by local architect George

Elwell. The HCM designation is supported by numerous organizations and individuals, including the Franklin/Hollywood West Residents Association, Outpost Estates HOA, Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council, Los Angeles Conservancy, and Councilmember David Ryu.

**MOTION:** Steve Twining moved that the Federation support the designation of the Fifth Church of Christ Scientist as a Historic-Cultural Monument. The motion passed unanimously.

## **V. Old Business**

### A. 11767 Bellagio Rd. - Steve Twining

The developer is proposing a Small Lot Subdivision although there are deed restrictions on the tract. He has filed a lawsuit against all 27 other property owners in the tract.

### Announcements:

George Abrahams alerted the Federation to two Council motions, one regarding proposed modification of the site plan review process (Council File 15-1003), and another to permit the development of micro residential units (Council File 15-1004).

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Carol Sidlow, Recording Secretary

### **Members Present:**

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Barbara Dohrmann
Brentwood Hills	Eric Edmunds
Brentwood Residents	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
Canyon Back Alliance	John Given
CASM-SFV	Dan Feinberg
	Craig Smith
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Mary Ledding
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Alison Simard
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
N. Beverly/Franklin Cyn	Robert Levy
Nichols Canyon	Chris Brown
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Nichols Canyon	Cyd Zeigler

### **Guests:**

Nat'l Park Serv/MRT	Cathy Schoonmaker
Asmb. Nazarian	Angie Aramayo
Supervisor Kuehl	Rachel Zaiden
Mayor's Office	Daniel Tamm
HHWNC	Grant Wallensky
Nichols Canyon	Michael Peretzian
N. Beverly/Franklin	Connie Levy
Save Residential Hlwd	Janet Carper
Sakaida & Sons	Don Sakaida
	Mike Carpenter