

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
February 3, 2016**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Guest speakers:

Marian announced that Senator Kevin De León was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to an emergency meeting called by the Governor. Marian will work on re-scheduling him for a future meeting.

Tim Pershing for Assemblymember Richard Bloom

Tim updated the Federation regarding the Climate Change conference recently held in Paris and the work accomplished. The conference produced a 31-page document signed by 195 countries regarding climate change which was unprecedented. Tim spoke about California being an important model for the rest of the world especially due to the reforms enacted in our State. Members asked about an update regarding the reforms on the Alquist-Priolo Act, tax on solar panels, and

the tax usage fee.

Zak Meyer-Krings for State Senator Ben Allen

Zak works in Senator Allen's Sacramento office. He updated Hillside Federation members regarding the various legislative issues and the bill packages which need to be introduced in Sacramento by February 19th. Senator Allen is a member of the Senate Natural Resource and Water Committee, which oversees water policy for California as well as environmental issues except for certain polices regarding pollution, and the Transportation and Housing Committee, which is working on a possible package from Governor Brown moving forward to expedite re-paving of existing streets and roads. On the legislative front, he is working on bills regarding the Porter Ranch issue, the protection of our coastlines and protesting the change of leadership in the California Coastal Commission, and advancing environmental mitigations and bringing the various environmental communities into discussions earlier towards smarter and more comprehensive engagement.

II. Approval of Minutes

The January minutes were approved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

The comment period for the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) and Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO) amendments has closed. There were over 650 emails submitted on the proposed amendments. The new date for the City Planning Commission meeting regarding these amendments is May 12, 2016.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

Don updated the members with the Treasurer's Report and reminded all that dues are due by March 1, 2016.

V. New Business

A. Runyon Canyon Land Acquisition – Becky Nielsen

Becky Nielsen, from the Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit land conservation organization involved in acquiring private land to put in public ownership, spoke about the proposed purchase of 14 additional acres to be added to Runyon Canyon Park. She handed out maps and a presentation booklet. The Trust for Public Land is partnering with the Friends of Runyon Canyon to preserve this land which is under option for purchase. The groups are actively raising money and have raised approximately \$6 million dollars towards the purchase price of approximately \$10 million dollars. A \$300,000 donation is currently available for matching funds. Additionally, funding is being pursued from Prop A and Prop K monies. TPL and Friends of Runyon Canyon have begun a discussion with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy regarding Measure HH.

The Department of Recreation and Parks will manage the land when acquisition is completed. A discussion ensued regarding the area of acquisition, access to the area, conservation easements, increase of land without addressing the need for parking and other potential impacts to the surrounding neighborhood, and the public benefit aspects of the additional land acquisition.

MOTION: Don Andres moved that the Hillside Federation support the acquisition of the 14+ acres of open wilderness space to be added to Runyon Canyon Park and to inform its membership of the fundraising link: <https://fundly.com/save-runyon-canyon-open-space>. The motion passed.

B. Neighborhood Integrity Initiative/ Coalition to Preserve Los Angeles – Jill Stewart and Jack Humphreville

Jill Stewart described the purpose of the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII). Information sheets were distributed that outline the purpose of the initiative. According to its proponents, the NII would set a two-year moratorium on code exceptions granted to developers to build taller and denser projects than existing zoning and the General Plan allow, halt back room deals that award spot re-zoning to developers, force the City Council to create a rational long-term plan for growth via new citywide General Plan, prevent developers from significantly cutting the parking spaces they must provide, ban developers from writing their own Environmental Impact Reports, which proponents consider an obvious conflict of interest. Proponents argue that a "time out" on major large developer/transit oriented development is needed. Jill is requesting that the Hillside Federation do the following: endorse the Initiative at the March meeting, identify smaller groups and ask them to consider fundraising, and give money or time to the effort.

Members had questions about the Los Angeles Times article regarding Father Gregory Boyle's rescinding of his endorsement of the NII, AB 283 and the Hillside Federation's lawsuit, the previous ordinance intended to update the General Plan, and the status of meetings with NII representatives and the Mayor.

The Federation shared an online link to the NII language in its February newsletter [the link is: <http://tinyurl.com/hvv6g88>]. The issue will be agendized again for the March Hillside Federation meeting.

V. Old Business

A. Innsdale Vineyard – David Benz, Lake Hollywood HOA

David Benz updated the recent lawsuit by the owner of the property at 6459 Innsdale Drive who was seeking to build an estate deviating from City code. The project included extensive grading, roadway development, construction of a tennis court, pool, wine cellar cave, and a hammerhead turn for the fire department at the end of the gated roadway. The Zoning Administrator and Central Area Planning Commission denied the applicant's requests. David reported that the applicant's petition for writ of mandate to the City of Los Angeles was denied by the Superior Court. An appeal may follow.

B. Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing – Marian Dodge

Marian, John Given, and Elke Heitmeyer attended the Caltrans Liberty Canyon scoping meeting in Calabasas on January 14. Because the comment deadline was before the Federation's next meeting and we had already taken a position supporting one aspect of the project, the Executive Committee approved sending a letter supporting Alternative # 3 (a crossing over both the 101 Freeway and Agoura Rd.).

MOTION: Marian moved that the Federation approve the sending of the letter in support of Alternative 3. The motion passed.

C. San Vicente Peak Telecommunications Tower – John Given

John gave an update regarding the telecommunications tower proposed for San Vicente Peak that was discussed last year by the Federation. Per Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association Vice President Mike Leslie, at the recent Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) meeting regarding the DEIR, the LA-RICS people knew of the Federation letter and confirmed that the San Vicente Peak LTE and LMR towers at the old Nike site are no longer included in the LA-RICS plan. The Federation's position supported eliminating that location from the LA-RICS proposal. Mike and BHHA thank everyone for their support on this issue.

D. Hidden Creeks – Wendy-Sue Rosen

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy appealed approval of the tract map and second appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision regarding the retaining wall exceptions. The applicant's representative sent a letter to the City Planning Commission requesting a continuance, asserting that "due to the current gas leak at the Southern California Gas Company facility at Aliso Canyon, Forestar believes it is prudent to continue this matter until addition information is available regarding the leak." Hidden Creeks is immediately adjacent to Porter Ranch. The proposed homes in the new development would be as close to the gas leak as many existing homes. The project is on hold.

E. 8904 Crescent Dr. – Steven Poster

The Zoning Administrator denied the applicant's requests for exemptions to the code, including the requirement to be exempted from improving the roadway to the specifications of the Hillside Ordinance. Councilmember Ryu supported the neighbors on this issue.

1400 Linda Flora – Steve Twining

Steve Twining brought up landscaping of the retaining walls along 1400 Linda Flora and was asked to submit an RFA (Request for Action) regarding this issue.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Submitted by Carol Sidlow

Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel-Air Assn.	Bruce Kuyper
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	Eric Edmunds John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Don Keller Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels Steven Kates
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
Franklin Ave/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Mary Ledding
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Lake Hollywood	David Benz
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Alison Simard
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington All.	Dan Wright
Nichols Canyon	Justine Schmidt
Res. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Heidi Mackay
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle
Upper Nichols Canyon	Stacy Sillins

Guests Present:

SD 26 (Ben Allen)	Zak Meyer-Krings
AD 50 (Bloom)	Tim Pershing
City of Glendale	Laura Friedman
Trust for Public Land	Becky Nielsen
Coal. to Preserve LA	Jill Stewart
	Laura Gutierrez
Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
GWNC	Jack Humphreville
Bel Air Crest	Irene Sandler
NELA Greenspace	Tony Scudellari
	Doug Dawson
Friends of Runyon Can.	Julie Anderson
Upper Nichols Canyon	Amy Dantzler