

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
October 5, 2016**

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest: Ranger James Latham,

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Ranger James Latham (MRCA) spoke in support of November ballot measures FF and GG. These two 10-year parcel taxes will fund increases in MRCA services like wildland fire patrol, fire fighting, and law enforcement. These are particularly important due to an increase in people using the parks and the continuing drought. Measure FF is a \$15 annual tax on Santa Monica Mountain parcels north of Mulholland from the I-405 west to Calabasas. Measure GG is a similar \$35 annual parcel tax for the area from the 405 east to Griffith Park (both sides of Mulholland). Measures FF and GG will only be voted on by designated area parcel owners, and if passed would only apply to those owners' parcels. A percentage of assessed funds raised will be used for acquisition of open space, though the majority of MRCA's open space acquisition funding will rely on Measure A, which will replace the expiring Proposition A [see below for more information]. More information about Measures FF and GG are available at mrca.ca.gov. Ranger Latham fielded a number of questions from board members. MOTION: Jamie Hall moved that the Hillside Federation support Measures FF and GG. The motion passed.

II. Approval of minutes

The September minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Charley Mims

President Charley Mims reported that the amended City Council motion on the Second Dwelling Unit (SDU) ordinance passed. Rather than repeal the City's SDU ordinance, the City approved grandfathering of projects approved under the ZA Memo, including new permits applied for up to September 30, 2016. Wendy-Sue Rosen noted that the state legislature recently passed two bills related to SDUs. Neither of those bills has safety provisions or prohibitions for hillside areas. Jamie Hall remarked that CD5 land use deputy Faisal Alserri attended one of the local neighborhood council meetings last week and opined that neither state measure dramatically impacts the City of Los Angeles.

John Given reminded the board of the October 22 P-22 Day and Urban Wildlife Week in the Santa Monica Mountains and Griffith Park.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Treasurer Don Andres reported that there are no bills outstanding and all dues are collected. He reminded everyone to save the date for the annual holiday party, which will be held at the Mulholland Tennis Center on December 8, from 6:30p.m. to 9:30p.m. Don distributed the flyer to the board. The board discussed the increased cost and price owing to the club's significant increases from previous years.

IV. Old Business

A. Hastain Trail - Tom Freeman

Tom provided a brief update regarding the Hastain Trail case, for which a petition for review was submitted to the California Supreme Court. Tom recently received the papers filed in opposition to review, and amicus letters will be submitted to the Court by October 11.

B. Nalin Drive - Jamie Hall

Jamie reported that the developer may be planning to abandon the project and sell the parcel. Community members are hoping the developer will sell it to the conservancy.

C. Sign Ordinance - Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy reported that work is ongoing regarding letters in support of recusal of potentially conflicted councilmembers.

D. Curtis School - Lois Becker

Lois reported that a meeting was held among interested community members and the new head of school and the community will report back when more is known.

Steve Twining reported that Faisal Alserri told him Bel Air community may get a permanent overlay to avoid Saturday construction and the staging of grading vehicles.

V. New Business

A. LA County Parks Open Space Measure A

Charley Mims reported that the current county tax measure to support county parks is ending and Measure A is an effort to sustain this money. It will require a yes vote from 2/3 of voters. The October newsletter has good information about the measure.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support Measure A. The motion passed.

B. Initiative Ordinance JJJ

Charley reported that as he understands it, City of LA Initiative JJJ was proposed to create more affordable housing and to assure minimum construction wages, among other things. Jamie Hall noted that when the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII) was planned for the November ballot, Initiative JJJ was then proposed as a competing measure. When the NII was delayed, the JJJ group decided to keep their initiative on the ballot.

C. Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII)

Wendy-Sue Rosen reported that there have been changes to the NII from the version presented to the Hillside Federation by Jill Stewart earlier this year, and thought it would be good to have Jill or another proponent come back to discuss the changes. George Abrahams noted one major change: an exception was added for projects with 100% affordable housing. The main component of the moratorium, no general plan amendments for two years without first undertaking general plan updates, is still part of the initiative. During discussion several commenters noted concerns with unintended consequences of passing the NII. Wendy-Sue Rosen noted that some community plans may not need to be changed and expressed concern that accelerating community plan updates throughout the City could create unintended opportunities for developers and lobbyists to change things that communities may like. Tom Freeman noted that the City could be incentivized to move more quickly and shortcut the update process. The discussion turned to using the popularity of the NII to advocate for improvements in the City process. The consensus is that we should work on that during the period leading up to the March election. Charley Mims invited board members to write with any points that they would like to have included in that discussion.

D. Other Business

Stephen Benson attended a hearing for a Baseline Hillside Ordinance project at 10580 Selkirk Lane (former home of George Harrison). The project is on a paper street, and would require 80 truckloads of grading export. The project reportedly would have 7 retaining walls. Per BHO rules no project with a substandard access of less than 20 feet wide should be permitted. The proposed project has only a shared access driveway. No one except the applicant testified in support of the project. CD 5 has not taken a position.

Don Andres provided a brief update on Runyon Canyon. The park was recently reopened after the LA Department of Water & Power (LA DWP) completed work on the water line and resurfaced the Fire Road with some storm water runoff basins. Several new 4-way water fountains were installed as well as trail

maintenance on the upper trails and some cleanup work, mulching, and tree-trimming. The old rundown tennis court area has been refurbished by Rec & Parks. With respect to the acquisition of open space in collaboration with the Trust for Public Land, the Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation is continuing to raise funds to support that effort.

Wendy-Sue Rosen provided a brief update on the proposed Berggruen think tank project in the vicinity of Mountaingate, just west of the I-405 freeway. There is not yet a proposal to share with the public.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Given, VP/Executive Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon Neighbors	George Abrahams
Bel-Air Assn	Bruce Kuyper
Bel Air Hills	Steve Twinning
Bel Air Skycrest POA	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents Coal.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Canyon Back Alliance	Tom Freeman
	Lois Becker
Franklin Ave/Hollywood Blvd	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Residents	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland HOA	Jack Conrad
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn	Jamie Hall
Residents of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
	Kira Palmer
Sherman Oaks	Matt Epstein

Guests:

MRCA	James Latham
	Elliot Rosenton
Bel-Air Assn.	Maureen Levinson