

Hillside Federation
May 3, 2017
Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest - Walt Young - MRCA Investigator, Deputy Executive Officer

With the funding from Measures JJ and HH MRCA Rangers are patrolling 7 nights a week along Mulholland east of 405. Walt would like to continue visiting 2-3 times per year for updates. The emergency number for MRCA is (310)-456-7049.

II. Approval of minutes

The April minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Charley Mims

The Santa Monica Mountains Fund (SAMO) will have its spring fundraiser at King Gillette Ranch on May 7.

The Fair Political Practices Commission has a searchable database on their website to find out who contributed to what causes to help track political influence. www.fppc.ca.gov

The Los Angeles Times published an article today (May 3) about the approval for the Hollywood Target store on Sunset being struck down again by the Los Angeles Superior Courts. The city issued permits for the project with a height more than twice what was permitted by existing zoning, without performing adequate environmental review.

George Abrahams has been working with the Bureau of Engineering to get the sidewalks near the project reopened.

Marian reported on an Los Angeles Times article about trees dying of a bug infestation.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

40 member organizations have paid their dues.

The Executive Committee discussion investment options because the Federation earns negligible interest on our savings currently held in CDs.

The Hillside Federation has simplified the Request For Action process. Requests will now be emailed to RFA@hillsidefederation.org which will forward the request and supporting documents to all officers.

The Holiday Party is proposed for Thursday, December 14th at the Mulholland Tennis Club.

Following the Treasurer's Report, Charley Mims explained that Jack Conrad's Request For Action was not agendaized because it was a request for a discussion, not for a particular action. Charley further explained that the Federation would discuss concerns raised in the request following the completion of New Business.

IV. Old Business

A. 10101 Angelo View Dr. - John Given

The plans for the huge project have been scaled back but John believed they were still greater than 60,000 sq. ft. in total The permits may have expired. Councilmember Paul Koretz asserted council jurisdiction of the project through a Charter § 245 motion.

The Federation cited the original project as the "poster child" for why the Baseline Hillside Ordinance needed to be amended and submitted a letter supporting Koretz' 245 motion.

B. Bellagio Pl. tree removal - Jamie Hall, Dr. Linda Whitford

The Hillside Federation wrote a letter urging the city to deny the original project, which would have removed 34 or more protected trees. Dr. Whitford retained Jamie Hall as counsel. Several hearing

continuances provided time for negotiations between the applicant and community members. An agreement was reached on Sunday night, before the Monday hearing.

The agreement saves 14 trees, allowing the removal of 20. A large retaining wall will be replaced by “soldier piles.” Native plant landscaping will provide wildlife habitat. Dr. Whitford will be allowed to monitor.

Jamie stated that Urban Forestry needs more planners to help developers save trees. Councilmember Koretz is working on strengthening the Protected Tree Ordinance. The Federation should be involved.

Installation of Officers

Guest: Councilmember David Ryu (CD 4)

Councilmember David Ryu (CD 4) arrived during the meeting for the installation of the 2017 Hillside Federation officers: Charley Mims (President), Marian Dodge (Chairman), Mark Stratton and John Given (Vice Presidents), Don Andres (Treasurer), Stephen Benson (Secretary).

C. Let's Buy a Mountain - Jamie Hall

The escrow period has been extended to December 29th to purchase 17 acres in Laurel Canyon. Councilmember Ryu's office made the first \$15,500 donation in a matching fund. Let's Buy a Mountain received a \$1M grant from SMMC and have only \$289,000 to raise. They want to be proactive by encouraging land owners to get conservation easements with great tax deductions.

D. 8150 Sunset/Lytton Savings - Marian Dodge

The Lytton Savings building was designated an Historic-Cultural Monument, but the developer of 8150 Sunset was going to demolish the building anyway. The Los Angeles Conservancy won its lawsuit against the city to stop the demolition of the historic building. Two viable alternatives show that the building could be incorporated into the new development. Architect Frank Gehry should be able to redesign the project to include the Lytton Savings building.

E. Accessory Dwelling Units - Charley Mims

Charley reported that he did not get the sample letter out for Federation members because we are waiting for minor changes to comply with state laws. A draft letter should be going out soon to all member organizations.

F. Harvard-Westlake School expansion - Suellen Wagner

The Planning Department expects the final EIR to be released by the end of May. The Studio City Neighborhood Council, recommended to Councilmember Krekorian that he require Harvard-Westlake to place story poles to show the size of the 6.8-acre project, a parking structure for 750+ cars, with an athletic field on top, and 85+ft. retaining walls.

V. New Business

A. McGroarty Street subdivision – Kit Paull and John Vazquez

The proposed subdivision is in a pristine canyon area in Tujunga with 90 oaks on the property. The developer wants to subdivide the property and do substantial grading to allow the construction of 10 homes. Vasquez asserts that the subdivisions would not be compatible with the rural nature of the area. The project would remove a total of 156 trees, including 49 protected oaks, and 2 protected sycamores, with another 41 oaks being affected. Additional tree and grading impacts would likely occur for new driveways and other features. The subdivision would have only a single ingress/egress with no secondary emergency exit. The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and Community Forest Advisory Committee and others are requesting a full EIR for the project.

MOTION: Steve Twining moved that the Hillside Federation support a full EIR for the McGroarty Street subdivision. The motion passed.

B. Hollywoodland HOA - Jack Conrad, George Abrahams

Jack Conrad and George Abrahams spoke in support of a request to change Hillside Federation policy where member organizations are in conflict. Jack explained that four neighboring HOAs held a rally in

front of the Beachwood Canyon gate/trailhead without a permit. George Abrahams believes the Federation should act to support member organizations defending themselves.

Isabelle Megginson of Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association responded that many local residents wanted to voice their opinion about closing the gate at Beachwood with access to the Hollywood Sign trail. People from all over Los Angeles came to express their opinion on the gate closure. They support public access to a public park.

Charley Mims recommended that the organizations meet to talk things out and see what happens. He offered to mediate.

CM David Ryu said he was very disappointed in the judge's decision to close the Beachwood Drive trailhead access gate. He does not want to shift problems such as this from one neighborhood to another. He is working on locating other viewing sites to the Hollywood Sign. He was unable to plan anything until the lawsuit was settled. He asserted that the judge ordered the Beachwood Gate be closed and the City had no choice but to comply. The Council District 4 office was notified of the planned gathering, and the LAPD said that no permit was required. The closure of the gate has some people happy and some people not so happy. He is getting criticism on this issue. CM Ryu requested a delay in closing the gate to extend beyond spring break, which was granted. Ryu is spending \$100,000 for a comprehensive review of traffic, Hollywood Sign viewing, and park access.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Stephen Benson
Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	Isabelle Megginson
Bel Air Hills Assn.	Steve Twining
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
CASM-SFV	Kathy Grubert
Doheny-Sunset Plaza	Lynn Roth
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell Civic	Patti Negri
Hollywoodland	George Abrahams Jack Conrad
Kagel Canyon Civic	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Jamie Hall
Los Feliz Improvement	Marian Dodge
Mt Olympus POA	Joe Custer
Res. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Save Coldwater Canyon!	Suellen Wagner
Studio City Res. Assn	Claudia Freedle

Guests Present:

CD 4	David Ryu
MRCA	Walt Young
Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
Hollywoodland	Tara Stephenson Fong
Laurel Canyon	Valerie O'Brien
Bel-Air	Linda Whitford

Sunland-Tujunga Res. John Vasquez