

**Hillside Federation
Tuesday, June 18th, 2024
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Video Conference
Minutes**

Agenda

I. Call to Order 7:08PM

Defensive Landscapes, a presentation by Cassy Aoyagi of FormLA Landscaping and former Malibu Councilperson Mikke Pierson, who brought real life lessons he learned from the 2018 Woolsey Fire. Details and presentation are on the HF Website

CD 11 Update, CM Traci Park – Field Dep Michael Amster

- 1) Broad use of chemical herbicide at the Palisades' Potrero Canyon Park has destroyed not just weeds but a lot of native plants and poses significant health and environmental threats. CM Park has responded with a motion that would require Rec and Parks and the Bureau of Engineering to report on current use of herbicides and herbicide alternatives.
- 2) Previous motion to designate Marilyn Monroe's Brentwood home as a historic-cultural monument has been continued till next week sometime.
- 3) Office is in communication with Westland and Mirman Schools on the Institutional Corridor about nighttime takeovers of the Mulholland right-of-way parking lot for street racing and other nuisance behaviors. Two options to secure lot: getting it under control with either an R Permit to create right-of-way obstructions within the lot or having one of the entities apply for City vacation of the right-of-way.
- 4) Office also taking multiple actions with regards to surface level grading in Paseo Miramar (Palisades) by developer who has been moving a lot of dirt without any heads-up to community. Developer now under order to get a stockpile permit; has been cited by LAFD for brush clearance problems, and is going to be advised by BOE on how to remediate for destabilizing the ground.
- 5) Working with **Beautification Team** on various clean-up projects in the Palisades, Brentwood, and Playa del Rey.
- 6) Held a very informative **Coyote Safety Briefing** (link)
https://youtu.be/za_sMviY_5M?si=EubJs1Sy3q8RPOzq

LA County 3rd District, CS Lindsey Horvath – Dylan Sittig had conflict but an email was forwarded to HF Membership:

- 1) LA County **Climate Action Plan** and link to second hearing on June 25.
- 2) Link to **CleanLA Smart Gardening Classes**.

From Diana Nicole, Director at Large - Sunshine Hill Association/LAAS::

We live in an oak- walnut woodland plant community and much of the landscape information offered through the "Smart Garden Classes" are harmful to our plant community. For instance, our native plants don't like nitrogen but the exotic plants they recommend are bred to need nitrogen in the form of fertilizers, which by the way, are fossil fuel based. For the record, I hold a Masters in horticulture. I am an accredited ecological horticulturist.

Fire Safe Virtual Town Hall on June 20th.

AD 51, ASM Rick Zbur – Field Reps Joshua Marín-Mora, Rob Staenberg
(Robbie.Staenberg@asm.ca.gov)

- 1) Marin-Mora introduced Staenberg as the new contact person for the hillsides. Thankful for positive feedback on last month's insurance presentation and said to keep reaching out if there's any way the office can connect us with people from the various State agencies.
- 2) Staenberg reported on recent **AT&T Town Hall** about AT&T's attempt to give up its obligation as carrier of last resort (landlines, copper wires). Recommends reading ASM Zbur's letter to AT&T and will be getting out a follow-up soon.

II. Approval of Minutes – Minutes Approved with updates.

III. Officers' Reports

- A. President's Report - Charley Mims
 - a. **\$10B Climate Bond issue** - talk about improving the electrical grid to cut down on carbon fuels and there may be some money to acquire undeveloped land in the mountain areas but not much info so far.
 - b. ASM Zbur has created a **Climate & Environmental Advisory Board** with Jamie Hall representing HF and Don Andres representing Friends of Runyon Canyon. Wendy Rosen is co-chair of the committee.
- B. Operations/Treasurer Report - Don Andres
 - a. Membership Dues - 46 members, 44 collected, 1 on the way, 1 still outstanding.
 - b. Donated to Coalition for Beautiful LA for digital billboard lawsuit
 - c. Donated to Jerry Daniel Overlook for a drinking fountain.
 - d. Financial status was filed as reported.

IV. Old Business

- A. Email from Kit Paull re. **Palmdale-Burbank EIR**. Board meeting June 26-27 at Burbank Airport.
- B. **Mulholland Institutional Corridor** – proposed sale of Church parking lot, parking reduction application ongoing, letter is in progress; also dealing with street racing problems reported on by Michael Amster.
- C. **STAP program** (digital advertising on bus shelters) – Marian Dodge

Should have a report on status of lawsuit by next month.

- D. **Dodger Stadium Gondola** – Marian Dodge
 Judge denied one small part of lawsuit but not the whole lawsuit, which is still moving ahead with speed – next hearing Aug 12.
- E. **Zoo Vision Plan** (Lawsuit) – Marian Dodge
 Nothing new, still compiling the administrative record.
- F. **Harvard-Westlake River Park Project** (Lawsuit) – Beth Dymond. School took down trees on County property without permits. County told them they had to stop – trying to make sure they got Cease & Desist order. As far as is known, still no lease under Surplus Land Act for them to build on County property. Just trying to keep community involved while waiting for next hearing. County would have to offer first to a park system like MRCA, SMMC or City parks.
- G. **AT&T Town Hall** – Ellen Evans
 Complex issue. Copper is hard to get and the hardware that keeps the copper lines running is obsolete – nobody is manufacturing it anymore. Siemens closed the plant where the switches were made. Some parts are available on Ebay. But the law says. if you provide phone service, you’ve got to provide the phone of last resort. Important in the hills, especially in case of earthquakes, fires, which could knock out cell towers. Many in hillsides can’t even get fiber optics. Have to explore replacing copper with something else, same services, at a commensurate price. Federal government has allocated between \$7 and \$8 billion to this. The phone company used to have their own separate power source, very low voltage, so that’s why the landline telephones would keep working but is that still true? No. And those little backup batteries aren’t worth much. Zbur’s letter really encapsulates hillside concerns. Forced change would go in order of density, so Hillsides will be at bottom of list. Reduction in carriage is down by 89% so this makes rates higher but carrier has to pick up a lot of the expense. Meanwhile the changeover is very slow.

Next month will be final installment of Fire Safe Homes series.

If we want any candidates to speak before the November election, we need to reach out now. Only 3 meetings left.

VI. Adjournment at 8:40PM

Next meeting - July 16, 2024

No meeting in August

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87464884612?pwd=eVZidE90YnFEcXg5a0l0eTd5TkIJQT09>

Lois Becker, Acting Recording Secretary

One more interesting bit of info from before the meeting started. Someone recommended getting homeowner's insurance from USAA, a company which has been around for almost 100 years and which caters to members of the military and their families.

| Hillside Federation Attendees - 18 June 2024 | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| <u>Members</u> | <u>27 Attendees</u> | <u>17 Member Associations</u> |
| Linda | Rose | Bel Air Knolls Property Owners' Association |
| Mark | Stratton | Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association |
| Nickie | Miner | Benedict Canyon Association |
| Carolyn | LoBuglio | Brentwood Hills Home Owners Association |
| Steven | Kates | Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association |
| Krista | Michaels | Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association |
| Lois | Becker | Canyon Back Alliance |
| Ellen | Evans | Doheny/Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association |
| Charley | Mims | Franklin Hills Residents Association |
| Don | Andres | Franklin/Hollywood West Residents Association |
| Malek | Adel | Hollywood Dell |
| SaraJane | Schwartz | Hollywoodland Homeowners |
| Jamie | Hall | Laurel Canyon Association |
| Marian | Dodge | Los Feliz Improvement Association |
| Linda | Othenin-Girard | Oaks Neighborhood Association |
| Joann | Deutch | Studio City Residents Association |
| Alan & Beth | Dymond | Studio City Residents Association |
| Diana | Nicole | Sunshine Hills Residents Association |
| Joan | Cashel | Upper Nichols Canyon Neighborhood Association |
| <u>Officials and Reps</u> | | |
| Joshua | Marin-Mora | Assemblymember Rick Zbur - Field Rep |
| Robbie | Staenberg | Assemblymember Rick Zbur - Field Rep |
| Michael | Amster | CD11 - Field Representative |
| Steve | Twining | Chair Emeritus |
| Alan | Kishbaugh | Chair Emeritus |
| <u>Guests</u> | | |
| Cassy | Aoyagi | FormLA Landscaping |
| Mikke | Pierson | FormLA Landscaping |
| Danielle | Killian | Killian Communications |