

Hillside Federation Newsletter June, 2015



www.hillsidefederation.org



Marian Dodge and Wendy-Sue Rosen joined Councilmember Tom LaBonge for his "Untold History of Los Angeles" at the Central Library on May 12.

Meet Councilmember-Elect David Ryu at the June Hillside Federation Meeting

Join us at our monthly Hillside Federation meeting on Wednesday, June 3, and meet special guest, Councilmember-elect David Ryu, recent winner of the Council District 4



run-off election, held May 19. Also joining us will be recently retired CD-4 Chief Planning Deputy, Renee Weitzer.

Agenda June 3, 2015 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

Guests:

Councilmember-elect David Ryu
Renee Weitzer
Angie Aramayo, for ASM Nazarian
Tim Pershing, for ASM Bloom
Eugene Tseng, for Sen. Ben Allen
Janet Turner, for Congressman Lieu

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers' Reports

- A. President's Report
- B. Treasurer's Report

IV. New Business

V. Old Business

- A. Scenario Lane - Katherine Bard
- B. Helicopter Noise - Bob Anderson

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, July 1, 2015
Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604

Hillside Federation mission: *To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.*



Photo: Steven Poster

Hillside Federation Officers Installed

The Hillside Federation's officers were installed at our May meeting by Board of Public Works President Kevin James. Front row (L to R): Treasurer Don Andres, President Marian Dodge, Chairman Charley Mims. Back row: Executive Secretary John Given, Vice President Wendy-Sue Rosen, Secretary Carol Sidlow, and Vice President Mark Stratton.

Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation Fundraiser, June 6

The Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation is holding its annual Fahrenheit 2015 fundraiser on Saturday June 6 in Sherman Oaks. Honorees include Loreen Arbus and Queen Latifah. There will be lots of demonstrations of LAFD units including search & rescue dogs and the equestrian unit before a Wolfgang Puck dinner. It's a great way to show your appreciation and get a tax

deduction. For more information go to: <http://supportlafd.org/news/>

Welcome New Member
Organization

Silverlake Heritage Trust

LA Residents Disagree with FAA on Helicopter Noise Progress

by Bob Anderson, Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition President

The Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC), who represented LA area residents in recent talks, strongly disagrees with the FAA's Significant Progress Report on the Los Angeles Helicopter Noise Initiative and releases the following statements.

On April 21, the Secretary of Transportation, based on a report from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), found that "significant progress" has been made in addressing helicopter noise in Los Angeles County. LAAHNC board members participated in what the FAA calls a "collaborative engagement" with stakeholders (helicopter industry and residents) in an attempt to reach agreements on voluntary flight practices to reduce noise.

"LAAHNC participated in 55 stakeholder meetings in the last two years," said LAAHNC President Bob Anderson, who also is a board member of the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association. "We are discouraged. We made numerous proposals, such as adjusting existing voluntary helicopter routes and altitudes, but we could not come close to reaching agreement with helicopter operators on any significant solutions. We explored every possibility thoroughly and came up empty handed. That is not significant progress."

Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, passed in January 2014, Congress directed the FAA, through the Secretary of Transportation, to take steps to reduce noise impacts on residents of Los Angeles County; otherwise, at the end of one year, unless the Secretary could demonstrate significant progress, the FAA would have to begin the

regulatory process to address the problem. According to Anderson, "The FAA attempted to broker negotiations between residents and pilots regarding new voluntary operational practices. We were optimistic that with intensive discussions under the Congressional mandate, we would be able to make some progress. But, in general, the pilots were only willing to agree to existing practices with minimal changes, or long standing, industry-developed, voluntary noise abatement policies which have proven to be ineffective."

Working groups, led by LAAHNC board members, were formed for stakeholders to study and discuss specific problems and potential improvements. Problems were thoroughly discussed, but there were virtually no agreements on solutions.

Dave Garfinkle, President of the Tarzana Property Owners Association, led a working group on best practices. According to Garfinkle, "We tried to get the news media and law enforcement to agree to a set of best practices, such as limiting non-emergency helicopter hovering time, establishing higher flight altitudes, pooling helicopter coverage of news events, and asking law enforcement to fly higher when not engaged in active emergency operations. The best we could get was general promises to do better, but no agreements on specific practices, such as flying at least 2,000 feet above ground level, whenever possible, which is already an existing FAA Advisory Circular. The helicopter industry claimed to have adopted best practices on hovering and pooling of resources, but pilots routinely ignore those so-called agreements."

Stakeholders agreed there is a high concentration of helicopter flights on the shoreline, but could not reach agreement to recommend that pilots fly farther offshore. Richard Root, LAAHNC board member who

led the working group to consider offshore routes stated, “Despite resolutions citing the need for helicopter noise relief from the County of Los Angeles, State of California, and fifteen cities, nine of them on the coastline from Malibu to Long Beach, we could not get pilots to agree to voluntary offshore routes any farther than 300 feet from the shoreline. That’s not far enough offshore to make much of a difference.”

Another LAAHNC board member, Gerry Hans, also Friends of Griffith Park President, led a working group that considered the area centered around the Cahuenga Pass and Griffith Park. He said, “Helicopter pilots routinely vary from the current voluntary route over the Hollywood Freeway and fly low over hillside residences and natural areas to get a closer look at the Hollywood Sign and the Observatory. In the process, they impact residents of Hollywood Hills where the noise bounces back and forth in the canyons. Even if we could get agreement on new voluntary measures, compliance would still be an issue.”

Donna Sievers, Long Beach resident and Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association Vice President, led two stakeholder working groups. One group considered the major helicopter route from the Long Beach Airport to the coast and another considered countywide outreach to pilots to inform them of voluntary practices. She said, “While there was agreement that Long Beach residents are significantly impacted by all helicopter operations including flight schools and tourist flights, no significant progress has been made to reduce helicopter noise over neighborhoods and schools. With respect to pilot outreach, without agreements on new voluntary operational practices, there is nothing new to communicate to bring about substantial noise reduction.”

The FAA recommends that stakeholders continue the collaborative engagement. However, Anderson said, “Despite a lot of time and hard work, our members don’t see any hope of getting helicopter operators to agree to voluntary flight practices to reduce noise in the foreseeable future. Unless helicopter pilots are willing to significantly modify their positions and agree to voluntary measures that would truly reduce noise, there is no point in prolonging the talks. We need to consider any and all other approaches.”

LAAHNC board members believe that since no significant progress has been made, the Secretary should begin the regulatory process as called for in the Act passed in January 2014. The FAA could consider adopting regulations governing helicopter operations, making them mandatory for pilots. In the past the FAA has been reluctant to do so. But, in 2012, in response to helicopter noise impacts on residents of Long Island, New York, the FAA did issue regulations and established the nation’s first mandatory helicopter route, and it seems to be working. The helicopter industry opposed those regulations and petitioned the court to overturn them. But, in a precedent-setting decision in 2013, the District of Columbia Appeals Court upheld the FAA’s action.

Go to LAAHNC’s website to view the following and other supporting documents:

- FAA Significant Progress Report
- LAAHNC Letter to Congress on FAA Progress Determination
- LAAHNC Comments on FAA Progress Report
- Local Government Supporters of Helicopter Noise Relief
- FAA Advisory on Altitude for Noise Abatement

<http://www.LAHelicopterNoise.org>

Hillside Federation
May 6, 2015
Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order – Marian Dodge

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

Special Order: Installation of Officers
by Kevin James

President, Board of Public Works

Officers installed are:

President: Marian Dodge

Chairman: Charley Mims

Vice-President: Wendy-Sue Rosen

Vice-President: Mark Stratton

Treasurer: Don Andres

Recording Secretary: Carol Sidlow

Executive Secretary: John Given

Guests:

Kevin James, President, Bd of Public Works

Kevin James spoke about the responsibilities of the Board of Public Works Commission—the only full-time board in the City that oversees five bureaus: Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Sanitation, Contract Administration, Bureau of Engineering, and Street Lighting.

In addition to being President of the Board of Public Works, Mr. James was appointed by Mayor Garcetti to be the chief liaison to the Film and Production office of the City. He is working on better coordination between City departments regarding film and television production and how to balance the needs of the community and neighbors.

Several big projects will be undertaken in the City including a Sidewalk Repair Plan stemming from a settlement of litigation; Clean Streets Initiative which provide strike

teams for clean ups; Pavement Preservation Program which provides a grade for every street; and the paving of more lane miles—approximately 10% more with the same budget money and more coordination with Department of Transportation and the General Services Dept. regarding lane striping. He would like see community liaisons to both the Department of Public Works and the Film and Television office. Carol mentioned the issue regarding filming on substandard hillside streets without secondary access and the negative impacts to public safety. Charley asked about enforcement with the Clean Streets initiative regarding illegal dumping. Mr. James spoke about the illegal dumping strike force/task force created by the City Attorney’s office and the money allotted for enforcement. A pilot program in CD-15 is being looked at to place cameras in hot spots in the City.

Questions were asked about the pothole identification program and deterioration vs. repair of our streets and how the City determines which streets are to be repaired by using an A–F grading system. The money in the budget only maintains the City’s Pavement Condition Index as the City does not have the budget to address an F-graded streets, which cost on average \$1 million per mile to reconstruct. Mr. James spoke to the State Senate Transportation Committee to address the issue of the inequitable distribution of gas tax revenue and the need for the City of Los Angeles to get a greater allocation of those funds. An increase of the State gas tax money to the City of Los Angeles would have a significant impact.

Guest: Tim Pershing, Assemblymember Richard Bloom’s office

State Assemblymember Bloom has been appointed to the Appropriations Committee

and spoke about AB 1357, which would place a 2 cent tax on sodas and would establish and help to fund the Children and Families Health Promotion Trust Fund. Regarding the gas tax issue previously addressed, Wendy asked if Assemblymember Bloom would get involved regarding the gas tax allocation issue.

II. Approval of Minutes

The April minutes were approved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report: Marian Dodge

Marian thanked Lois Becker for taking the minutes in April and Steven Poster for the use of the Cinematographers Guild for the CD- 4 Candidate Forum.

Warren Olney's "Which Way LA?" radio program (KCRW) featured a discussion about development in Hollywood with Robert Silverstein, a representative from the developers, a Professor of Planning from UCLA, and Marian. Steven Poster and Wendy complimented Marian on her participation. Robert Silverstein will be speaking at PlanCheck, at the Hollywood Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 9.

Tom LaBonge will be making a presentation on the "Untold History of Los Angeles," May 2 at the Downtown Central Library.

Wendy mentioned that she and other Hillside Federation members received a letter from Councilmember Paul Krekorian acknowledging and thanking them for commenting on the Weddington Condo/ Studio City Senior Living Center project. The letter states that he is taking public comments into consideration.

B. Treasurer's Report: Don Andres provided a status report.

IV. New Business

C. 10101 Angelo View Drive: Aaron Green

Jeff Franklin, a resident of Benedict Canyon, and Aaron Green, Jeff Franklin's representative from the Afriat Consulting Group, spoke about a proposed 82,000 sq.ft. development on Angelo View Drive. Approximately 56,000 cubic yards of the hillside will be exported, representing thousands of truck trips. Due to concerns of the neighbors and strong input from Councilmember Paul Koretz, the applicant will undertake a voluntary Environmental Impact Report (EIR). In addition, the Benedict Canyon Association and the Bel Air/ Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, who oppose the haul route, are keeping on top of the Environmental Impact Report issue and the issues that need to be covered.

Aaron Green asked that the HF take a position opposing the project with the information provided and comment on the Environmental Impact Report as appropriate. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the status of the project in the City, the development's compliance with the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, the voluntary Environmental Impact Report, deviations from the Los Angeles Municipal Code vs. "by-right" status, habitable basements, and the closing of the loopholes of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation send a letter to Councilmember Paul Koretz expressing concern that the Angelo View Drive project is an example of why the loopholes in the Baseline Hillside Ordinance need to be promptly amended. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Greek Theater Contract: Barbara Ferris

President Dodge turned over the gavel to Mark Stratton so she could speak on behalf of the Los Feliz Improvement Association. Barbara Ferris from the LFIA described the management of the Greek Theatre which has been successfully run by Nederlander Concerts for the past 40 years. A motion was made in the City Council to have a new Request For Proposals prepared. The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) instead asked the City to allow RAP to take over the running the Greek Theatre itself. The LFIA opposes that plan as RAP does not have the experience or staffing to do so.

Nederlander Concerts has done an outstanding job of running the Greek and has been responsive to the community concerns.

MOTION: Charley Mims moved that Hillside Federation support the extension of the current contract with Nederlander Concerts to run the Greek Theatre while the new Request for Proposals process is being pursued. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Zip Line in Runyon Canyon: Don Andres

Don distributed the recent proposal for a zip line through Runyon Canyon Park. The proponents went to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) last year at which time the Department asked for input from the community. Subsequently, the company promoting the zip line went to a Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council meeting to discuss their proposal. Hillside Federation members discussed both the zip line issue as well as the broader issue of the commercialization of our parks.

MOTION: Charley Mims moved that the Hillside Federation opposes the concept of a zip line in the Runyon Canyon Recreation

Area and continues to oppose the commercialization for profit of our wilderness areas. The motion passed with three no votes based on the fact that the motion included both the specific zip line issue and also a broad policy statement regarding commercialization of parks.

There was discussion about putting together a policy book that includes an index and all Hillside Federation policy statements. This will be discussed further at a future Executive Committee meeting.

D. 3003 Runyon Canyon Road: Stacey Sillins

Stacey described the proposed development within Runyon Canyon Park and the applicant's request to build a 9,500-sq.ft. house at 3003 Runyon Canyon Rd. The project will require exceptions to the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan. The Mulholland Design Review Board will hold a Preliminary Review hearing on the project at its meeting on May 7, 2015.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation oppose any deviations from the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan for the proposed development at 3003



Save these dates for future
Hillside Federation meetings

June 3
July 1
August – No Meeting
September 2
October 7
November 4

Runyon Canyon Road. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. Rim of the Valley Corridor: Marian Dodge

The proposal is entering the public comment period and everyone is encouraged to submit comments before June 30, 2015. The preferred alternative released in the draft by the National Park Service is Alternative C, which focuses on getting people into parks for recreating. Alternative D includes wildlife connectivity. The Hillside Federation adopted a position of support for a combination of Alternatives C & D. There was discussion about the alternatives and the various pros and cons. Representative Adam Schiff will be holding a public meeting on June 2, 2015 from 3:00-5:00 pm, at El Pueblo de Los Angeles. The National Parks Conservation Association is assembling a coalition of organizations that support the Rim of the Valley Corridor Alternatives. Wendy asked that the Hillside Federation ask for a presentation from a representative of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study regarding the various alternatives at the next Hillside Federation meeting.

B. Re:code LA: Carol Sidlow

A presentation regarding the residential component was made by the consultants in March. It will be discussed again at the next Re:code LA meeting on May 27, 2015. Carol encouraged everyone to go to the website and participate and give input. Erick Lopez may be available to attend a future meeting of the Hillside Federation to give an up-date on Re:code LA.

C. Millennium Hollywood: George Abrahams

The several community groups who sued the city over the Millennium Hollywood

project won a decisive victory with the court's decision to vacate the entire Environmental Impact Report which would require the developer to start over.

D. Tree Replacement/Caltrans I-405 Project: Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy-Sue Rosen, Lois Becker, and Mark Stratton attended a presentation at the Skirball Center regarding the Caltrans I-405 project. As a mitigation for removing trees along the I-405 Freeway and the Mulholland Scenic Corridor area and other areas for the Caltrans I-405 project, Caltrans is to replace the trees removed. Some trees will be replaced using a 4:1 ratio and others a 2:1 ratio. There are 3,800 trees remaining to be placed that cannot be placed in the public right of way due to lack of room. Caltrans will try to work with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to plant these trees. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has project properties all over the City. Wendy requested that we ask Caltrans to replace the trees as close to the project boundaries as possible, and especially in the Mulholland Scenic Corridor, before allowing them to be planted in areas outside of the project area..

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation request that the replacement of trees in the public right of way be planted as close to the project boundaries of the I-405 Freeway as possible and within the Mulholland Scenic Corridor. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Carol Sidlow,
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Beachwood Canyon | George Abrahams |
| Bel Air Knolls | Georgia Alkov |
| Bel Air Skycrest | Mark Stratton |
| Benedict Canyon | Steven Berck |
| Brentwood Hills | John Given |
| Brentwood Residents | Wendy-Sue Rosen |
| Cahuenga Pass POA | Steven Kates |
| | Krista Michaels |
| CASM-SFV | Craig Smith |
| Franklin Av/Hlwd Blvd | Yvonne Hessler |
| Franklin Hills Res | Charley Mims |
| Hollywoodland | Chip Clements |
| Kagel Canyon | Kit Paull |
| Lookout Mountain | Steven Poster |
| | Carol Sidlow |
| Los Feliz Impvmt. | Marian Dodge |
| Nichols Canyon | Don Andres |
| Oaks Homeowners | Gerry Hans |
| Roscomare Valley | Steve Twining |
| Save Coldwater Canyon! | Heidi Mackay |
| Sherman Oaks | Elke Heitmeyer |
| Studio City Res. | Claudia Freedle |
| Upper Nichols Canyon | Stacy Sillins |

Guests:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| AD-50 Bloom | Tim Pershing |
| Bd of Public Works | Kevin James |
| Los Feliz Impvmt. | Barbara Ferris |
| NELA GreenSpace | Laura Gutierrez |



Photo: Johana Turner

Verdugo Mountains' New Lion

Local news outlets began reporting late last week that the Verdugo Mountains now has its own Mountain Lion, designated P-41 by National Park Service biologists. The lion was discovered by Johana Turner, a resident who placed wildlife cameras in remote locations to record wildlife movement. Images captured P-41 as long ago as 2010, but he was not captured and collared by NPS biologists until May 7 this year.

More information and photos are available at the following news links:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-verdugo-puma-20150529-story.html>

<http://abc7chicago.com/pets/mountain-lion-p-41-first-to-be-tracked-in-verdugo-mountains/756089/>

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org			
PRESIDENT Marian Dodge	ORGANIZATIONS Beachwood Canyon Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Ridge Association Bel Air Skycrest POA Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Hills Homeowners Brentwood Residents Coalition Cahuenga Pass Property Owner Canyon Back Alliance CASM-SFV Crests Neighborhood Assn. Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn. Hollywoodland Homeowners Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.	Lake Hollywood HOA Laurel Canyon Assn. Lookout Mountain Assn. Los Feliz Improvement Assn. Mt. Olympus Property Owners Mt. Washington Homeowners Nichols Canyon Assn. N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon Oak Forest Canyon Assn. Oaks Homeowners Assn. Outpost Estates Homeowners Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Save Coldwater Canyon! Save Sunset Blvd. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn.	Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn. CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Brian Moore Polly Ward
CHAIRMAN Charley Mims			
VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen			
SECRETARY Carol Sidlow			
TREASURER Don Andres			
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY John Given			