

Hillside Federation Newsletter June 2017



www.hillsidefederation.org

Los Angeles Park and Open Space Issues Gain Attention

Parkland and open space concerns are receiving some much-needed attention in Los Angeles, and it is not just the ongoing saga of the gate at the Beachwood Drive trailhead, closed by the City in April in response to a lawsuit dealing with an over-utilized easement impacted by people seeking access to the Hollywood Sign. (A second lawsuit challenging the City's action has been filed. The LA Times' op-ed on the issue is worth read: <http://tinyurl.com/ybflb6vw>.)

The City of LA is in the process of updating several elements of the General Plan, including the 1973 Open Space element (available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/y9rrpq58>). The City's Open Space Work Group has been meeting behind the scenes. A public meeting of the work group will be held Wednesday, June 7, from 2-4 p.m. (Room 501, City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street). The City is also seeking public comment on the Open Space Element update via an online survey: www.ourla2040.org/survey.

Finally, the Trust for Public Land recently published a report on the Economic Benefits of Parks in Los Angeles (see more on p. 2). Chairperson Marian Dodge will discuss the report's very positive findings this month.

Agenda June 7, 2017 7:00 pm

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

- I. Call to Order
 - Guest:** Jill Stewart – Coalition to Preserve LA
- II. Approval of minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report – Charley Mims
 - B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Accessory Dwelling Units – Charley Mims
 - B. Sign Ordinance – Marian Dodge
 - C. Strada Vecchia – Marian Dodge
 - D. Harvard-Westlake School Expansion – Suellen Wagner
- IV. New Business
 - A. 2300 Kimridge Road – John Given
 - B. Economic Benefits of Parks – Marian Dodge
- VI. Adjournment

next meeting

July 5, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

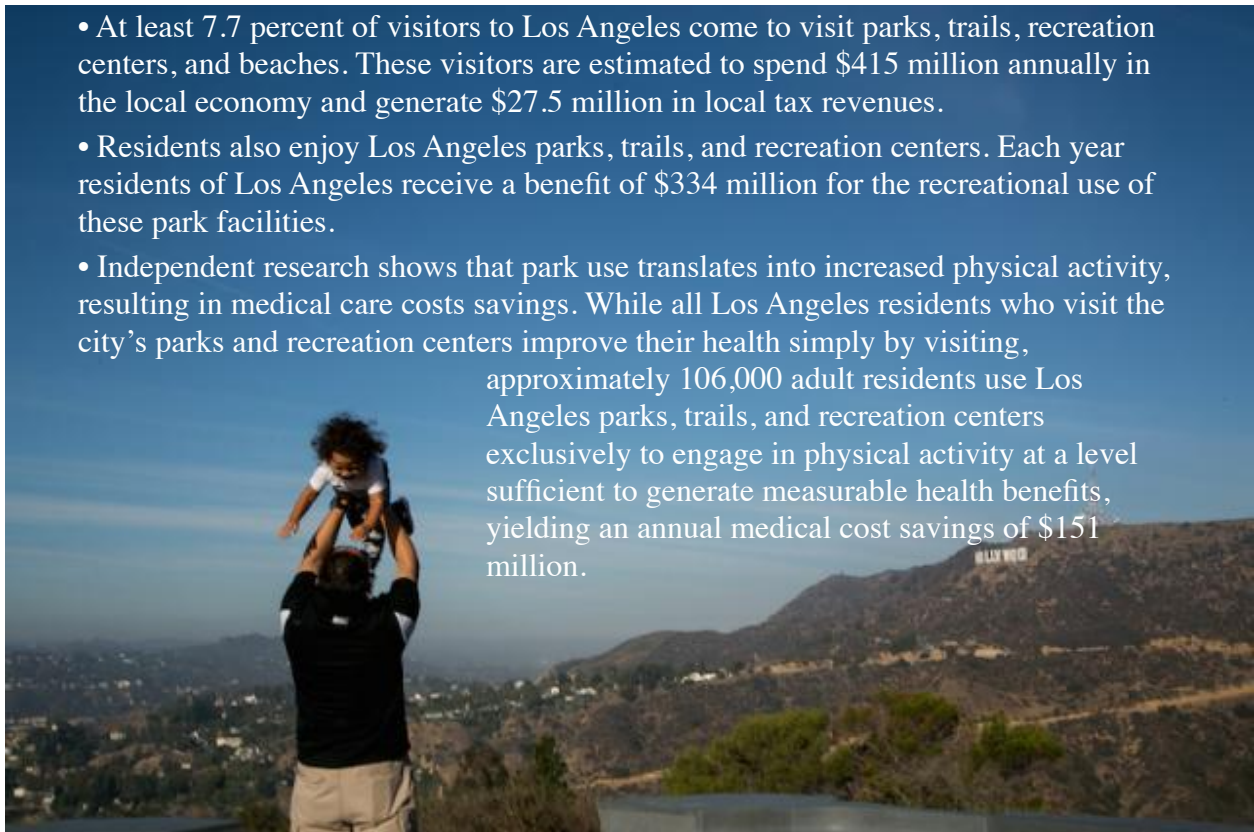
Hillside Federation mission: *To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife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

The Trust for Public Land Report: Economic Benefits of the Public Park and Recreation System in Los Angeles, California

The Trust for Public Land, in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, has published a report on TPL's study of the economic benefits of LA's public parks and recreation system. The study concludes that the City's more than 40,000 acres of public parks provide significant economic benefit, in enhanced property values and corresponding increases in property taxes, valuable stormwater retention, pollution control, revenue from park visitors, recreational value to residents, and medical savings associated with increased physical activity from park use. The executive summary outlines the specifics:

- Parks and trails increase the value of nearby residential properties because people enjoy living close to parks and trails and are willing to pay for the proximity. Parks in Los Angeles raise the value of nearby residential properties by \$2.29 billion and increase property tax revenues by \$27.2 million a year.
- Parks provide stormwater benefits by capturing precipitation, slowing its runoff, and reducing the volume of water that enters the stormwater system. Parks in Los Angeles provide stormwater retention valued at \$8.03 million annually.
- Trees and shrubs in parks remove air pollutants that endanger human health and damage structures. Such spaces provide health benefits and reduce pollution control costs in Los Angeles by \$1.58 million per year.

- At least 7.7 percent of visitors to Los Angeles come to visit parks, trails, recreation centers, and beaches. These visitors are estimated to spend \$415 million annually in the local economy and generate \$27.5 million in local tax revenues.
- Residents also enjoy Los Angeles parks, trails, and recreation centers. Each year residents of Los Angeles receive a benefit of \$334 million for the recreational use of these park facilities.
- Independent research shows that park use translates into increased physical activity, resulting in medical care costs savings. While all Los Angeles residents who visit the city's parks and recreation centers improve their health simply by visiting, approximately 106,000 adult residents use Los Angeles parks, trails, and recreation centers exclusively to engage in physical activity at a level sufficient to generate measurable health benefits, yielding an annual medical cost savings of \$151 million.



For more information on the Trust for Public Land's report, and to download a copy of the full report, visit <https://www.tpl.org/econbenefits-losangeles>.



Councilmember David Ryu joined the Hillside Federation in May to preside over the installation of officers. From L to R: VP Mark Stratton, Treasurer Don Andres, Councilmember Ryu, President Charley Mims, Chairperson Marian Dodge, VP John Given, and Secretary Stephen Benson.

Assembly Bill 25 (Local Tour Bus Regulation) Moves to State Senate

Assembly Bill 25 (Nazarian), to allow local regulation of tour bus operation, has moved on to the Senate in much simplified form. The original legislation called for CHP inspection of tour buses that have had modifications to remove their roof. The substantially revised legislation would clarify that such altered buses are “tour buses” under state law, and allow municipalities to adopt rules and regulations regarding their operation.

The new law would allow a city to restrict routes or streets on which altered buses operate if the city determines that the operation of the bus in that location is unsafe. It also allows a city to require the tour bus company to use headphones rather than loudspeakers. The use of loudspeakers on open-air tour buses disrupts the quiet enjoyment of residential communities, and has been the subject of many complaints in communities with frequently operating tours.

The Hillside Federation took a position in support of AB 25 at its April meeting, and submitted a letter to the legislature via Angie Aramayo, of Assemblymember Nazarian’s office.

AB 25 now moves on to the California Senate, where it has received a first reading, but is not yet scheduled for review by committee.

The full text of the revised bill can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/yc4arcy>.

Upcoming Hillside Federation Meeting Dates

July 5

September 6

October 4

November 1

Please note that the Hillside Federation does not meet in August.

Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
May 3, 2017

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 and Deputy Executive Officer

With funding from Measures JJ and HH, MRCA Rangers are patrolling seven nights per week along Mulholland east of 405. Walt would like to continue visiting the Hillside Federation two to three times per year to provide updates. Walt reminds Federation members that the MRCA emergency telephone number 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.fpcc.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 Court.

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization would like to bring an issue to the attention of the Federation, please complete a Request for Action form (available at www.hillsidefederation.org) and send it, along with supporting documents, to RFA@hillsidefederation.org no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently, while providing the necessary information to allow the Federation to consider your organization's request.

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 sidewalks near the project re-opened.

Marian reported on a 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 discussed 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 Federation 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 agendized because it was a request for discussion, not for a particular action. Charley further explained that the Federation would discuss the 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 negotiation between the applicant and community

members. An agreement was reached 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 (CD4)

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), and 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 the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy 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 Saving 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 Geary 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 City, at the request of the Studio City Neighborhood Council, required them 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 oak trees on the property. The developer wants to subdivide the property and do substantial grading to allow the construction of 10 homes. Vazquez 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 project 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 an EIR for the project.

MOTION: Steve Twining moved that the Hillside Federation support an 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 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Hillside Federation's Annual Holiday Party will be held Thursday, December 14 at the Mulholland Tennis Club.

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

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

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

<p>The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org</p> <p>PRESIDENT Charley Mims</p> <p>CHAIRMAN Marian Dodge</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton John Given</p> <p>TREASURER Don Andres</p> <p>SECRETARY Stephen Benson</p>	<p><i>ORGANIZATIONS</i></p> <p>Beachwood Canyon Bel-Air Association Bel-Air Hills Association Bel Air Knolls Property Owners 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. Doheny-Sunset Plaza Nbrhd. Assn. Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn. Hollywoodland Homeowners</p>	<p>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 Residents of Beverly Glen Save Coldwater Canyon! Save Sunset Blvd. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Silver Lake Heritage Trust</p>	<p>Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Steve Twining</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Brian Moore Gordon Murley Polly Ward</p>
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