

Hillside Federation
April 6, 2016
Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

Guest – Janet Turner for Congressman Lieu

Rep. Lieu is sponsoring HR 4871 to study the feasibility of adding the beaches from Santa Monica Bay south to Redondo Beach including the Ballona Wetlands and the San Pedro area to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area (SMMNRA). See handout.

There is a federal budget amendment asking for more money for inspection of water supplies, especially related to lead content. Flint Michigan is not the only city with water quality issues.

Some community groups are approaching Rep. Schiff about adding additional areas to the Rim of the Valley Corridor study. Rep. Lieu is working with Rep. Schiff's office, and they are seriously considering the requests. The measure would open up access to federal funding.

Rep. Lieu's legislation for permanent supportive housing for veterans at the West LA VA was unanimously approved by the House Veteran's Committee, a bipartisan committee. It will probably be voted on in May. Sen. Feinstein is working on getting it out of committee in the Senate. Once passed, permanent supportive housing can start (up to 1200 units, initially 400 in the first 3 years). The VA is improving every day; new Director Ann Brown is committed to making things work. The VA is now giving same day housing vouchers to veterans. They are hopeful that by end of 2016 all homeless vets who want the service will be housed.

II. Approval of Minutes

The March minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

Marian submitted the Federation's previous letter on helicopter noise reduction to the City Council in support of Councilmember Koretz's motion CF 15-002-S125.

Marian read a few quotes from the Federation letter in response to the Recirculated DEIR for the Harvard-Westlake School Parking Improvement Plan and thanked Wendy-Sue Rosen and John Given for their excellent job writing the letter.

The Neighborhood Integrity Initiative will no longer be on the November ballot but will be on the March 2017 ballot. Supporters have modified the initiative, which is not yet finalized. The Federation ad hoc committee will still take recommendations from our membership to present to the City.

Marian thanked our member organizations who wrote letters of support for the Rim of the Valley: Los Feliz Improvement Assn., Bel Air Skycrest POA, Brentwood Hills HOA, Oak Forest Canyon, and Tarzana.

The Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) motion (CM Koretz, CF 14-0518) requiring new buildings between Griffith Park and the 405 to provide for a wildlife corridor easement will be heard before PLUM on April 19.

The SAMO Fund (Santa Monica Mountains Fund) is having a fundraiser in honor of the Centennial of the National Park Service on Sunday May 22 at King Gillette Ranch for \$125. The event will honor retired Congressman Anthony Beilenson.

Election of Officers - Nominating Committee

Barbara Dohrmann - chair (the other members of the Nomination Committee are Kit Paull and Gerry Hans). The proposed slate is:

President	Charley Mims
Chairman	Marian Dodge
Vice President	Mark Stratton
Vice President	John Given

Rec. Secretary	Carol Sidlow
Treasurer	Don Andres
Exec. Secretary	John Given

There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION: George Abrahams moved that we approve the nominations by acclamation. The motion passed.

B. Treasurer's report – Don Andres

As of the end of March, 41 of our 45 member organizations have paid their dues which were due March 1. All of our bills have been paid. Don explained the Federation's major budget items.

IV. New Business - none

V. Old Business

A. High-Speed Rail project – Kit Paull

The Federation wrote a letter in 2015 asking that the three East Corridor alternatives that run through the Angeles National Forest be removed from consideration. Since then much has changed. The High-Speed Rail project was originally to have begun in Los Angeles and gone north. Instead they are starting with a section from Madera (north of Fresno) to San Jose because that is the cheapest section to build.

Save Angeles Forest for Everyone (SAFE) was formed to keep the route from being tunneled through the Angeles National Forest. <https://www.dontrailroad.us>. SAFE held a fundraiser attended by 2,000 people. SAFE asked for equine and geological studies; however the organization that performed the studies had several members from the High-Speed Rail project on their board. In preparation for tunneling, the Forest Service is drilling deep cores in the mountains for seismology and hydrology.

At the SCAG meeting for the San Fernando Valley a couple weeks ago SAFE was told that the SR14 route had been removed, and all the remaining routes are tunneling, exactly the opposite of what Rep. Adam Schiff and the Federation had requested. The Supplemental Alternatives Analysis (SAA) report is due soon. It will identify the routes being pursued. The anticipated private money for the project has not materialized. Even the state legislature has questioned the business plan.

Many who are fed up with the High-Speed Rail project are circulating petitions to get the Water 4 All initiative on the ballot for November. Part of that initiative would channel money from the High-Speed Rail project to getting more water for agribusiness in the San Joaquin Valley. The initiative has been pulled, but that may be temporary while signature gathering is assessed.

Kit is personally concerned about wildlife in the mountains, how the rail line will go through the new San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and that development is not proceeding under the proposition's original rules.

B. 10101 Angelo View Drive - Marian Dodge

There is good news regarding the 82,000-square-foot mansion proposed in Benedict Canyon. A letter dated March 31 from the consultant handling the project for property owner Michael Scott stated that the haul route application and associated environmental are being withdrawn and will not be pursued. CM Paul Koretz had written a letter mid-March saying he would not support the project. Aaron Green thanked the Federation profusely for our letter.

C. LA-RICS Telecommunications Towers – John Given

The San Vicente tower that originally concerned the Federation was removed from the project, but two other towers proposed in the Santa Monica Mountains are still a concern. The FEIR has been approved so there is a deadline by the end of April for filing a law suit. Michael Leslie of Brentwood Hills has been following the project carefully. Brentwood Hills HA community members are exploring their options.

D. Harvard Westlake expansion – Heidi Mackay

Save Coldwater Canyon! thanked the Federation for the great letter. Many comment letters were submitted. The Sierra Club and CLAW are now supporting Save Coldwater Canyon! They hired experts for three reports: traffic, safety, and air quality. The traffic safety report is sizable; moving students across Coldwater Canyon is unsafe. Neither the school nor the City have done health risk assessment for the 3-

year project. Save Coldwater Canyon! is trying to set up a meeting with CM Krekorian, who has been noncommittal. He has friends at Harvard-Westlake which is a concern.

E. Re:Code LA public forums – Marian Dodge

Marian and George Abrahams attended the first forum downtown. The Federation has had quite a bit of input in what is happening because Federation Secretary Carol Sidlow is on the Zoning Advisory Committee.

F. Helicopter Noise update – George Abrahams

Attempts to get the helicopter pilots to self-regulate have been unsuccessful. The Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC) has a series of four petitions to the FAA: 1) minimum altitude of 2,000 feet; 2) hovering restrictions; 3) media helicopter pooling; 4) shore line route. LAAHNC would like everyone to sign the petitions at: <http://lahelicopternoise.org/petitions/>. Marian urged members to sign the petitions.

Many cities including Los Angeles have now taken positions in support of the coalition's work. Marian reported that last night the city of Burbank voted to support the petitions.

Although there have been many problems with the FAA complaint tracking site, an increasing number of complaints have been filed. The FAA goes through the most egregious violators each month to try to get better behavior. The FAA and industry seem to be creating a shore route proposal that is far less than what the coalition requested.

Rep. Schiff has pushed to fund the study for a longer period of time, because the one-year study period should not have started until the complaint system was working.

Non-agenda Items:

Hollywood Millennium project – Steve Twining asked George Abrahams for an update. George explained that litigation is ongoing so he is unable to say much. The court granted a motion for judgement on the pleadings, which short circuits getting the pattern and practice issue before the courts, but is quicker to appeal.

Bel Air Homeowners Alliance and Bel-Air Association – Steve Twining

Officer elections were recently held for the Bel-Air Association. The former board disputes that the election was proper, and the question is in litigation; the court will resolve the issue. Steve commented that the new officers are very much against mansionization.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Given, acting Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Barbara Dohrmann
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
Franklin Ave/Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Mary Ledding
Hollywoodland	JJ Blair
	Jack Conrad
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull

Los Feliz Impvmt.
Mt. Olympus
Res Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley
Save Coldwater Cyn!
Studio City Res.

Marian Dodge
Serra Aladag
Stephen Benson
Steve Twining
Heidi Mackay
Claudia Freedle

Guests:

Rep. Ted Leu
Cahuenga Pass

Janet Turner
Alexandra Solule