

Hillside Federation
July 13, 2016
Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:23 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guests:

Tim Pershing (Assemblymember Bloom's field rep) discussed how affordable housing and homelessness issues are interrelated. Many working poor are living marginally across country. It is also a senior issue as well, as many seniors are outliving their retirement plans. They are looking at their homes as a source of income so are turning to Airbnb, granny flats (Second Dwelling Units), and converting garages.

Angie Aramayo (Assemblymember Nazarian's field rep) announced that the Assemblymember is hosting a workshop on self-driving autonomous cars July 14, 6:00-8:00 pm. at High Tech LA, including a panel of experts. The workshop will live stream on Nazarian's webpage.

II. Approval of minutes

The June minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Charley Mims

Charley thanked John Given and Michael Leslie of Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association for negotiating a settlement on the LA-RICS emergency telecommunications towers. As a result of negotiations among community groups and LA-RICS led by Mike, the heights of two towers located in Santa Monica Mountain parkland areas were substantially reduced.

Marian alerted members of the probable return of a proposed development at 2684 Cahuenga East Blvd., where Councilmember Ryu rescinded a zone change. The developer's representative indicated that the large project would "have an affordable housing element." Marian requested that members notify the Federation immediately when they hear about projects to that we can take action if necessary. Steve Twining noted that the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is asking council offices to identify low income units.

John Given reported that the Second Dwelling Unit ordinance repeal was approved by PLUM. Community members are still lobbying to retain existing city regulations. The City claims the repeal action is categorically exempt from CEQA, which John believes is inadequate. Advocates believe the City could apply the current ordinance ministerially, and so there is no need to change the city ordinance on an urgency basis. The Federation's position is that narrow streets and steep lots are why

SDUs in our hillside areas are inappropriate, and makes repeal of the existing ordinance quite problematic.

B. Treasurer's Report – Charley Mims (on behalf of Don Andres)

Charley read the treasurer's report. He also announced that the Federation's annual holiday party will be Thursday, December 8.

IV. Old Business

A. BMO/BHO Update – Marian Dodge

Proposed amendments to the BHO (and BMO) will be heard by the City Planning Commission tomorrow, July 14. People should attend and make public comment. John Given noted that Appendix B of the Staff Report proposes to exempt institutions (such as schools and churches) from BHO/BMO regulations, with the rationale that they operate under Conditional Use Permits and can be appropriately conditioned. The City's position is that this is not a change, but only a clarification. This exemption could have huge impacts on nearby residences.

Major Federation concerns are the increase in grading; the guaranteed 1,000 sq. ft. minimum floor area for all lots, including substandard lots; request that slopes of 1:1 or greater be mapped; and exemption of institutions from BHO/BMO requirements. The comment period ends Wednesday, July 20. All are urged to submit comment letters. The amendments will go to PLUM next, then on to Council.

B. 2471 Nalin Dr. – Nickie Miner

Nickie Miner spoke on behalf of Robin Greenberg, who was out of town. The proposed project would build down toward Hoag Canyon. Jamie Hall represents the neighbors, who are appealing approval of the project. The project did not undergo CEQA review. In their appeal, community members cite 43 unusual circumstances that could trigger a CEQA review. The appeal to the South Valley Area Planning Commission resulted in no decision, so the decision of the Mulholland Design Review Board approving the project has been upheld. A Request for Action was submitted asking the Federation to support further appeal of the project, but the appeal and relevant documents were not included, and the Federation took no action on the request. Since there is no new hearing date, project opponents will submit additional documents to the Federation.

Marian reminded associations to bring issues to the Federation as soon as they are proposed and not wait until a project is midway through the administrative appeal process.

MOTION: Elke Heitmeyer moved that if 2471 Nalin Dr. goes to a hearing before the next Hillside Federation meeting, the Executive Committee has authorization to take action on the request for action in support of the appeal after reviewing appeal documents. The motion passed.

IV. New Business

A. Support for Friends of Runyon Canyon – Yvonne Hessler.

The City of Los Angeles has community group partners that support its parks. Many groups, including Friends of Runyon Canyon (FORC), have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). Friends of Runyon Canyon has raised a lot of money to support and improve Runyon Canyon Park which is seriously degraded. FORC also supports acquisition of more open space around the park. FORC seeks Federation support for continuation of its MOU. In response to member questions, Yvonne clarified that the decision to build a basketball court was made by RAP, not by FORC, and that RAP makes all the decisions about improvements in the park. FORC is collecting donations for the Trust for Public Land to acquire a piece of private property in order to continue a popular trail.

MOTION: John Given moved that the Hillside Federation provide a letter to the Department of Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners and to Councilmember David Ryu in support of Friends of Runyon Canyon continuing their Memorandum of Understanding with the City. The motion passed.

Announcement:

Suellen Wagner of Save Coldwater Canyon! announced that the Final EIR for the Harvard-Westlake School expansion project is due out soon. She will let us know when it is released.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.
Federation members were reminded that there is no meeting in August. The next meeting will be September 7.

Respectfully submitted,
Marian Dodge
Chair and Acting Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel-Air Assn.	Bruce Kuyper
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
Franklin Ave/Hlwd Bl	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Mary Ledding
Laurel Canyon	Jamie Hall
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Chris Brown
	Michael Petresian

Members Present continued

Oaks Homeowners
Roscomare Valley
Save Coldwater Cyn!
Sherman Oaks
Studio City Res.
Upper Nichols Canyon

Bob Young
Steve Twining
Suellen Wagner
Elke Heitmeyer
Claudia Freedle
Joan Cashel

Guests:

AD 50 Bloom
AD 46 Nazarian

Tim Pershing
Angie Aramayo