

Hillside Federation
November 21st, 2023
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Video Conference
Minutes

I. Call to Order at 7:02 pm

Guest: Councilmember Nithya Raman

President Charley Mims asked Nithya Raman “What has surprised you the most?”

Nithya Raman answered: “It feels like an unending cycle: early retirement, hiring freeze, large vacancies. It’s been frustrating, that continues to be the largest thing to grapple with, to be able to enforce regulations already in place. I’ve been here 3 years, one more year to go. We’ve tracked projects in the hillsides -- projects with evacuation routes, protected and non-protected trees, expanding hillside construction regulations, ensuring that the wildlife ordinance is moving forward.”

Curtis School: “We were able to reduce the size of the planned intervention, reduce grading, we are grateful for the willing partnership of the school.”

1501 Marlay: “An appeal that was supported required additional biological reports; we asked the developer to redo the design.”

Concrete street repairs: “We don’t have additional money in the budget for concrete street repairs; we can put in a small panel.”

Mehmet Berker: “BOE contracted with UCLA; their tool allowed us to look at any of our streets. We combined emergency routes, important for emergency routing.”

Charley Mims: “Would you be in favor of Building and Safety cancelling permits that go beyond their limit?”

Nithya: “Yes, I would: 6 months feels short. There are supply chain and labor issues, now higher interest rates.”

Charley: “Thank you for your efforts on the Wildlife Ordinance; we’re concerned about the high fire severity zone, as well as the implementation of the SB9 Ordinance all over the city; parked cars, potential congestion, lack of safety. Would you be in favor of banning ADUs in high fire severity zones?”

Nithya: “We supported exemptions in high fire severity zones. Under SB9 almost no units have been built in the city.”

Charley: “What type of development would you support?”

Nithya: “Buildings that follow the rules. I’m an advocate of having more housing; we need more small housing for young people.”

Jamie Hall: “We need enforcement of the Protected Tree Ordinance in our neighborhood.”

Nithya: “We threw the book at the developer.”

Jamie: “I am always trying to buy land; the city of Los Angeles hasn’t provided a lot of money for conservation.”

Nithya: “I’m open to it. We have an end to an existing park measure. Proposition K was klunky; we need a new park funding measure; the last one failed; they bulked it up.”

Charley: “Jamie, write the language and send it to Nithya.”

Nithya: “Our inflationary housing market is screwed by interest rates; no one wants to sell; Housing costs have ballooned.”

Wendy-Sue Rosen: “Please stand up for billboard enforcement.”

Charley: “Particularly digital billboards.”

Nithya: “CD 5 and 11 have expressed reservations about the TCN Program.”

Linda Othenin-Girard: “The Oaks appreciates the work on opening the Beachwood Gate to greater access. Do you have a timeline? What obstacles do you see?”

Nithya: “Opening of Gate for the Dash bus going up through the Beachwood gate. Moving people from cars to the Dash bus. Access to the Hollywood Sign, to Griffith Park. It will take through the end of the first quarter of next year.”

Jeff Swofford (Hollywoodland) “Would you consider an EIR?”

Nithya: “We’re taking steps on the Hollywood Sign.”

Steve Krawchuk: “Illegal squatting led to the failure of the United Hollywood Neighborhood Council.”

Nithya: “There are no encampments in the district. I don’t believe homelessness should exist. In Genesta Park there were tents. There are no tents anymore. We offer services; we offer a bed. Anyone who tells you that this is easy, please tell them this is grinding hard work. Housing is the driving cause for homelessness. I am excited about the Alliance settlement. Care Core is starting. \$130,000,000 sat unused on a shelf in Hollywood. 50 mental health case workers have been hired.”

CD 4 Update – Mehmet Berker, Mashaal Majid

Mehmet.berker@lacity.org 818-925-0465

The draft Wildlife Ordinance is still with the city attorney’s office.

Wendy-Sue Rosen: “The Wildlife Ordinance is not a priority with the mayor.”

Mashaal: “Ellen Evans has been working on home sharing; the structural goals need to be worked on.”

Mashaal: “A TCN shout out to Wendy, advocating for a stronger program.”

Mashaal: re: 3003 Runyon: It is still pending with the Planning Department.”

Mehmet: “Encino Hills traffic calming survey is out.” Bit.ly/encinohillssurvey

CD 5 Update - Haley Martinez - not available

CD 11 Update - Michael Amster

1. The 2nd and 3rd graders from Westland School went to City Hall
2. Road repairs in the Pacific Palisades
3. The contractor had cement trucks blocking Paseo Miramar that impacted the sanitation trucks
4. 824 Kenter: We are assisting the advocates who fight development

Wendy-Sue Rosen stated that CD1, CD5 and CD 13 showed up asking for signs to be removed; what is CD11 willing to do on Ballona?

AD 51, ASM Rick Zbur - Joshua Marín-Mora

The assemblyman was formally appointed Chair of Retail Theft for the upcoming legislative session.

November 1st was the opening day of Covered California's open enrollment period.

The ASM Hollywood Office, located on Stanley at Sunset Blvd., is having an open house Sunday, December 3rd from 10:00-2:00 to meet the staff.

II. Approval of Minutes - Robin Greenberg

Steve Twining mentioned that on 1400 Linda Flora the permits were re-issued; the original permits were 13 years old.

The minutes were approved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Charley Mims: no report

B. Operations/Treasurer Report - Don Andres

There are 47 member associations, 45 memberships have paid. There is a potential of one new member. Don reviewed the full HF assets. The financial report was received and filed.

IV. Old Business

A. Zoo Vision Plan (Lawsuit) - Marian Dodge: We're continuing with technical items.

B. Harvard-Westlake River Park Project - Alan Dymond: The CUP was approved by the City Council; we are filing a lawsuit December 14th for enforcement of CEQA.

C. Berggruen Institute Project - Steve Drimmer - Not Available

D. Short Term Rentals – Ellen Evans: the first hearing is on the report back (the basis for changing the law); the 2nd hearing will be the first half of December (housing and homelessness). The file is filling up with comments who want looser regulations

E. Street Digital Ads (Kiosks, Billboards, etc.) – Marian Dodge: The TCN billboards went to PLUM the same day as the Harvard-Westlake hearing; councilmembers didn't listen to those opposed. PLUM approved the TCN project; will lead to supplemental use district (spot zoning); reduce housing, increased light pollution.

Wendy-Sue said that the mayor said "what's the big deal? They're just along the freeway, referring to the digital signs. Katy Yaroslavsky reduced the space between signs; increased the time that the MOA would be in place.

F. Digital "Canvas" at 9176 Sunset Blvd.– Ellen Evans: no news

V. New Business

A. Steve Twining: We need a new motion on billboards. Not necessary since we already have a position.

B. Wendy-Sue: ASM Rick Zbur's office asked for email addresses for those that want to be on the ASM distribution list.

VI. Adjournment at 8:35 pm

Next meeting:

January 16, 2024

December 2023 - No Meeting

Robin Greenberg
Recording Secretary

Hillside Federation Attendees - 21 November 2023

Members

Stephen	Krawchuk
Mark	Stratton
Robin	Greenberg
Nickie	Miner
Robert	Schlesinger
Carolyn	LoBuglio
Wendy-Sue	Rosen
Steven	Kates
Krista	Michaels
Lois	Becker
Ellen	Evans
Charley	Mims
Don	Andres
Jeff	Swofford
Jamie	Hall
Marian	Dodge
Alan & Beth	Dymond
Linda	Othenin-Girard
Robert	Young
Joan	Cashel

17 Member Associations

Argyle Civic Association
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association
Bel-Air Hills Association
Benedict Canyon Association
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Home Owners Association
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association
Canyon Back Alliance
Doheny/Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association
Franklin Hills Residents Association
Franklin/Hollywood West Residents Association
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Laurel Canyon Association
Los Feliz Improvement Association
Studio City Residents Association
The Oaks Homeowners
The Oaks Homeowners
Upper Nichols Canyon Neighborhood Association

Officials and Reps

Michael	Amster	CD11 - Field Rep
Mehmet	Berker	CD4 - Transportation, Public Space Deputy
Alan	Kishbaugh	Chair Emeritus
Mashaël	Majid	CD4 - Deputy Chief of Staff
Joshua	Marin-Mora	Rep - Assemblymember Rick Zbur
Nithya	Raman	Councilmember, Council District 4
Emma	Taylor	CD4 - District Director
Steve	Twining	Chair Emeritus
