Hillside Federation Newsletter July, 2014

Join the Hillside Federation at Upcoming Meetings for Candidate Forums

The Hillside Federation will host the first of what we hope will be several candidate forums in advance of the General Election scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

At our regularly scheduled meeting of July 9, 2014, State Senate District 26 candidates Ben Allen and Sandra Fluke will join us to introduce themselves, talk about their platforms and ideas, and take questions on issues of importance to the Federation and its members. For more information on both candidates, please see the biographical information on the following pages.

Other elections touching on Hillside Federation members include the race for the 33rd Congressional District and the election for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Third District. The top two candidates of the sixteen that competed in the primary for the 33rd Congressional District are Elan Carr (R) and Ted Lieu (D). The top two candidates for the nonpartisan County Board of Supervisors Third District seat are Sheila Kuehl and Bobby Shriver.

The eventual winners of these elections will replace two long-serving public servants. Congressman Henry Waxman served for three terms in the California Assembly before being elected to Congress in 1974, and will retire from Congress after serving 20 consecutive terms. Supervisor Yaroslavsky served on the Los Angeles City Council beginning in 1975, and started the first of his five terms on the Board of Supervisors in 1994.

The Federation does not meet in August. Please watch for announcements regarding future candidate forums for these seats.



www.hillsidefederation.org

Agenda
July 9, 2014
7:00 pm

L Call to Order

Candidate Forum: State Senate District 26
Ben Allen
Sandra Fluke

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

B. Treasurer's Report

IV. New Business

A. No Smoking ordinance—Carol Sidlow

B. Building & Safety Enforcement— Cyd Zeigler

Mulholland Scenic Corridor Short-term party rentals

C. AB 2222 Amendments to SB 1818

V. Old Business

A. Sign Ordinance–Marian Dodge

B. Cell Tower AGF Ordinance— Alexander von Wechmar

C. 1500 Gilcrest - Wendy-Sue Rosen

D. Re:code LA - Carol Sidlow

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014

REMINDER: There is no Hillside Federation meeting in August

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.

Please note—The following candidate biographical information was taken directly from the candidate's website. Its inclusion in the Federation's newsletter is for the convenience of our members and should not be construed as an endorsement. The candidates order of appearance in the Hillside Federation newsletter was determined by coin-flip.

Sandra Fluke

Sandra's career has always been devoted to the public interest, whether representing victims of human trafficking and domestic violence or advocating for social justice legislation. In February of 2012, she was unexpectedly thrust into the public eye when she testified before members of Congress regarding the importance of comprehensive insurance coverage for reproductive health. As the media attention and the personal attacks grew, Sandra believed it was her responsibility to stand up and use the microphone she was given to advance the policies she has always fought for.

Sandra has lived and worked in California for years, building coalitions, advocating for legislation, and securing the passage of bills that will change lives for the better. Now, Sandra wants to bring a fresh perspective and a new generation of leadership to the California State Senate. She has the legislative



experience to hit the ground running but isn't a career politician beholden to special interests. That's why she can effectively create change in Sacramento and fight for her community.

Growing up in a middle class family shaped Sandra's perspective on jobs, education, veterans' issues and economic security. Her father worked in manufacturing and saw plants open and close, union jobs come and go, for decades, and her mother works in a public school as a teacher and guidance counselor. Sandra's grandfathers served in the Army, one in Korea and one in World War II, and her grandmother was a parachute packer in World War II. Because Sandra's family was willing to make sacrifices for her, she was the first person in her dad's family to earn a bachelor's degree.

While most known for her advocacy for affordable access to health care and other reproductive justice concerns, those are far from the only issues Sandra has advocated for. She has fought for a myriad of progressive issues to improve the lives of others, including helping pass legislation ending discrimination against LGBTQ folks in family court. In 2010, funded by the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Sandra produced an informative film to help victims of domestic violence obtain restraining orders in LA courts and represented those victims at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles. For more than two years, Sandra worked with a grassroots coalition to pass the California Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, which was signed into law by Governor Brown in 2013 and is designed to ensure domestic workers have the same protections afforded to them that other workers enjoy. At the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking in Los Angeles, Sandra is one of the longest running volunteer attorneys representing victims of human trafficking. She has advocated for student loan debt relief, access to early childhood education and for raising the minimum wage.

Nationally, Sandra is frequently recognized for her powerful address to the Democratic National Convention in 2012. She served as a surrogate for President Obama in his reelection, and she campaigned for more than a dozen Democrats running in competitive U.S. House and Senate races, including U. S. Representatives Bera, Brownley, Capps, Peters and Ruiz of California and Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Sandra graduated cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center as a Public Interest Law Scholar with a Certificate in Refugee and Humanitarian Emergencies. In 2003, she received a B.S. from Cornell University in Policy Analysis and Management, as well as Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Sandra and her husband, Adam, live in West Hollywood with their dog, Mr. President.

For more information on Sandra Fluke, visit http://www.standwithsandra.org/.

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Ben Allen

Ben Allen is currently a member, and former Board President, of the Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education and was elected as the top vote-getter in both his 2008 election and 2012 reelection. He is also an attorney with the law firm of Richardson & Patel LLP and he is a lecturer at UCLA Law School, where he teaches education law and policy.

As a candidate for California State Senate, Allen came in first place over the crowded eight candidate pool in the <u>District 26</u> June 2014 Primary. Ben is endorsed by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Senator Fran Pavley, LAUSD Board Vice President Steve Zimmer and many of our community's most respected leaders.

Ben continues to be a leader on issues of environmental sustainability, financial accountability, and community engagement. While President of the Board, Ben helped



shepherd through a successful \$385 million bond measure that is set to upgrade District facilities using cutting-edge environmental best practices and create good new local jobs. He helped lead the negotiations for the District with the City of Santa Monica that increased and stabilized City funding for the schools and has supported efforts to ensure that the District provides all students with high-quality educational opportunities regardless of their background or means.

Ben serves on the executive board of the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, is the Chair of L.A. County's Committee on School District Organization, and is a delegate to the California Democratic State Convention.

While in law school, Allen served as a voting member of the University of California Board of Regents and as a judicial clerk with the United Nations' International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Afterwards, Allen was a litigator with the law firm of Bryan Cave LLP and then led the successful Los Angeles launch of The Spark Program, a non-profit organization that connects at-risk middle school students with apprenticeships. He currently serves on Spark's board.

Prior to his law career, Allen worked for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), and then as communications director for Congressman Jose Serrano (D-NY). Allen has degrees from Harvard, Cambridge, and UC Berkeley, and he is fluent in Spanish.

For more information on Ben Allen, visit http://www.benallenforsenate.com/.

Anti-coagulant Rodenticide Story on NBC-LA Featuring Frequent HF Guest Alison Simard

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) Chairperson, Alison Simard, a frequent guest at Hillside Federation meetings, was recently feature on a June 23, 2014 news feature on NBC4LA. The story reported on the use of anti-coagulant rodenticides at Griffith Park. Laura Weekes was hiking with her dog, Garbo, near the Greek Theatre. They were about to start a hike behind the Vermont Avenue tennis courts when Garbo found and began eating poison that had been left behind bathrooms there by the Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. As the story reports, these types of poisons were recently outlawed for use by private citizens, but the City is still permitted to use them. The story discusses the adverse impact on wildlife as well as the risk to children and family pets.

The Hillside Federation recently wrote a letter in support of Council File 13-1580, a motion to evaluate the use of rodenticides by the City with the ultimate goal of banning the sale and use of anti-coagulant rodenticides by all users, including municipal agencies.

A link to the story, including video of the broadcast, is currently available at NBC4LA's website: http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Dog-Owners-Parents-Worry-After-Poison-Found-Near-Popular-Trail-264329651.html.



A still from one of the recent videos of P-22.

Mountain Lion P-22's Health Is Reportedly Improving

In a related story, the health of famed local mountain lion, P-22, appears to have improved since his treatment for mange and exposure to anti-coagulant rat poison. Recent videos taken as part of the Griffith Park Connectivity Study show that P-22's appearance has improved, and he is hunting successfully.

You can see the videos at the following KPCC and NBC4LA links: http://www.scpr.org/news/2014/06/04/44528/new-video-shows-health-improving-for-griffith-park/; http://www.scpr.org/news/2014/06/04/44528/new-video-shows-health-improving-for-griffith-park/; http://www.scpr.org/news/2014/06/04/44528/new-video-shows-health-improving-for-griffith-park/; http://www.scpr.org/news/2014/06/04/44528/new-video-shows-health-improving-for-griffith-park/; http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/P-22-Griffith-Park-Mountain-Lion-Healthy-and-Improving-After-Ingesting-Rat-Poison-261954501.html

Hillside Federation Draft Minutes June 4, 2014

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Speakers:

J.B. Blevins, Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation (FORC)

Don Andres introduced J.B. Blevins from the newly formed organization Friends of Runyon

Canyon Foundation, which is working to restore, manage and enhance Runyon Canyon Park in partnership with the public and the City for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Foundation is working with and soliciting support from various groups and individuals including local NCs, Council Districts 4 (LaBonge) and 13 (O'Farrell), and is in the process of securing an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks allowing Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation to be the community liaison for the City to the park.

FORC has three initial goals: (1) park trail maintenance and infrastructure improvements, (2) public water fountains and restrooms, and

(3) park maintenance and management so that the work done will be maintained with long-term goals, including parking. An awareness and fundraising campaign will be launched this summer through a variety of outlets and groups including social media. More information can be found at: www.FriendsofRunyonCanyon.com

Paul Koretz, Councilmember (CD5) Wildlife Corridor Motion and Other Updates

Paul Edelman, Deputy Director, Natural Resources and Planning, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Councilmember Koretz reported on the following motions:

- 1. Rodenticide Motion (Council File: 13-1580)—rodenticides create severe and unintended consequences not only for wild animals, but for dogs and cats as well. The more wildlife deaths, the more the rodent population grows. It is important to ban the use of rodenticides on City property and reduce its impact in our hillsides.
- 2. No Smoking in Hillsides Motion (Council File: 14-0713)—it is imperative that hillside areas have an adequate number of and properly located "No Smoking" signs and that fines for violations are sufficient to act as a deterrent. The City Attorney is reviewing the feasibility of a \$1,000.00 fine; if feasible the amount would be posted on "No Smoking" signs in hillside areas.
- 3. Tree Trimming Policy Motion (Council File: 14-0019)—there was discussion today [June 4] at the City Council's Energy & Environment Committee. There have been complaints about the City's contractors over-trimming and not trimming properly. These are concerns that were raised by the Hillside Federation in a letter. The Committee directed the Bureau of Street Services to create a better policy with a report back in one month.
- 4. Wildlife Corridor Motion (Council File: 14-0518)—wildlife corridors are vital to aid movement so that animals can move freely without getting killed and to help maintain genetic diversity. P-22 is an example of a mountain lion that crossed the freeway successfully and survived ingesting rodenticide. A mountain lion was recently killed crossing the 101. We need

wildlife corridors and this motion will ensure that the City of LA takes wildlife corridors into account during the planning process. The Wildlife Corridor motion will be heard by the Planning and Land Use Committee of the City at a future date.

Paul Edelman added that Councilmember Koretz should be applauded for his Wildlife Corridor Motion. If passed, the motion would protect wildlife movement from the I-405 to Griffith Park. The City would require that all hillside properties within the boundaries of the BHO are reviewed prior to any approval to look at ways to ensure valuable wildlife connectivity be preserved as part of the planning process. Each project would have to demonstrate that it would not negatively impact wildlife connectivity and if impacted mitigation would be required. This would lead to permanent habitat protection. According to Paul this can be done with little cost to the homeowner or developer most of the time.

Members of the Federation discussed the Wildlife Corridor motion and asked Councilmember Koretz to request that a separate Planning and Zoning category be created on ZIMAS to ensure that the Wildlife Corridors are considered separately from the BHO. Marian thanked Chief of Staff Joan Pelico for all her work on the Motion.

MOTION: Tony Tucci moved that the Hillside Federation support the Wildlife Corridor motion. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Wendy asked Councilmember Koretz to clarify his position regarding the Curtis School project as it relates to wildlife corridor protection on the Caltrans property. CM Koretz assured the Federation that he supports preserving a functional wildlife corridor on the property and will communicate that to his Planning Deputy. Tom Freeman suggested that Councilman Koretz's Environmental Deputy work more closely with communities to address these important environmental issues and concerns.

Tom Freeman asked Councilmember Koretz if he would pick up the gauntlet of the Clean Hands Ordinance which is in the City Attorney's office. CM Koretz asked that the Hillside

Federation meet with him to brief him on the Ordinance.

Steven Poster asked Paul Edelman to report on Measure HH and how much money had been collected and spent. Paul reported that approximately \$681,000 will be collected annually. So far the money has been spent on three parcels: Laurel-Mulholland, Laurel Canyon, and Universal Overlook.

Paul Edelman (SMMC), Sale of Surplus City Property / Willow Glen Road Appeal

Paul Edelman explained that the City made a deal with a developer on Willow Glen Road to buy an adjacent City-owned parcel so the developer could build two houses instead of one. Even with the additional land, the developer needs deviations from code. The ZA granted the deviations and included the City-owned property in the approval. Paul appealed on behalf of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Public Resources Code section 33207(b) requires that the City allow the Conservancy an opportunity to exercise its first right of refusal before the City may dispose of any surplus property within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Zone. The Conservancy exercised its first right of refusal on this property, but the City is erroneously using a section of the Government Code to exempt the property. The appeal will be heard by the South Valley Area Planning Commission in July.

Members of the Federation asked that Councilmember Koretz address this problem so that open space parcels that have important biological resource value and wildlife connectivity are not sold to developers instead of being offered to the Conservancy to be preserved as required by statute. Koretz asked for a briefing and suggested he would consider an amending motion.

MOTION: Tony Tucci moved that the Hillside Federation support the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy appeal of the Zoning Administrators Determination regarding the property at 8145 Willow Glen Road. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Tim Pershing, Assemblymember Richard Bloom's Office, Legislative Update

Tim updated the Federation on various bills that have moved to the Senate unobstructed by the Assembly, including Bloom's rodenticide bill, micro-beads and film tax credit bills.

II. Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian thanked Charley Mims and John Given for their help while she was away.

Gerry Hans gave an up-date regarding the Helicopter Noise issue.

Marian reported on Mayor Garcetti's press conference regarding the L.A. River Revitalization Plan and the recommendation by the Army Corps of Engineers to adopt Alternative 20, the most comprehensive habitat restoration plan.

Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation is having a wine tasting fundraising event on June 19, 2014. Marian will forward the invitation to all.

CLAW (Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife) is selling wildlife stamps. Find more information on their website: www.CLAWonline.org.

Marian distributed the recent Los Angeles Times article regarding the City Council's abuse of Charter Section 245 which has been a topic of discussion by the Hillside Federation.

The Westside Mobility Plan meetings are scheduled for June 5, 2014 at Westside Pavilion Community Meeting Room and June 9, 2014 at Venice High School cafeteria. Additional information is available on the Westside Mobility website: www.westsidemobilityplan.com.

A lawsuit has been filed regarding the property at 360 N. Stone Canyon Road in Bel Air where an over-height residence was approved by the City Council exercising jurisdiction under Charter Section 245.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

Don Andres reported on membership status.

IV. New Business

A. Baseline Mansionization Ordinance

Dick Platkin, Adjunct Instructor/University of Southern California and former City Planner Dick presented some of the history and current status of the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO) enacted in 2008 which applies in the flatlands not in the hillsides. There is a need to amend the BMO to address issues that undermine it. Amending the BMO would be the most effective way of addressing the problems. Changes Platkin would like to see are: (1) reduction of by-right Floor Area Ratio in smaller R-1 lots from 0.52 to 0.42; (2) simplification or reduction of bonuses; (3) elimination of exemptions like garages. The amended BMO should be simple, enforceable, transparent and promote financial and environmental sustainability. Councilmember Koretz has introduced a motion to carefully examine the BMO and remove the exemptions and bonuses. Wendy asked if there are similar problems with the Baseline Hillside Ordinance and Platkin said similar problems exist. Wendy asked CD-5 Chief of Staff Joan Pelico to look into the possibility of similar amendments to the BHO.

B. Wildlife Corridor (see above)

C. Election Update – Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy reported the results of the June 3 election for seats that impact Hillside Federation members, including Congress, State Senate and County Supervisor.

V. Old Business

A. 8145 Willow Glen Appeal (see above)

B. 8150 Sunset – Andrew Macpherson

Andrew updated the status of the proposed development at 8150 Sunset Blvd. He distributed a handout on SB 743, the Environmental Leadership Development Project designation that is fast-tracking the project's environmental review. Save Sunset Blvd. has hired attorney Robert Silverstein and will file a lawsuit. Marian requested that Save Sunset Blvd. keep the Hillside Federation updated.

Janet Turner, District Representative for State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District introduced

herself and spoke briefly about Senator Lieu's Senate Bill SB-1155 which would mandate that developers and City officials treat an unzoned earthquake fault line just like an zoned earthquake fault line, plus add an additional setback of 75 feet. Janet.Turner@sen.ca.gov.

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website www.hillsidefederation.org) with documentation and send it to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.

C. 1500 Gilcrest – Juliana Maio

Juliana Maio reported that the parties have entered into a settlement agreement. The West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission will hear this case again on June 18, 2014 to approve or disapprove the revised project resulting from the settlement agreement. Wendy and Carol complimented Juliana and Michael Phillips for their hard work and determination in spite of many obstacles.

D. re:codeLA - Carol Sidlow

The Staff Report with four recommendations along with thirty concepts will be addressed by a Special Meeting of the City Planning Commission on June 6, 2014. The Zoning Advisory Committee meeting for re:codeLA will be Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at City Hall, from 6:00–8:00p.m. Federation members expressed concerns about the vagueness of the Staff Report, lack of mention or attention to Specific Plans, scenic corridors, wildlife corridors, open space and the protection of our hillside areas.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter of concern to the City Planning Commission to address the lack of specificity in the Planning Department Staff report regarding protection of the hillside communities, aesthetics, Specific Plans, streamlining and concerns regarding CEQA protections. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Carol Sidlow **Recording Secretary**

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon Bel Air Skycrest

Brentwood Hills Brentwood Residents Cahuenga Pass POA Canyon Back Alliance **CASM-SFV**

Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl. Hollywoodland Kagel Canyon Laurel Canyon Lookout Mountain

Los Feliz Impymt. N. Beverly/Franklin Cyn.

Oaks HOA Roscomare Valley

Save Sunset Blvd.

Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Res. Assn. George Abrahams Mark Stratton

Barbara Dohrmann Lois Becker

John Given Wendy-Sue Rosen Krista Michaels Tom Freeman Craig Smith Don Andres Lucy Gonzalez

Susan Friend Tony Tucci Steven Poster Carol Sidlow

Marian Dodge

Robert Levy Gerry Hans Steve Twining Shirley Cohen

Andrew Macpherson

Joanna Parol Elke Heitmeyer Alan Dymond Beth Dymond

Claudia Freedle

Reminder — there is no Hillside Federation meeting in August. The next regular meeting will be September 3, 2014

Upper Mandeville Upper Nichols Cyn. Upper Riviera HOA

James Provenzano Stacy Sillins Stacy Thompson Nina Rosenfield

Officials Present:

CM Paul Koretz CD-5:

> Chief of Staff Joan Pelico Env. Dep. Andy Schrader

Assemb. Dist. 50: Tim Pershing State Senate Dist 28: Janet Turner Mayor's Office: **Daniel Tamm**

Guests Present:

SMMC Crests

Paul Edelman Juliana Maio Michael Phillips

N. Beverly/Franklin Connie Levy BeverlyWilshire HOA Dick Platkin

Bel-Air Beverly

Crest NC **CLAW**

Michael Kemp Alison Simard Skip Havnes

Friends of Runyon

Cyn. Fdn. Other Guests: Scott Drost

Teri Drost Lorraine Johnson

Lake Hollywood HOA

B.J. Blevins

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 CHAIRMAN Charley Mims ICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARY Carol Sidlow **TREASURER Don Andres** EXECUTIVE SECRETARY John Given

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.

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** Pacific Palisades Residents Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Shadow Hills Property Owners

Save Sunset Blvd. Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA

Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canvon Upper Nichols Canyon Upper Riviera HOA

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