

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
December, 2014**



www.hillsidefederation.org

Activist Honored

Marian Dodge



This year the Hillside Federation is pleased to honor one of its own – George Abrahams, the Federation representative for Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association. When George sees something that looks wrong, he follows through and does something about it. He is a solid advocate for compliance with codes and Community Plans.

When the new Hollywood Community Plan was proposed, George and his cohorts pointed out to the City numerous times that the plan was

Agenda
December 11, 2014
6:30 pm

Holiday Party

I. Eat,

II. Drink,

III. Be Merry!

Mulholland Tennis Club
2555 Crest View Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90046

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.*

based on inaccurate and larger population growth. When the City failed to correct the number, George and other groups filed a law suit against the City – and won – sending the City back to the drawing board.

The 50-story Millennium Hollywood Towers were proposed next to the iconic Capitol Records building, essentially plugging the already congested Cahuenga Pass and literally trapping residents north of Hollywood Blvd. in their neighborhoods. George and his friends went to work. The state geologist showed a major earthquake fault line running under the proposed project. The Department of Building and Safety is in denial, but George is doggedly pursuing the matter. He now knows about as much about the Hollywood Fault line as the state geologist.

Besides being active in land use issues in the Hollywood area, George also cares about quality of life issues like noise. He is an active member of the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition which is seeking FAA regulations to reduce the noise from the extraordinarily heavy helicopter traffic in the Los Angeles area. While George’s area of study is the Cahuenga Pass, he and the Coalition work to reduce helicopter noise throughout Los Angeles County.

Whatever issues George tackles, he does so with determination, focus, and steadfastness. He is relentless in his pursuit of doing the right thing. The Federation is fortunate to have George on our team.

Save these dates for Hillside Federation meetings

2015
January 7
February 4
March 4
April 1
May 6
June 3

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	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.	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 Pacific Palisades Residents Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Save Sunset Blvd. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA	Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Upper Riviera HOA Whitley Heights Civic Assn.
PRESIDENT Marian Dodge CHAIRMAN Charley Mims VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARY Carol Sidlow TREASURER Don Andres			CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore Polly Ward

Silverstein Successful

Marian Dodge



The Hillside Federation is also honoring attorney Robert P. Silverstein who has represented community activists like George Abrahams in the Hollywood area. Activists have been forced to hire legal counsel to get the city to obey its own laws. The city now has “planning by litigation,” where developers proceed with projects that violate the code and community plans on the assumption that most neighbors cannot afford to file a lawsuit. Meanwhile Silverstein continues to attract cases as his successes pile up.

The revised 2012 Hollywood Community Plan, although it contained many good features, allowed for much more density than necessary because it was based on old population projections. The proposed densification along Hollywood Boulevard would overwhelm the aging infrastructure. Silverstein proved that the population figures were inaccurate, and the city had to rescind its new plan that the judge called “fatally flawed.”

The Millennium Hollywood towers, planned in the only section of Hollywood where there were no height restrictions in place, is now on hold thanks to Silverstein’s meticulous investigative work. He showed that the project sits on top of the Hollywood Earthquake Fault and per state code should not be built that close to an earthquake fault. The Department of Building

and Safety says the fault isn’t there, but the state geologist confirms that it is.

Silverstein was also instrumental in halting construction of the Target store on Sunset Boulevard at Western. The store would be 74 feet high in an area with a 35-foot height limit. Target got exemptions that allowed it to skirt laws that controlled big box building design to be more compatible with the community.

Silverstein also challenged the demolition of the Old Spaghetti Factory restaurant’s columned façade which was to have been incorporated into the design of the new Sunset and Gordon residential tower. The judge recognized that the preservation of the façade was a specific condition of the approval of the project. In spite of La Mirada Avenue Neighborhood Association’s legal challenge, the CIM Group continued construction “at its own peril” the judge noted. Tenants are already occupying the building while the judge’s decision has invalidated the construction permits.

Silverstein has recently been hired by several other neighborhood associations who are facing excessively large developments in their communities.

He has been called “fanatical” and “feisty”, but Silverstein consistently challenges the lack of integrity in the city and the systemic abuses of power that ignore zoning codes and Community Plans. The Federation is pleased to recognize Robert Silverstein for his efforts in getting the city to obey its own rules.

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.

Good News for Wildlife



November was a very good month for wildlife.

Beth Pratt, the California Director of the National Wildlife Federation, announced that the Wildlife Conservation Board approved funding for Phase 1 of the Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing on November 20. The Liberty Canyon exit on the 101 has been a death trap for numerous animals attempting to cross the freeway. A recent victim was a mountain lion who would have brought much needed new DNA to the mountain lions currently trapped between the 101, the 405 and the Pacific Ocean. The Wildlife Conservation Board voted to fund \$650,000 for landscaping that will funnel wildlife to safe passage. Phase 2 will be the construction of the over-crossing so much more funding is still needed, but Phase 1 is a fantastic start. The Wildlife Conservation Board reported receiving a record 60 letters in support of the project. Thank you, thank you, thank to all the organizations and individuals who wrote letters. It really helped. Give yourselves a pat on the back.

Also making headlines again is Griffith Park's P-22. Earlier in the year everyone was dismayed to see this magnificent creature covered with mange. The National Park Service ecologists trapped him and treated him for mange and for rodenticides. Blood samples showed that he had ingested rat poison, probably from eating a coyote. P-22 became another unintended victim of rat poison; that's why the Hillside Federation, the National Park Service, Citizens for Los Angeles

Wildlife (CLAW), Friends of Griffith Park, and other organizations urge you to stop using rodenticides and use alternative methods for rodent control. Recent photos show a very healthy, handsome mountain lion behaving like a mountain lion should. Special cameras set up at a kill site show him licking his chops over his dinner.



NPS

And more good news. A private security camera picked up a mountain lion east of the 405. Although the siting has not yet been confirmed by the National Park Service, the grainy photo appears to show a mountain lion in Beverly Park near Franklin Canyon. It is not a cat that the NPS has collared and is tracking. If it is verified, it means that P-22 isn't the only mountain lion to successfully cross the 405 freeway. If it's a female and if she manages to make it across the Hollywood Freeway, maybe P-22 will finally find a girlfriend. It's a long shot, but so was P-22.



Runyon Canyon Park finally has some friends

from the Beverly Press article on December 4, 2014



Members of FORC board have vowed to improve the park. HF Treasurer Don Andres (yellow shirt) is the FORC VP and Treasurer.

Last month, The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Friends of Runyon Canyon (FORC), opening a partnership that could vastly improve the park now and in the future, officials said.

“We’re a group of park users and hikers and homeowners from the neighborhood,” FORC board president John Gile said. “Most of us have been very involved with funding for decades, and through the course of time, we’ve seen what a great resource this park is, but there are few resources to support the park itself.” FORC became incorporated on February 3 and the group became an official nonprofit in July.

“Some of the folks from the Friends of Runyon Canyon came to us asking if we could formalize the relationship so they could, as a friends group, fundraise to help maintain Runyon Canyon,” said Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager for RAP’s Partnership and Revenue branch. “They felt as a community that it needs attention, due to the city’s infrastructure and financial realities.”

“The department has been hit very hard on reduction of budget and staff,” Israel said. “Unfortunately, when that happens, parks sometimes suffer. The community has gathered around and they wanted to create this friends group. In creating the MOU, it basically gives

them some creditability in going out and raising some funds.” Gile said he and fellow members were inspired by the similar public/private relationship models in other cities.

“We’re looking to provide a better experience to the millions who use it,” he said. “Its location has extraordinary views, from the ocean to Dodger Stadium. The untouched wilderness part of it is very appealing and the trails are great for exercise and it’s great for dog lovers.”

FORC and RAP will be working off of the Runyon Canyon Park Master Plan, which was ratified in 1986 with numerous goals. Some of the early ideas for the park, Gile said, include raising money for new bathrooms and drinking fountains, while shoring up areas that are falling into disarray. Israel added that maintenance was definitely an issue, including the need to repair trails and have more trash pickup.

“We want people to join us as members and we want to raise a significant amount of money to help the park,” Gile said, adding that he’d like as much as \$2 million raised in the first two years.

FORC is in the process of scheduling its first major events. For information on FORC, visit www.friendsofrunyoncanyon.org.

Web Site

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, www.hillsidefederation.org.

One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association’s web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.

You may also visit the web site for letters on positions taken by the Federation and past newsletters and minutes.

**Hillside Federation
November 5, 2014
Draft Minutes**

(Note : The November minutes will be approved at the January meeting.)

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Guest: Daniel Tamm, Westside representative of Mayor Garcetti

Daniel spoke about various issues the Mayor is working on including water usage; use of solar electricity in city warehouses and buildings; economic development; and transportation infrastructure projects already on the way. Questions were asked about Mayor's position on urban solar farms; local hires for development projects in the City; use of astro turf vs. drought resistant plants; exemption of hillsides re: water reduction; new units built in the City being equipped with individual water meters; City fountains wasting water; density bonuses for development; position regarding CF -14-1438, the City Attorney's request to hire outside legal counsel to fight the Millennium project; sprinkler issue at children's park at Coldwater Canyon and Beverly Drive; and AB 2222.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report: Marian Dodge

Marian gave an up-date regarding the LA River's new Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway Trail and the groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, November 1. The Studio City project will provide accessible open space, restore natural habitat and create a walking trail along a half-mile section of the river. The LA River Greenway trail is expected to open spring 2016.

Wendy-Sue Rosen gave the results of the November 4 election:

Senator Ted Lieu won the seat in the House of Representatives currently occupied by Henry Waxman. Ben Allen won the 26th State Senate District over Sandra Fluke. Sheila Kuehl won the County Board of Supervisors seat currently held by Zev Yaroslavsky over Bobby Shriver. Congressman Adam Schiff won re-election to the House of Representatives.

Proposition 1 - Funding for Water Quality, Supply, Treatment, and Storage Projects passed. This proposition was a very important measure to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Proposition 2 – Rainy Day Budget Stabilization Fund Act passed. Proposition P - Continue funding from the County's Neighborhood Parks tax for parks which sunsets in 2015 did not pass.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don gave an update regarding membership. Don reminded everyone about the Hillside Federation Holiday Party at the Mulholland Tennis Club, Thursday, December 11, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Everyone was encouraged to attend and to spread the word.

IV. New Business

A. 7107 Hollywood Blvd. - Don Mabry, Save Residential Hollywood, Inc.

Don gave a briefing of the proposed development at the corner of La Brea and Hollywood Blvd which will include 3 buildings including a 26-story building with commercial use on the first level. The development would include 410 residential units and 10,000 square feet of commercial space. The area is currently zoned R-3-1 with a church on the site; however, the developer is requesting a General Plan amendment from Medium Residential to Regional Center Commercial; Amend Footnote #9 of the Hollywood Community Plan; Zone and Height District Change, Site Plan Review and a Conditional Use Permit (CUB). Don will keep the Hillside Federation informed when there are updates or actions requested.

B. Severe Fire Areas - John Given

John gave background regarding Councilman Paul Koretz's Motion 14-0713 regarding improvement to no smoking signs in Very High Fire Severity Zones with a possible increase in penalties for violations which was brought to the Public Safety Committee of the City Council in June and tabled for 90 days. This issue has not been agendized yet although 90 days has passed. John requested that the Hillside Federation write a letter to the Public Safety Committee to get Motion 14-0713 back on the Public Safety Committee calendar.

MOTION: John Given moved that the Hillside Federation request that the Public Safety Committee schedule Council motion 14-0713 made by Councilman Paul Koretz regarding

smoking signage in High Fire Severity Zones. The motion passed.

Further discussion about CF 09-1977-S1 by Paul Koretz –amendments to Fire and Municipal Code on the requirements that homeowners and their contractors must follow when clearing brush from their property and CF 12-1920 by Paul Koretz requesting a report from the Fire Department regarding its process for reviewing requests for deviations from the Municipal and Fire Codes which expired.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter to Councilman Paul Koretz with copies to the Public Safety Committee, City Council and the Fire Commission to bring back Motion 09-1977 and Motion 12-1920 to the Public Safety Committee for consideration. The motion passed.

C. Wildlife Crossing at Liberty Canyon: Wendy-Sue Rosen

Wendy described the proposed wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon and the 101 Freeway. Several mountain lions have been killed trying to cross at this location. There is a need for new genetic material to be introduced into the mountain lion population, or our mountain lion population will not survive. There is renewed interest in constructing a wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon. The supporters are asking people to write letters to John Donnelly at the state's Wildlife Conservation Board to seek and secure the \$650,000 which would go towards improvements in the area. This is known as the Liberty Canyon Interim Passage Enhancements which will make it safe for an undercrossing while they seek money for the over-crossing. An over-crossing will take time to design and build so this money is very important.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter to support the grant funding for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Enhancements. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. 10220 Scenario Lane: Sue Campbell

Sue gave an update regarding the proposed development of two homes on Scenario Lane in Beverly Glen. A letter from Residents of Beverly Glen was distributed expressing their concerns. The status of the Lot Line Adjustment among other environmental impacts were discussed.

B. Hollywood Sign Shuttle Service: Lucy Gonzalez

Councilmember Tom LaBonge has proposed a shuttle service through a residential area to view this popular attraction. In November, 2013, the Hillside Federation wrote a letter to the City asking for a comprehensive plan for the area before going forward with any piece-meal solutions. Lucy will continue to keep the Hillside Federation informed about this important public safety issue.

C. 6459 Innsdale Drive: David Benz, Lake Hollywood Homeowner's Association

The Central Area Planning Commission voted to deny the applicant's appeal of the Zoning Administrator's Determination. Renée Weitzer from Councilman LaBonge's office spoke against the property owner's appeal at the meeting which lasted until midnight. David thanked the Hillside Federation for its support of the Lake Hollywood Homeowners Association in their opposition to the development of the vineyard property.

D. 8150 Sunset Blvd.: Adara Salim, Save Sunset Blvd.

Save Sunset Blvd. is sponsoring a fundraising event on November 11, 2014 at the Chateau Marmont to raise funds to oppose the large development project at the corner of Crescent Heights and Sunset in the City of Los Angeles. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was just released and comments are due January 5. Adara would like lots of people to submit comments on the massive project.

E. 360 N. Stone Canyon: Steve Twining

The lawsuit against the City regarding the 50-foot over-in-height house and the variance granted the applicant by the City at 360 N. Stone Canyon in Bel Air will be heard in Superior Court, Dept. 86 on December 10 at 9:30 am. All are invited to attend.

The appeal by the neighbors of the Small Lot Subdivision at 11767 Bellagio Road was denied at the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission hearing.

The 350-acre Hoag Canyon, located between Casiano Estates and the 405 Freeway in Bel Air has been sold and may be developed.

Steven Poster notified the Federation that the 7-acre Yamashiro property in Hollywood is for sale and the restaurant may become condos.

F. Recode LA: Carol Sidlow

The 35-page Zoning Code Approach will be sent to Federation members and is also available on the Recode LA website. At the Planning and Land Use meeting in October, the Planning Department gave a report regarding the Neighborhood Conservation initiative which laid out a four-step approach to address tweaks needed to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO). In addition, the Residential component to the revision of the Zoning Code will be reviewed beginning in January along with the Downtown component. The Residential component was speeded up after an article about loopholes in the BMO in the LA Times. There were questions regarding D conditions.

G. Closure of Barham off-ramps at the 101 Freeway: Krista Michaels

As part of the NBC Universal Evolution Plan, Universal is required to build a drop ramp from the bridge onto the 101 Freeway. After review, Caltrans determined that the Barham off ramp has to close because it is too close to the new ramp. There have been a number of accidents at the location. George Abrahams mentioned alternative remedies that exist in other parts of the City. He is meeting with Caltrans to discuss options.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Secretary,
Carol Sidlow

Members Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Beachwood Canyon | George Abrahams |
| Bel Air Skycrest | Mark Stratton |
| | Lois Becker |
| Brentwood Hills | John Given |
| Brentwood Residents | Don Keller |
| | Wendy-Sue Rosen |
| Cahuenga Pass POA | Krista Michaels |
| | Steven Kates |
| Canyon Back Alliance | Lois Becker |
| CASM-SFV | Dan Feinberg |
| Franklin Av/Hlwd Blvd | Don Andres |
| | Yvonne Hessler |
| Hollywoodland | Lucy Gonzalez |
| Lake Hollywood | Sheila Irani |
| | David Benz |
| Laurel Canyon | Tony Tucci |
| | Alison Simard |
| Lookout Mt. | Steven Poster |
| | Carol Sidlow |
| Los Feliz Impvmt. | Marian Dodge |
| N. Beverly/Franklin Can | Robert Levy |
| Oaks Homeowners | Wayne Schlock |
| Resid. Beverly Glen | Stephen Benson |
| Roscomare Valley | Steve Twining |
| Save Sunset Bl. | Adara Salim |
| Sherman Oaks | Elke Heitmeyer |
| Upper Mandeville Can | James Provenzano |
| Upper Nichols Canyon | Stacy Sillins |
| | Susan Mullins |

Guests Present:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Office of the Mayor | Daniel Tamm |
| Hlwd.Versailles Towers | Donald Mabry |
| | Lisa Marie Milat |
| Scenario Ln. residents | John Campbell |
| | Sue Campbell |
| resident | Connie Levy |

What's happening in your neighborhood?

Please send the Federation news of your activities with photos so we can share them with all our members.