

Hillside Federation Newsletter March, 2015



www.hillsidefederation.org

Hillside Federation's Charley Mims Honored by City of Los Angeles



Hillside Federation President Marian Dodge, Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Honoree Charley Mims. *Photos this page:* Johnny Knox.

Hillside Federation Chairman Charley Mims was recently honored by the City of Los Angeles on his retirement after 47 years with the City. Charley was honored by the Board of Public Works at its February 6, 2015 meeting. Hillside Federation President Marian Dodge took the opportunity to present Charley with a certificate thanking him for his many years of service at the City and his work with the Federation.

Congratulations, Charley!



Shirley and Charley Mims with Hillside Federation President Marian Dodge.

Agenda

March 4, 2015

7:00 pm

I. Call to Order

Presentation: Drought & Water Use
CD 5 – Andy Shrader
UCLA – Celine Kuklowsky &
Kristen Holdsworth
DWP – Penny Falconer
Water LA – Melanie Winter

Guest: Janet Turner, for Congressman Lieu

II. Approval of Minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report
Nominating Committee
B. Treasurer's Report

IV. New Business

A. Barham Ramp closure – George
Abrahams

V. Old Business

A. Curtis School update – Mark Stratton
B. 10220 Scenario Ln. – Sue Campbell
C. Re:codeLA update – Carol Sidlow

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604

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.*

Hillside Federation's Council District 4 Candidate Forum



**The CD 4
Candidates Forum
4 February 2015**

Ten of fourteen CD 4 candidates, from left to right: Sheila Irani, Wally Knox, Jay Beeber, Fred Mariscal, Carolyn Ramsay, Steve Veres, Joan Pelico, David Ryu, Teddy Davis, and Tomás O'Grady. *Photos this page:* © Kim Gottlieb-Walker, Lenswoman.com.

A standing room only crowd gathered at the Cinematographers' Guild to meet the candidates for CD 4 and hear their positions. Candidates Sheila Irani, Wally Knox, Jay Beeber, Fred Mariscal, Carolyn Ramsay, Steve Veres, Joan Pelico, David Ryu, Teddy Davis, and Tomás O'Grady were seated and responded to questions in random order. The event was moderated by Federation Executive Secretary John Given. Treasurer Don Andres served as timer and name drawer.

After opening statements the candidates were asked about topics of importance to the Federation: Hollywood development; Baseline Hillside Ordinance amendments; CEQA reform; Mulholland Specific Plan; wildlife corridors; Hollywood Sign viewing; the use of City Charter Section 245; working with councilmembers who propose bad policies; increasing funding for our parks; policy toward development in the hillsides.

Each candidate then asked a candidate of their choice a question, which led to some interesting exchanges. The forum finished with a final "lightning" round where each candidate could address anything that had been missed and summarize why you should vote for them.

After the forum, President Marian Dodge thanked all the candidates for participating and thanked all our members and guests for attending. This is an extremely important election for the 24 member organizations located in CD 4. Marian urged everyone to vote on March 3.



The Federation's Don Andres and John Given timed and moderated, respectively.

Deputy Fire Chief Joe Castro



Photo © Kim Gottlieb-Walker, [Lenswoman.com](http://lenswoman.com).

Deputy Fire Chief Joe Castro visited the Hillside Federation at our February meeting to explain the department's recent reorganization.

LAFD will be dividing the city into four geographic districts (mirroring LAPD). Deputy Chief Castro's district includes all of the mountains, from Griffith Park west. Before this, assignments rotated and the public in a particular neighborhood never knew who they would get when they needed help. In the new system, Deputy Chief Castro works Monday through Friday, as does his staff, and will be consistently in charge of and responsive to hillside issues or needs.

Deputy Chief Castro is glad to discuss hillside safety issues with anyone, by phone, email or in person.

Cell: (213) 216-7379

Email: joseph.castro@lacity.org

1800 Bronson Ave. (Old Fire Station 82)

Robert Silverstein Video Link

Attorney Robert Silverstein was honored at the Hillside Federation annual holiday party in December. Mr. Silverstein's speech was published in our January newsletter. A video of the remarks is also now available online at: <http://youtu.be/8S4s3EIB-78>.

Hillside Federation Meeting

January 7, 2015

There are no formal minutes for the the Hillside Federation's February 4, 2015 meeting, as the evening was dedicated to the Council District 4 Candidate forum. Details regarding the forum are reported on page 2 of this newsletter. Prior to the forum beginning, as described on this page, Deputy Fire Chief Joe Castro introduced himself and described the LAFD's reorganization. Thanks to acting secretary Lois Becker for providing these reports.

As no formal Federation business was transacted at the February meeting, there are no February minutes other than the above-referenced articles. The draft January minutes are re-published beginning on the following page.

The Hillside Federation would like to thank all those who came out for the candidate forum, including all ten CD 4 candidates who participated, as well as our many members and guests.

Finally, we gratefully acknowledge board member Steven Poster, President of the International Cinematographers Guild, for providing the venue for the forum at the Guild's Hollywood offices.

Welcome New Member
Organizations!

Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA
Save Coldwater Canyon

Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
January 7, 2015

I. Call to Order. President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes. The November minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report: Marian Dodge

Marian thanked Mark and Lois for providing coffee for the meetings and John Given, Executive Secretary for putting out the newsletter over the holidays.

Marian provided a summary of the work done by the Hillside Federation in 2014:

34 issue letters written, Hillside Federation represented by Marian at 12 hearings, 11 trips to City Hall, and many miles driven representing the Hillside Federation.

Liberty Canyon. The Wildlife Conservation Board sent a letter of thanks for the Hillside Federation's support of the wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon.

901 Strada Vecchia. A meeting with City Attorney Mike Feuer was held regarding possible criminal charges to be filled against developer Mohammed Hadid regarding the development at 901 Strada Vecchia in Bel Air. The Hadid development on Royalton and the status of the Hastian Trail case were discussed.

CD4 Candidate Forum. The February meeting of the Hillside Federation will be a Council District 4 Candidate Forum held at a special location: the Cinematographers Guild, 7755 Sunset Blvd. (Sunset & Genesee). So far, the confirmed participants are Wally Knox, Sheila Irani, Joan Pelico, Fred Mariscal, David Ryu, Jay Beeber, Steve Veres

and Teddy Davis. The format and details for the Forum were discussed. Marian encouraged everyone to send questions for the candidates. In addition, Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas will attend the meeting for a 'meet and greet.'

Los Angeles River: Marian distributed a new map of the Los Angeles River prepared by the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Marian Dodge to Receive SCRA Award. Claudia Freedle from the Studio City Residents Association announced that Marian Dodge was unanimously chosen to receive the Fran Quigley Award – the association's highest award. It will be presented to Marian in recognition of her outstanding service to all our communities on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the Garland Hotel. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

B. Treasurer's Report: Don Andres

Holiday Party. Don Andres updated everyone about the very successful Holiday Party. Over 50% of attendees were new attendees. Wendy made some suggestions for the 2015 Holiday Party. Don thanked Mark Stratton and John Given for the donation of wine.

Dues. Dues notices have been sent out to member groups. Payments are due March 1, 2015.

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.

Guest Speakers

Tim Pershing – Assemblyman Richard Bloom’s office

Assemblyman Bloom was re-elected in the November election. Tim gave updates regarding Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing and other legislation Assemblyman Bloom is working on. Hillside Federation members were encouraged to email Tim with issues of concern for Assemblyman Bloom. Some of the concerns expressed by the members include: strengthening the Alquist/Priolo Earthquake Fault Act, increasing the power of the State Geologist’s office to subpoena and gain access to investigation sites, changing the Owner/Builder Exemption, and the weakening of CEQA.

Samantha David – State Senator Ben Allen’s office

Samantha introduced herself to the Hillside Federation. Members were encouraged to contact her regarding issues of concern. Wendy asked that she convey to the Senator the same concerns about the issues brought to Assemblymember Bloom’s attention (described above). Regarding the weakening of CEQA, George Abrahams spoke about the change in the traffic metrics as an example. Wendy suggested that a committee be put together to address these CEQA issues.

IV. New Business

A. Mulholland Specific Plan Compliance - Rob Glushon

Attorney Rob Glushon spoke about his concerns about the lack of enforcement of the Mulholland Specific Plan and the role of the City Attorney’s office in the South Valley Area Planning Commission meetings among other issues. He is meeting with City Attorney Mike Feuer about three issues:

1) City Attorney’s office needs a better understanding of the Mulholland Specific Plan;

2) CEQA and Categorical Exemption issues; and,

3) Enforcement of conditions on projects.

Discussion included the City Attorney’s office Land Use Division and CEQA division, enforcement of voluntary conditions and the need for implementation of those conditions on development projects, the role of the City Attorney’s office representatives in Area Planning Commission meetings, police powers of the City, and appointment of members to Area Planning Commissions. Mr. Glushon will up-date Marian after his meeting with City Attorney Feuer.

**Save these dates for future
Hillside Federation meetings**

2015

April 1

May 6

June 3

July 1

B. High-Speed Rail Project: Bill Eick, Dave DePinto, Kit Paull

Kit Paull (Kagel Canyon HOA) and Bill Eick and Dave DePinto (Shadow Hills Property Owners Association) spoke about the High-Speed Rail project’s Palmdale to Burbank Project Section and the East Corridor Alternatives. The High-Speed Rail Authority is proposing three East Corridor routes that would tunnel through the San Gabriel Mountains as alternatives to the

original State Route 14 Corridor intended to connect the Burbank and Palmdale stations. These East Corridor routes would disrupt the environment and Rim of the Valley Corridors, wildlife, horse communities, deface open space, impact ground and drinking water, have negative impacts to the Angeles National Forest, and negatively impact the newly designated San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Congressman Adam Schiff has written a letter in opposition to the East Corridor routes. A High-Speed Rail Protest meeting will be held at All Nations Church on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter supporting the unified position of the Shadow Hills Property Owner's Association, Kagel Canyon Civic Association, Lake View Terrace Improvement Association, La Tuna Canyon Community Association, Rancho Verdugo Estates Homeowners Association, and Representative Adam Schiff, to remove the East Corridor alternatives from consideration in the EIR. The motion passed.

V. Old Business

A. Recode LA: Carol Sidlow

The next meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee for Recode LA will be on January 21, 2015. The 35-page report was distributed by Marian. There will be a two-track process that will look at the Residential component and the Downtown component at the same time. All were encouraged to go to the website and sign up to comment.

B. Scenario Lane: Marian Dodge

Marian reported that the property owner has demolished the existing house. The applicant has received a Lot Line adjustment.

C. 8150 Sunset Blvd.: Don Andres

Don attended the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council's (HHWNC) Planning and Land Use Committee at which the City and developer provided a project briefing. HHWNC distributed a list of project alternatives for attendees to select their top three choices. Members discussed traffic impacts. The Draft Environmental Impact Report has been released; the comment period ends on January 20, 2015. Hillside Federation will re-send its previous letter.

D. Hollywood Sign Gate re-opening at Beachwood Canyon: Lucy Gonzalez

The new gate was opened on Monday; it was supposed to have been a quiet opening but was given a lot of press which only attracted more people. The emergency Preferred Parking District placard will take another 2 months with hopes of getting permanent ones soon. Enforcement is still an issue especially due to public safety concerns. George Abrahams reported that Tom LaBonge got an ordinance that allows the City to close park area streets in case of emergency. Lucy will provide up-dates to the Hillside Federation.

E. Sign Ordinance: Marian Dodge

The Board of Building and Safety Commissioners approved a modification for digital billboards the judge had ordered turned off to allow Clear Channel to wrap them with vinyl advertising. PLUM directed the Planning Department to report on the possibility of allowing billboards outside of Sign Districts. PLUM is also thinking of allowing amnesty for nonpermitted billboards. The Council File number for the Sign Ordinance is now 11-1705. PLUM proposed a number of amendments to the Sign Ordinance, available online at:

http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2011/11-1705_misc_ltr_12-16-14.pdf.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Carol Sidlow,
Secretary

Members present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	Eric Edmunds
	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
	Steven Kates
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
CASM-SFV	Craig Smith
Franklin Av/Hlwd Blvd	Yvonne Hessler
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Lookout Mt.	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Don Andres
N. Beverly/Franklin Cyn	Robert Levy
Oaks Homeowners	Caroline Schweich
Shadow Hills POA	Bill Eich
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle

Guests Present:

Sen. Ben Allen	Samantha David
Asm Richard Bloom	Tim Pershing
Attorney	Rob Glushon
Resident	Connie Levy
Pacific Palisades	Leah

Don't Forget to Vote Tuesday, March 3, 2014

Hillside Federation members know that the upcoming election includes critical City Council races, including Council District 4. But there are other important races on the ballot for LAUSD and Community College Boards. Citywide there are two City Charter Amendment measures dealing with the timing of future elections. We urge every eligible voter to get to the polls.

If you are not certain where you vote, or if you would like to see a sample ballot or have other questions, please visit the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk website at :<http://lavote.net/locator>.

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. 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 Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA 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. CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining Polly Ward CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Brian Moore
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