

# Hillside Federation Newsletter January, 2017



[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)

## Party, Party, Party



*Carlyle Hall and Sen. Kevin de León*

Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León kept his promise to attend a Hillside Federation meeting and came to this year's Holiday Party on December 8. He was last year's honoree but was unable to attend because he was at the Paris Climate Summit. This evening he spoke passionately about the commitment to continue California's leadership role in preserving the environment and cited numerous pieces of landmark legislation. He also assured the Federation that, in spite of the new President-elect's agenda, California would continue to defend not only the environment but also equality and human rights issues. De León thanked the Federation for honoring him. Fortified with a wonderful dinner and lots of good wishes, he caught a red eye to Washington, DC.

### Agenda

**January 4, 2017**

**7:00 pm**

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor  
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
  - A. President's Report
  - B. Treasurer's Report  
Holiday Party
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Accessory Dwelling Units
  - B. BMO/BHO Update - Carol Sidlow
- IV. New Business
  - A. Saving Distressed Trees
- VI. Adjournment

Next meeting February 1, 2017

**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.*

Federation President Charley Mims presented an award to prominent environmental and land use attorney Carlyle Hall for bringing the proposed changes to the Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance (Secondary Dwelling Unit, granny flats) to the attention of the Hillside Federation. His actions will help preserve hillside areas from overdevelopment with oversized second dwelling units, which had been restricted from hillside zones in the City of Los Angeles for many years. Although the ordinance is still not resolved, the state's lenient defaults would have permitted large accessory units in the hillsides. Hall is no stranger to the Hillside Federation. He litigated the well-known AB 283 in which the Superior Court ordered the City to rezone about one third of the properties within its territorial boundaries to bring them into consistency with its 35 community plans.

The Federation also honored long-time member and former Vice President Wendy-Sue Rosen for her unwavering commitment, intelligence, and bold spirit in protecting our hillsides. Wendy's award was in the shape of a star because she has been an all star on the Hillside Federation team. Thank you, Wendy,

### **Bringing an Issue to the Federation**

If your organization would like to bring an issue to the attention of the Federation, please complete a Request for Action form (available at the website [www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)) and send it, along with supporting documents, to [president@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org) no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently, while providing the necessary information to allow the Federation to consider your organization's request.

for all you have done for the Federation and for your continuing contributions.

The Federation also honored outgoing Senator Fran Pavley for her pioneering legislation to protect the environment in California and the nation. Her deputy Jeremy Wolf accepted the award on her behalf. Pavley's leadership in the California legislature will be missed, but her successor in the 27th Senate District is her former deputy, Henry Stern, so we should be in good hands.

Councilmember Paul Koretz (CD 5) presented a proclamation to the Federation. Councilmember Ryu (CD 4) greeted the Federation and thanked us for our participation in city government. City Attorney Mike Feuer chatted with our guests before dinner. Guests also had the opportunity to chat with Congressman Schiff's District Representative Mike Aguilera, Senator de León's representative Steve Veres, Senator Allen's deputy Samuel Liu, Assemblymember Nazarian's representative Angie Aramayo, Neighborhood Prosecutor Steve Houchin, CD 5 Chief of Staff Joan Pelico, CD 4 deputy Catherine Landers, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Paul Edelman, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's Dash Stolarz, and former Director of City Planning Con Howe.

The Federation was pleased to welcome Chairs Emeriti Jerry Daniel, Alan Kishbaugh, and Steve Twining. Chairman Marian Dodge recognized the many members and their associations who are all leaders in making the city a better place to live.

Nearly 100 guests gathered at the beautiful Mulholland Tennis Club for the Hillside

Federation's annual Holiday Party. While our guests enjoyed the stunning view of the city and chatted with friends and elected officials, waiters passed hors d'oeuvres and wine. Guests served themselves a delicious dinner at the buffet before the presentations and speakers. Dessert was a treat – decorate-it-yourself ice cream sundaes and cookies. The chocolate sauce and sprinkles were piled high.

Many thanks to our host Mel Remba who is a member of the Mulholland Tennis Club. Thanks also to Andrea at Casa Torelli Italian wines for donating the wine for the event and to Mark Stratton and Lois Becker for making the arrangements. Don Keller of Brentwood Residents Coalition made a generous donation to the Federation to help offset the increased cost of the party. Keller was given a certificate and a huge round of applause for his contribution. Federation Treasurer Don Andres was recognized for the always fabulous job he does planning the party.

<b>Upcoming Hillside Federation Meeting Dates</b>
February 1
March 1
April 5
May 3

**Web Site**

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, [www.hillsidefederation.org](http://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.

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.

# Holiday Party



*Charley Mims, Senator Kevin de León, Marian Dodge, CM Paul Koretz, Steve Veres.*



*Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León.*



*Charley Mims, awardee environmental attorney Carlyle Hall.*



*Chair Emeritus Alan Kishbaugh, awardee Wendy-Sue Rosen*



*Bell Air Skycrest was well represented.*



*Councilmember Koretz presented a proclamation to the Federation.  
Marian Dodge, Charley Mims, CM Koretz, Mark Stratton, Don Andres, CM Ryu.*



*President Charley Mims presented Wendy-Sue Rosen an award for her all star performance as Vice President of the Hillside Federation.*

*Marian Dodge, Senator Kevin de León, Wendy-Sue Rosen, Councilmember Koretz.*

*Wendy's award.*



*Charley Mims presents the award to Senator Fran Pavley's representative Jeremy Wolf.*

*Charley Mims and Councilmember David Ryu.*





*MRCA's Dash Stolarz, our host Mel Remba, Joe Custer, SMMC's Paul Edelman. Treasurer Don Andres, Don Keller, Chair Marian Dodge, President Charley Mims. Thank you, Don!*



*Suellen Wagner, Heidi MacKay, Marian Dodge, CD 5's Joan Pelico.*

*City Attorney Mike Feuer chats with guests.*



*Marie Twining, Charley Mims, Congressman Adam Schiff's rep Mike Aguilar, Don Andres, Steve Twining.*

*Ice cream toppings. Yum!*

**Hillside Federation**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**October 5, 2016**

**I. Call to Order**

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest: Ranger James Latham,**

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Ranger James Latham (MRCA) spoke in support of November ballot measures FF and GG. These two 10-year parcel taxes will fund increases in MRCA services like wildland fire patrol, fire fighting, and law enforcement. These are particularly important due to an increase in people using the parks and the continuing drought. Measure FF is a \$15 annual tax on Santa Monica Mountain parcels north of Mulholland from the I-405 west to Calabasas. Measure GG is a similar \$35 annual parcel tax for the area from the 405 east to Griffith Park (both sides of Mulholland). Measures FF and GG will only be voted on by designated area parcel owners, and if passed would only apply to those owners' parcels. A percentage of assessed funds raised will be used for acquisition of open space, though the majority of MRCA's open space acquisition funding will rely on Measure A, which will replace the expiring Proposition A [see below for more information]. More information about Measures FF and GG are available at [mrca.ca.gov](http://mrca.ca.gov). Ranger Latham fielded a number of questions from board members. MOTION: Jamie Hall moved that the Hillside Federation support Measures FF and GG. The motion passed.

**II. Approval of minutes**

The September minutes were approved as corrected.

**III. Officers' Reports**

**A. President's Report - Charley Mims**

President Charley Mims reported that the amended City Council motion on the Second Dwelling Unit (SDU) ordinance passed. Rather than repeal the City's SDU ordinance, the City approved grandfathering of projects approved under the ZA Memo, including new permits applied for up to September 30, 2016. Wendy-Sue

Rosen noted that the state legislature recently passed two bills related to SDUs. Neither of those bills has safety provisions or prohibitions for hillside areas. Jamie Hall remarked that CD5 land use deputy Faisal Alserri attended one of the local neighborhood council meetings last week and opined that neither state measure dramatically impacts the City of Los Angeles.

John Given reminded the board of the October 22 P-22 Day and Urban Wildlife Week in the Santa Monica Mountains and Griffith Park.

**B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres**

Treasurer Don Andres reported that there are no bills outstanding and all dues are collected. He reminded everyone to save the date for the annual holiday party, which will be held at the Mulholland Tennis Center on December 8, from 6:30p.m. to 9:30p.m. Don distributed the flyer to the board. The board discussed the increased cost and price owing to the club's significant increases from previous years.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Hastain Trail - Tom Freeman**

Tom provided a brief update regarding the Hastain Trail case, for which a petition for review was submitted to the California Supreme Court. Tom recently received the papers filed in opposition to review, and amicus letters will be submitted to the Court by October 11.

**B. Nalin Drive - Jamie Hall**

Jamie reported that the developer may be planning to abandon the project and sell the parcel. Community members are hoping the developer will sell it to the conservancy.

**C. Sign Ordinance - Wendy-Sue Rosen**

Wendy reported that work is ongoing regarding letters in support of recusal of potentially conflicted councilmembers.

**D. Curtis School - Lois Becker**

Lois reported that a meeting was held among interested community members and the new head of school and the community will report back when more is known.

Steve Twining reported that Faisal Alserri told him Bel Air community may get a permanent overlay to avoid Saturday construction and the staging of grading vehicles.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. LA County Parks Open Space Measure A**

Charley Mims reported that the current county tax measure to support county parks is ending and Measure A is an effort to sustain this money. It will require a yes vote from 2/3 of voters. The October newsletter has good information about the measure.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support Measure A. The motion passed.

### **B. Initiative Ordinance JJJ**

Charley reported that as he understands it, City of LA Initiative JJJ was proposed to create more affordable housing and to assure minimum construction wages, among other things. Jamie Hall noted that when the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII) was planned for the November ballot, Initiative JJJ was then proposed as a competing measure. When the NII was delayed, the JJJ group decided to keep their initiative on the ballot.

### **C. Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII)**

Wendy-Sue Rosen reported that there have been changes to the NII from the version presented to the Hillside Federation by Jill Stewart earlier this year, and thought it would be good to have Jill or another proponent come back to discuss the changes. George Abrahams noted one major change: an exception was added for projects with 100% affordable housing. The main component of the moratorium, no general plan amendments for two years without first undertaking general plan updates, is still part of the initiative. During discussion several commenters noted concerns with unintended consequences of passing the NII. Wendy-Sue Rosen noted that some community plans may not need to be changed and expressed concern that accelerating community plan updates throughout the City could create unintended opportunities for developers and lobbyists to change things that communities may like. Tom Freeman noted that the City could be incentivized to move more quickly and shortcut the update process. The discussion turned to using the popularity of the NII to advocate for improvements in the City process. The consensus is that we should work on that during the period leading up to the March election. Charley Mims invited board members to write with any points that they would like to have included in that discussion.

### **D. Other Business**

Stephen Benson attended a hearing for a Baseline Hillside Ordinance project at 10580 Selkirk Lane (former home of George Harrison). The project is on a paper street, and would require 80 truckloads of grading export. The project reportedly would have 7 retaining walls. Per BHO rules no project with a substandard access of less than 20 feet wide should be permitted. The proposed project has only a shared access driveway. No one except the applicant testified in support of the project. CD 5 has not taken a position.

Don Andres provided a brief update on Runyon Canyon. The park was recently reopened after the LA Department of Water & Power (LA DWP) completed work on the water line and resurfaced the Fire Road with some storm water runoff basins. Several new 4-way water fountains were installed as well as trail maintenance on the upper trails and some cleanup work, mulching, and tree-trimming. The old rundown tennis court area has been refurbished by Rec & Parks. With respect to the acquisition of open space in collaboration with the Trust for Public Land, the Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation is continuing to raise funds to support that effort.

Wendy-Sue Rosen provided a brief update on the proposed Berggruen think tank project in the vicinity of Mountaingate, just west of the I-405 freeway. There is not yet a proposal to share with the public.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Given, VP/Executive Secretary  
(note – attendance will be provided in  
online version of minutes)



**Hillside Federation  
Draft Minutes  
November 2, 2016**

**I. Call to Order**

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

No vote was taken or changes made on the October minutes due to lack of a quorum.

**III. Officers' Reports**

A. President's Report

Councilman David Ryu was successful in getting a Party House Ordinance passed which includes escalating fines, host and property owner fines; record of citations among other provisions. This long awaited ordinance was met with kudos from the Hillside Federation members. Carol Sidlow thanked the homeowner groups who have been involved in this issue especially Mary Ledding of Hollywood Dell who has worked on this issue to get this done.

Hastain Trail - Tom Freeman filed an appeal of the lower court's decision to the California Supreme Court on behalf of the MRCA. The California Supreme Court chose not to review the case which means that the developer wins the right to close the trail. This decision sets a terrible precedent.

Carol Sidlow recommended that everyone read the LA Times article on campaign donations and the Steve Lopez article on Nov. 1, 2016.

BHO/BMO Amendments - The Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee of the City Council has not yet agendized the item and President Mims will write to PLUM Chairman Jose Huizar to encourage PLUM to get these important amendments on their agenda as soon as possible.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

All the Federation's expenses are paid. The up-coming Holiday Party will be Dec. 8th at the Mulholland Tennis Club and everyone was encouraged to spread the word to all member groups and others to attend. Don Keller donated \$480.

**IV. Old Business**

A. 8150 Sunset - Jamie Hall

Councilman David Ryu spoke at the PLUM hearing and was successful in getting the

developer to lower one of the towers to 178 ft; widen the street and to give money to replace the traffic island among other concessions. There were five appeals of this project and two of the appellants settled with the developer – the City of West Hollywood who received money for infrastructure improvements and the Laurel Canyon Association for community benefits. Some of the benefits may include sidewalk improvements to lower Laurel Canyon; a bus stop on Kirkwood, but the first step is a feasibility study which has to be undertaken and there is not a timetable established yet. The three other appellants did not settle and are moving forward. Carol Sidlow suggested benefits for the Lookout Mountain area such as using smaller busses and paving Laurel Canyon Bl. Charley suggested that LCA and the Lookout Mountain Alliance work together on these community benefits.

B. Secondary Dwelling Unit - Mitch Menzer

City Council adopted a motion to reject the State standards and to remove the Conditional Use Permit requirement from the city's 1985 ordinance. Councilman Koretz has asked that this issue move forward before the Dec. 31st deadline. As of January 1, 2017, the state's lenient regulations under AB 2299 would apply. If the city cannot meet the deadline, Council can cure the ordinance in the first few weeks of January.

It was suggested that the Federation send a letter to Councilmembers Koretz, Ryu, Bonin and Council President Wesson expressing our thanks for their leadership on this issue.

E. Weddington Golf and Tennis Proposed Development - Alan Dymond

There are new plans called Studio City Golf and Tennis to develop the area with 200 condos and fewer tennis courts. This issue was first brought to the Federation's attention in 2012 and a Draft EIR was done. The property is privately owned and is currently zoned Agricultural so there would need to be a General Plan amendment. It appears that the developer is re-visiting his plans. Councilman Krekorian first opposed the project in 2012, but the Studio City Residents Assn. is monitoring this new development and will keep the Hillside Federation up-dated.

## V. New Business

Neighborhood Integrity Initiative - Patricia Bell Hearst and Steve Twining gave an up-date on the status of this initiative which will be on the March ballot. Santa Monica has proposed something stronger on their ballot in November.

## VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Recording Secretary,  
Carol Sidlow

## Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel-Air Assn.	Bruce Kuyper
Bel-Air Hills	Steve Twining
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Cahuenga Pass POA	Steven Kates
	Krista Michaels
Franklin Av./Hlwd Bl	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon	Jamie Hall
Lookout Mt. All.	Carol Sidlow
	Steven Poster
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Res. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Save Coldwater Canyon!	Suellen Wagner
Studio City Res.	Alan Dymond
	Beth Dymond
Upper Nichols Canyon	Joan Cashel

## Guests:

Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
attorney	Mitch Menzer

The Federation of Hillside and  
Canyon Associations, Inc.  
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[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)

### PRESIDENT

Charley Mims

### CHAIRMAN

Marian Dodge

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Mark Stratton

John Given

### SECRETARY

Carol Sidlow

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

John Given

### TREASURER

Don Andres

### ORGANIZATIONS

Beachwood Canyon  
Bel-Air Association  
Bel-Air Hills  
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
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  
Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Save Coldwater Canyon!  
Save Sunset Blvd.  
Shadow Hills Property Owners  
Sherman Oaks HOA  
Silver Lake Heritage Trust  
Studio City Residents Assn.

Sunset Hills HOA  
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.  
Torreyson Flynn Assn.  
Upper Mandeville Canyon  
Upper Nichols Canyon  
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