

Hillside Federation Newsletter January 2018



Federation Celebrates Open Space



CM Paul Koretz, Charley Mims, Tori Kjer,
CM David Ryu

The Hillside Federation held its Annual Holiday Party on the evening of December 14, 2017, at the beautiful Mulholland Tennis Club. This year nearly 100 attendees enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner and drinks, while celebrating the accomplishments of our honorees, Let's Buy A Mountain and Friends of Runyon Canyon, for their incredible efforts at preserving open space in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains.

Let's Buy A Mountain, a fundraising campaign organized by Hillside Federation member Laurel Canyon Association and the non-profit Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW), purchased a 17.3-acre parcel located between Lookout Mountain Avenue and Stanley Hills Drive. More than 400 donors collectively raised \$1.6M to fund the purchase. Notable contributions came from Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, former Laurel Canyon resident Don Henley, who lived in Laurel

Agenda

January 3, 2018

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. Berggruen Institute - Mark Stratton
 - B. Laurel Canyon land purchase
- IV. New Business
 - A. Strengthening Protected Tree Ordinance - Linda Whitford
 - B. Sunset Blvd. Traffic Survey -
- VI. Adjournment

Next meeting February 7, 2018

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.*

Canyon while working on the Eagles second album “Desperado,” the David Schwarz Foundation, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The MRCA will manage the land. A recent LA Times article on the acquisition is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ybczwgsz>.

Friends of Runyon Canyon Foundation was organized in recent years by community members who use and love Runyon Park, one of the City’s busiest public parks with more than two million visitors annually. FORC was instrumental in helping the Trust for Public Land raise money to fund the acquisition of a key 15-acre parcel at the very top of the park. Development of the parcel would have blocked an important wilderness wildlife corridor, spoiled views, and cut access to many popular public trails in Runyon Park, adversely impacting the park experience for the thousands who use the park on a weekly basis. Now, thanks to FORC and other donors, the land will be preserved for current and future generations to enjoy, and will retain the important wildlife habitat and corridors. Major donors to fund the project included FORC, the City of Los Angeles, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Los Angeles County, the California Natural Resource Agency, California State Parks, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Notable party attendees included State Senator Anthony Portantino (SD 25); Assemblymembers Laura Friedman (AD 43) and Adrin Nazarian (AD 46) and his field deputy Angie Aramayo; Councilmember David Ryu (CD 4) with his Senior Deputy Alice Roth and Planning Deputy

Julia Duncan; and Councilmember Paul Koretz (CD 5) and his Field Director Gurmet Khara. Additional official representatives were: District Rep. Mike Aguilera for Congressman Adam Schiff (28th Congressional District); District Rep. Allison Towle for State Senator Ben Allen (SD 26); Senior Field Deputy Fernando Morales for LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl; Transportation Policy Director Eric Bruins for Councilmember Mike Bonin (CD 11); and Deputy City Attorney Steve Houchin for City Attorney Mike Feuer. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was represented by Paul Edelman, Jerry Daniel, and our own Wendy-Sue Rosen, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority was represented by Dash Stolarz. Finally, we were proud to welcome Hillside Federation Chairs Emeriti Jerry Daniel and Alan Kishbaugh.

Upcoming Hillside Federation Meeting Dates

February 7

March 7

April 4

May 2

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) and send it, along with supporting documents, to 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.

The Federation’s Annual Holiday Party came only a week after major fires burned throughout Southern California. The approximately 475-acre Skirball fire was a fast-moving terrain-driven fire, started accidentally by an out of control campfire in a homeless encampment near the east side of the I-405 freeway. This fire, along with other much larger fires in the northern reaches of the City of LA and Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (the massive Thomas fire still burns as this newsletter goes to press), have strained city, county, and state resources.

Many speakers expressed gratitude to the incredibly hard-working firefighters of our Los Angeles City and LA County Fire Departments, as well as to the LAPD and others who managed and patrolled evacuation areas. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority was also thanked as it was noted that MRCA Rangers were the first responders to the Skirball Fire.

Our annual Holiday Party was a major success thanks to our honorees and many guests. Special thanks go to Mel Remba for his helpful relationship with the Mulholland Tennis Club, to Mark Stratton for securing the generous wine donation from Andrea at Casa Torelli Italian wines, Franklin Hills Residents Association and Charley Mims and others for purchasing tables, Don Keller for purchasing numerous tickets and making an additional generous donation toward the event, Thomas Howard for volunteering his professional services to take so many wonderful photographs (many of which you see in this newsletter), and especially to Don Andres, without whose significant planning and organizational efforts the annual party would simply not be the event we have come to know and love.

We now turn our attention to celebrating and protecting our hillside areas with renewed focus and commitment for 2018. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

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



*Marian Dodge, Councilmember David Ryu,
Charley Mims.*



Charley Mims, Tori Kjer, the Trust for Public Land.



Honoring the Friends of Runyon

AM Adrin Nazarian honored Friends of Runyon.



Honoring Let's Buy a Mountain

CM Paul Koretz honored Let's Buy a Mountain.



Federation members and guests enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner and enjoyed the view from the Mulholland Tennis Club.



Wendy-Sue Rosen, Senator Anthony Portantino, Marian Dodge



AMs Adrin Nazarian and Laura Friedman honored the Trust for Public Land.



Bel Air Skycrest



Studio City and Save Coldwater Canyon!



CD 4 Planning Deputy Julia Duncan and Deputy City Attorney Steve Houchin



Don Andres honored Santa Paul Edelman and his elves Tony, Ali, Jamie, Amy and Stacy.

THE BERGGRUEN PROJECT Community Forum *Let's Talk!*

WHAT: a high profile global "THINK TANK" whose conferences, symposia, etc. will draw political movers & shakers from around the world to Santa MONICA MOUNTAINS land zoned for residential use and open space.

WHEN: Sunday, January 21, 2018
10 AM - 12 Noon

WHERE: Skirball Cultural Center, Ahmanson Auditorium
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049

RSVP: www.berggruen.app.rsvpify.com



THE ISSUES:

- Impacts on the Community
- Impacts on the Environment
- Automobile Traffic
- Helicopter Traffic
- Closures
- Noise Pollution
- Light Pollution
- Institutional Uses in Residentially Zoned Areas
- Wildlife Connectivity
- Protected Open Space (secured with easements)
- Two Public Trails (secured with easements)
- Trails Experience/Recreational Impacts
- Aesthetics/Views
- Methane
- Fire Danger
- Quality of Life
- Security

See The Plans / Hear The Presentations / Ask Questions / Get Answers!

**Hillside Residents, PLEASE ATTEND:
this project will impact YOU!**

FREE PARKING lower level of Skirball or across Sepulveda. In your seats by 10 AM!

Hillside Federation Agenda
November 8, 2017
Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Presentation: Open Space Element, General Plan Revision - Diana Kitching, City Planner

(Diana.Kitching@lacity.org)

The Planning Department is updating the six elements of the General Plan: Community and Culture, Urban Form (land use), Economy, Open Space, Environment, and Resilience. The two areas that need the most focus are the open space and land use elements.

They are revising the city threshold to comply with CEQA. Every other city in California, except Los Angeles, uses the checklist in the appendix of the CEQA guide for their rules.

They are working with CD 5 to do an analysis of wildlife corridors and paths through the Santa Monica Mountains and other areas. They are copying extensively from LA County SEA. They are identifying the places in the city where new parks are needed. Tom Rothmann and Erick Lopez are working on the Ridgeline Ordinance to implement rules/guidelines on a city-wide basis.

They plan to have Scoping meetings next year. See OurLA2040.org for more information.

Members expressed concerns about aesthetics not counting for CEQA; lack of enforcement; and public/private partnerships bringing in advertising.

II. Approval of Minutes

The October minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Charley Mims

Charley referred members to the Planning Department's Processes & Procedures, a section produced by RecodeLA. See <http://recode.la> for more info. Questions may be directed to Tom Rothmann tom.rothmann@lacity.org.

The 2300 Kimridge permits were revoked because of an outstanding Order to Comply regarding illegal excavation of a ridge. The applicant is appealing. The Federation will resubmit its letter objecting to the permits being reinstated.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

The Federation has 42 paid member organizations.

Don urged everyone to send in their checks for the Holiday party Dec. 14.

IV. Old Business

A. 6459 Innsdale Dr. (York vineyard) - Gerry Hans

The applicant failed to include the existence of a blue line stream on the property. He has to recirculate the MND. California Fish and Wildlife is requiring an assessment.

B. Harvard-Westlake School expansion - Suellen Wagner

Save Coldwater Canyon! received a surprise letter from Harvard-Westlake that they will not be building on the west side of Coldwater Canyon due to overwhelming resistance from the community and city recommendation. SCC would like Harvard-Westlake to give a property easement to the MRCA. Now the school has announced a plan to purchase and possibly develop the Weddington Golf & Tennis facility along the river.

C. Impact on LA River Natural Park - Alan Dymond

Studio City residents were caught by surprise when they got the announcement from CM Kerkorian's office that Harvard-Westlake was purchasing the Weddington Golf and Tennis facility where they had planned a park. Harvard-Westlake will control access and limit public access. H-W is planning to build underground parking under a new sports field. The area is zoned Open Space; there are limits to what you can build on open space. Their attorney is Doug Carstens.

D. 11580 Sunshine Terrace update - Alan Dymond

The applicant has to revise his plans in order to reduce the number of protected trees cut. Jamie Hall is monitoring the project for further developments. Getting organized early and staying coordinated is very important and has been key to making progress on projects in our hillside areas.

E. Let's Buy a Mountain - Don Andres

The purchase of the 17-acre Laurel Canyon property should be completed this month.

IV. Announcements

A. Airbnb and Second Dwelling Unit Ordinances

- Wendy-Sue Rosen

Shouldn't the hillsides be exempted from higher density ordinances like the Airbnb and Second Dwelling Unit ordinances? Senator Ben Allen has a bill to exempt them in high fire severity zones.

B. Party House Ordinance - Steve Twining

The Party House Ordinance (CF# 12-1824-S1) passed the Public Safety Committee.

C. Curtis School - Marian Dodge

Curtis School announced they will not be building a secondary road.

D. Sidewalk repair - Heidi Mackay

The sidewalks repair program, part of a lawsuit settlement, is removing thousands of trees because they crack the sidewalk.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting - Holiday Party, December 14, 2017

Stephen Benson
Secretary

Members in Attendance:

Bel Air Hills Assn	Steve Twining
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass	Steven Kates, Krista Michaels
Canyon Back All.	Lois Becker
Franklin/Hlywd Bl West	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res Assn	Charley Mims
Los Feliz Imprv Assn	Marian Dodge
Oaks HOA	Gerry Hans
Nichols Canyon	Don Andres
Res of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Save Coldwater Canyon!	Heidi Mackay Suellen Wagner
Studio City Res Assn	Alan Dymond Beth Dymond

Guests:

Dept. of City Planning	Diana Kitching
Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
Save LA River Open Space	Laurie Cohen Chip Meehan

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 Hills Association Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Hills Homeowners Brentwood Residents Coalition Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Canyon Back Alliance CASM-SFV Crests Neighborhood Assn. Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA 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. 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 Residents of Beverly Glen Save Coldwater Canyon! Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HO Assn. 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 Steve Twining CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Brian Moore Gordon Murley Polly Ward
PRESIDENT Charley Mims CHAIRMAN Marian Dodge VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton John Given TREASURER Don Andres SECRETARY Stephen Benson			