

Hillside Federation Newsletter June 2018



Proposed CEQA Appeal Fees Put Public Participation at Risk

In May the City Planning Department announced a proposed ordinance to raise non-applicant appeal fees for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) appeals. The ordinance would permit the City to raise the appeal to City Council of certification of any environmental document or determination of exemption to \$500. (The draft ordinance is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ycq877ad>.)

Appeal to an elected body is mandated by CEQA, but there is nothing in state law setting the appeal rate. The City's current practice, though not formally codified, allows non-applicant appeals of CEQA issues concurrent with entitlement approvals with no additional fee, or for the same cost when filed separately (\$89 plus other fees).

The Hillside Federation will discuss the potential adverse impact that such a major policy change would have on community organizations and individuals who participate in the City's land use approval process. In addition, Walt Young of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Paul Edelman of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will attend.

We hope you will join us!

Agenda June 6, 2018 7:00 pm

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

I. Call to Order

Guests:

Paul Edelman, SMMC

Walt Young, MRCA – tour bus permits

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

IV. Old Business

A. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) –
Marian Dodge

B. Retreat at Benedict Canyon – Robert
Schlesinger

C. Sunset Traffic Study – Don Andres

IV. New Business

A. Proposed LA CEQA Appeal Fee Increase

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting

July 18, 2018
7:00 p.m.

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

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.*



The Hillside Federation thanks Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin for presiding over the annual installation of officers at our May, 2018 meeting. From left to right: VP Mark Stratton, Treasurer Don Andres, Chairman Marian Dodge, Controller Galperin, President Charley Mims, Secretary Stephen Benson, VP John Given.

Hillside Federation
May 2, 2018
Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest: Seamus Garrity, Field Rep for Assemblymember Laura Friedman

Friedman has submitted 15 bills which are currently in the legislature’s suspense file. These include AB 2911 regarding fire safety in the hillsides. There is concern about the fire break requirement which could encourage some to destroy more native habitat than is necessary. Another bill, AB 2353, would change how street speed limits are determined. Speed limits on many streets are currently set at the 85th percentile rate of traffic flow, which may undermine the Vision Zero goal of zero fatalities. AB 2353 would allow safety considerations to be introduced to the street speed setting process.

Guest: LA City Controller Ron Galperin

Ron Galperin presided over the installation of officers. The officers for the 2018-2019 term are:

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| President | Charley Mims |
| Chairman | Marian Dodge |
| Vice Pres. | Mark Stratton |
| Vice Pres. | John Given |
| Secretary | Stephen Benson |
| Treasurer | Don Andres |

During remarks following officer installation, Galperin stated that groups like the Hillside Federation are vital to preserving the beautiful

UPCOMING MEETING REMINDER

Due to the July 4 holiday, the Hillside Federation’s regular July meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 18. There will be no meeting held in August.

hillside areas of the city. He stressed the importance of preserving open space.

He also encouraged all to visit the Controller website. There are 130 funds that have been idle for four years, including \$7.5 million for parks. The city finally knows where all its properties are. (They belong to many different departments.) There are 8,975 City-owned properties, some of which are very small. The city is identifying those which may be suitable for housing. The homeless crisis is obvious and serious and is going to be very difficult to fix quickly. Requiring parking for homeless housing greatly increases the per unit cost by about \$450,000/unit. An important part of the job of Controller's Office is waste, fraud and abuse prevention.

Steve Twining asked about the 2020 Commission Report and pensions; the state limits changes you can make to pensions.

Guest: David Ambroz, President, Los Angeles City Planning Commission

President Ambroz became involved in city government through the Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council. He grew up on the east coast, and "graduated" from being in foster care to life on the streets of NYC. In his day job he is director of corporate citizenship and social responsibility for a major entertainment company.

City Planning Commission approved a version of the update to the City's Sign Ordinance on October 22, 2015, but it has been parked on CM Huizar's desk for more than two years. The CPC version is very good and we need to hope that it sticks. Ambroz expects it to come back to the CPC because the PLUM version is no longer substantially similar.

EIRs are typically not used to protect the environment; they are being used to stop a project or get a labor contract. Community plans will hopefully help to place limits on development. Conditions and stipulations placed within EIR are difficult to enforce.

Ambroz said the biggest issues facing the city are homelessness and NIMBYism. He has a new acronym: BANANA (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone). He suggested that

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 www.hillsidefederation.org) and send it to RFA@hillsidefederation.org along with supporting documents no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation while providing the necessary information to allow the Federation to consider your organization's request.

instead of saying NO, project objectors should ask how an applicant can make a project better.

LA has a basic problem: We love our cars, but we hate traffic.

II. Approval of Minutes

The April minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Charley Mims

In the interest of time, the president made no report.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

Forty member organizations have paid their dues.

IV. Old Business

A. Hollywood Center (aka Millennium Hollywood)

Postponed to next month.

B. SB 827 update – Marian Dodge

The bill was killed in committee, but will probably come back next year.

C. ADU Ordinance – Charley Mims

President Charley Mims asked members how many had contacted their council persons to ask Councilmember Jose Huizar to put the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance on the PLUM agenda? Everyone needs to call his or her councilmember to get the ordinance to the council floor for discussion and motions for improvement of the ordinance. The City is holding Planning 101 workshops, where planners note the City is looking at all avenues to create more housing. John Given said Hillside Federation needs to focus our efforts on restricting ADUs in hillside

areas where they are not appropriate due to the safety hazards.

Sen. Anthony Portantino's district representative Vickere Murphy states that high fire severity zones are excluded from ADUs after the passage of Sen. Ben Allen's amendments in 2017.

D. Retreat at Benedict Canyon – Robert Schlesinger

The proposed project for a hotel requires a zone change from residential. If a hospitality zone is allowed in a strictly residential area, it is going to set a terrible precedent.

IV. New Business

Brush clearance on MRCA property: LAFD says that the MRCA is ignoring their brush clearance requirements.

Announcements: SAMO Santa Monica Mountains Fund - Spring Celebration at King Gillette Ranch June 3rd, 4:00 -7:30 pm.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Next meeting June 6, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Benson
Secretary

Members in Attendance:

Bel-Air Assn	Linda Whitford
	Maureen Levinson
Bel Air Hills Assn	Steve Twining
Bel Air Skycrest POA	Mark Stratton
Benedict Cyn Assn.	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels,
	Steven Kates
Canyon Back Allian.	Lois Becker
Franklin/Hlywd Bl W	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Res	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Judy Kass
Kagel Canyon Civic	Kit Paull
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Nichols Cyn Neigh	Julie Kremkus
Oaks HOA	Gerry Hans
Oak Forest	Bruce Hollihan
Res of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Suellen Wagner
Sherman Oaks HO	Jay Weitzler
Studio City Res Assn	Claudia Freedle
Upper Nichols Cyn	Joan Cashel

Guests:

City Controller's Office	Ron Galperin
	Emely Candray
	Taylor Campbell
	Reinita Ducielle
City Planning Comm.	David Ambroz
Sen. Portantino	Vickere Murphy
AM Friedman	Seamus Garrity
Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst
BCA/BABCNC	Robert Schlesinger
Nichols Canyon NA	Fabian Kremkus

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 Association 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.	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			