

Hillside Federation Newsletter September 2018



Protected Tree Ordinance Updates Remain Stalled at City Council

The current Protected Tree Ordinance was adopted in 2006 (Ordinance 177404, as generally codified in LAMC section 17.05.R). In April 2018, the City Planning Commission considered a draft ordinance to add the Toyon (the City's official City plant) and Mexican Elderberry to the protected species list (which already includes four species: indigenous Oak trees, Southern California Black Walnut, Western Sycamore, and California Bay) and prepared its report recommending the change (see Council File 13-1339). In addition, Councilmembers Koretz and Bonin initiated a motion in November 2017 to strengthen and update the Protected Tree Ordinance in consultation with interested stakeholder groups (CF 03-1459-S3).

Despite significant support for both measures from neighborhood councils and other stakeholders to strengthen the Protected Tree Ordinance, the City Council has not acted on either measure.

Please join us this month as we discuss the above, hear updates on the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance and a project in Bel Air with substantial tree removals proposed, as well as hear more from our members regarding the Mission Canyon Park proposal.

Agenda
September 5, 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 – Charley Mims
- B. Treasurer's Report

IV. Old Business

- A. Accessory Dwelling Unit – Charley Mims
- B. Mission Canyon Park – Charley Mims

IV. New Business

- A. Tree Removal Notifications – John Given
- B. Bellagio Road Tree Removal – Linda Whitford

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting

October 3, 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.*

City Planning Commission Hears CEQA Appeal Ordinance

The City Planning Commission considered the City's proposed California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) appeal ordinance on August 23, 2018. As originally drafted, the ordinance would have permitted the City Council to increase appeal fees for challenges to environmental approvals (up to \$500 per appeal). The CPC recommended approval of the ordinance, but first removed reference to the \$500 fee. Left intact was the 15-day deadline to file an appeal of an environmental approval.

Staff has not yet processed the CPC's recommendation into a formal report, but the Hillside Federation will continue to monitor the item and notify our members when it comes before the City Council.

New "Hollywood Center" Project Announced, EIR Scoping Meeting Scheduled for September 12

A major project has been proposed for the site of the former Millennium Hollywood project. Known as Hollywood Center, the new mixed-use proposal would include a total built area of more than 1.4 million square feet, with the lion's share of that (approximately 1.25 million square feet) of developed residential floor area including 1,005 residential dwelling units (133 of these developed as senior affordable housing units), more than 30,000 square feet of commercial uses (retail and restaurant), and approximately 160,000 square feet of open space and project amenities. Development would occur in four buildings, including a 46-story "East Building," 35-story "West Building" and two 11-story senior buildings set aside for extremely-low and very-low income housings.

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.

The project's Initial Study and Notice of Preparation were published by the City on August 28. The comment period for the massive project runs until 4 pm, September 27. Copies of the Notice of Preparation are available online at the City Planning website at: <https://planning.lacity.org/eir/nops/HollywoodCenter/nop.pdf> and <https://planning.lacity.org/eir/nops/HollywoodCenter/InitialStudy.pdf>.

An EIR public scoping meeting for the project has been scheduled for September 12, from 6-8 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, Henrietta Mears Center, located at 1760 N. Gower Street, Los Angeles, 90028.

Written comments may be submitted at the public scoping meeting or by e-mail to elva.nuno-odonnell@lacity.org or by mail to:

Elva Nuno-O'Donnell
City of Los Angeles
Dept. of City Planning
6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Room 351
Van Nuys, CA 91401

SAVE THE DATE

The Hillside Federation's
Annual Holiday Party will be held

Thursday, December 13

**Hillside Federation
July 18, 2018
Draft Minutes**

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:09. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest: Council District 4 Planning Deputy
Emma Howard**

Emma comes from the LA County planning office. Enough changes have been made to the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance to require it to return to the City Planning Commission (CPC). Tiny houses like an RV on a concrete pad are prohibited in hillsides. Since the city has still not passed its own regulations, the default state law regulations remain in effect.

Wendy-Sue Rosen commented that because California's fire season is now year-round ADUs in hillside areas are a serious public safety issue. Jamie Hall commented on the need to preserve wildlife corridors in the hillsides and ensure ADUs do not interfere with the habitat or movement of wildlife. Everyone should send their comments to the CPC.

Guest: CD 5 Planning Deputy Hagu Solomon-Cary

Hagu worked in the City Planning Department for 4 years. She worked on the Baseline Hillside Ordinance.

Steve Twining asked about the status of the long awaited Ridgeline Ordinance.

II. Approval of minutes

The June minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Charley Mims

Marian Dodge announced that former Director of City Planning, Michael LoGrande, is now a developer for a huge project along the LA River near the 6th Street Bridge.

The statewide proposition to split California into three states (Proposition 9, also known as Cal 3) was challenged in a lawsuit filed by attorney Carlyle Hall on behalf of the Planning & Conservation League. The judge agreed the proposition was over-reaching so it will not be included on the November ballot.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

Don updated the Federation accounts. He announced the Holiday Party on Thursday, December 13 at the Mulholland Tennis Club.

IV. Old Business

A. Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance – Charley Mims

(This item was covered during Guest Emma Howard's comments and Q&A.)

B. Hadid Hearing update – Steve Twining

There is still no decision from the ZA hearing regarding 901 Strada Vecchia. On June 26 the Board of Building & Safety Commissioners discussed the required erosion control plan yearly mitigation. CM Koretz spoke to request that Hadid tear the house down.

IV. New Business

A. Mission Canyon Park – Gabriella Garry and Mark Stratton

The project plans for Mission Canyon Park, to be developed on an old landfill site, are available at www.missioncanyonpark.com. The MRCA has funding for a passive trail park on about 300 acres of open space. The parking lot on Sepulveda Boulevard is currently a Caltrans laydown yard (aka storage yard). The project would provide for an MRCA Ranger residence in a trailer, and include water tanks for fire safety. Landfill cover cannot be disturbed. The MRCA is reviewing the draft with the county and working with local homeowner associations. The methane levels at the site are low. There is a 45-day comment period for the project's Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Mark shared local community concerns about the impact of additional traffic on Mulholland Drive. A long-term traffic solution is needed for the Mulholland Institutional Corridor because two schools want to add high schools to their campuses. Gabriella thinks having more access points would alleviate the concentration of traffic. Jamie suggested a management program to limit overuse. Wendy-Sue Rosen noted that parents drop off their kids off next to the proposed parking lot. Patricia Bell Hearst wants no overnight parking in Mountaingate. John Given requested a longer comment period. (*Ed.: The comment period deadline has been extended and will now end October 31, 2018*).

The first phase of the project would be a parking lot at the bottom at the Sepulveda side of the park. The permitting should start next year.

Wendy commented that there is a small parking lot near her that is well managed with few problems. Steve Twining requested that traffic studies must be done when schools are in session. The MRCA is very aware of traffic issues.

Charley Mims summarized the views presented as being in support support parks and open space but needing to be balanced with the concerns of residents.

A. Bellagio Road Tree removal – Linda Whitford

Linda is speaking as a private individual because the Bel Air planning committee hasn't met yet. Bel Air/Beverly Crest NC supported her request that the country club should not have been given an exemption. The project requires a more extensive environmental review. She offered the use of an PSHB (polyphagous shot hole borer) expert, but the country club declined. Urban Forestry supports the removal of protected trees. Jamie Hall is representing Linda. It is an opportunity to educate Urban Forestry.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation urge the Board of Public Works to consider the expert opinion of a PSHB specialist and reject the categorical exemption from environmental review as inadequate. Nothing on the property should be touched until the study is done. The motion passed.

C. "Love Street" Signs in Laurel Canyon – Jamie Hall

Laurel Canyon is proud of its musical history; however the festival planned for this Sunday, July 22, would have a huge impact on the neighborhood. The City plans to add a statue of Jim Morrison which would continue to attract more traffic. Yvonne Hessler commented that the festival is on a very narrow street, and the nearby residents will not have access to emergency vehicles. John Given asked Jamie to describe whether any environmental review had been done (no).

Numerous members asked why Councilmember Ryu's office did not consult with the Federation regarding the plans for the event and street renaming. Charley Mims stated he cannot imagine closing Laurel Canyon because there is no other access.

MOTION: Jamie Hall moved that the Federation oppose the designation and installation of "Love Street" signs until appropriate studies and/or analysis have determined that impacts to traffic,

UPCOMING MEETINGS
 Remaining regular meetings in 2018 will be held October 3, and November 7.

public safety and welfare of the community are properly mitigated. The motion passed.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:56.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Benson, Secretary

There is no August meeting; the next meeting will be September 5, 2018.

Members in Attendance:

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|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Bel-Air Assn | Linda Whitford |
| Bel Air Hills Assn | Steve Twining |
| | Robin Greenberg |
| Bel Air Skycrest POA | Mark Stratton |
| Brentwood Hills HOA | John Given |
| Brentwood Residents | Wendy-Sue Rosen |
| Canyon Back Alliance | Tom Freeman |
| | Lois Becker |
| Franklin/Hlwd Bl West | Don Andres |
| | Yvonne Hessler |
| Franklin Hills Res Assn | Charley Mims |
| Kagel Canyon Civic | Kit Paull |
| Lake Hollywood | David Benz |
| Laurel Canyon Assn | Jamie Hall |
| | Cathy Wayne |
| Los Feliz Impvmt Assn | Marian Dodge |
| Nichols Canyon NA | Julie Kremkus |
| Oak Forest | Bruce Hollihan |
| Oaks Homeowners | Bob Young |
| Res of Beverly Glen | Stephen Benson |
| Sherman Oaks HA | Jay Weitzler |
| Studio City Res Assn. | Claudia Freedle |
| Upper Nichols Cyn | Joan Cashel |

Guests:

- | | |
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| MRCA | Gabriella Garry |
| CD 4 Planning | Emma Howard |
| CD 5 Planning | Hagu Soloman-Cary |
| Westland School | Carole Barber |
| Chair Emeritus | Patricia Bell Hearst |

Numerous Mountain Lion Sightings Throughout Los Angeles Area in August

Numerous press reports of mountain lion sightings in the greater Los Angeles area were published during the month of August.

On August 2, KTLA reported a mountain lion cub had been cornered and chased up a tree after encountering a dog in Pacific Palisades. The cub spent eight hours up the tree before leaving. The story is available at the KTLA website at: <https://ktla.com/2018/08/02/mountain-lion-cub-takes-up-residence-in-pacific-palisades-backyard/>.



On August 15, LA's ABC affiliate ran a story with accompanying video of a mountain lion visiting the backyard of a home in La Cañada-Flintridge (available online at: <https://abc7.com/pets-animals/video-wild-cats-roam-la-canada-flintridge-family-s-backyard/3969874/>). The homeowner had just taken out her trash when she noticed the mountain lion and quickly returned inside. The family shared a second video of a bobcat who came to check out their backyard.

The next day, August 16, public safety officers at Pepperdine University confirmed three separate incidents involving a mountain lion or lions sighted on campus. Two of the incidents merely related to a lion being seen, but in a third incident at 10:24pm, a lion was seen attacking a deer. When public safety arrived the mountain lion left, but not before killing the deer. An advisory regarding the sightings was published on one of Pepperdine's websites at: <http://emergency.pepperdine.edu/2018/08/16/mountain-lion-advisory-sightings-on-malibu-campus-last-night/>.

Pepperdine Security's advisory provided good advice about how to react if a mountain lion is encountered:

- Do not approach the mountain lion; leave space for the cat to escape.
- Maintain eye contact and move away slowly. Don't run, which triggers the lion's instinct to chase you.
- Appear as large, loud, and powerful as possible. If small children or pets are present, pick them up immediately.
- In the event of attack, fight back. Do not fall to the ground or roll into the fetal position.

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| <p>The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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</p> |
| <p>PRESIDENT Charley Mims CHAIRMAN Marian Dodge VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton John Given TREASURER Don Andres SECRETARY Stephen Benson</p> | | | |