

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
July 2020**



**Great American Outdoors Act
Moves Forward**



Sequoia National Park

Marian Dodge

In a time when much of the news has been bleak, we finally have some good news. The Senate, with rare bipartisan support, passed the Great American Outdoors Act by 73 - 25 in June. It goes to the House next week. The bill includes billions of dollars to purchase property and do maintenance on existing public lands. The funding, which comes primarily from fees for oil and gas drilling, would benefit not only national parks but parks and green space in cities such as Los Angeles. \$900 million will go to the Land & Water Conservation Fund. (See LA Times, July 16, A1.)

**Agenda
July 21, 2020
7:00 pm**

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

I. Call to Order

Guests:

Neighborhood Prosecutor - Ethan Weaver - on party houses & Brett Cohen LAPD

Robert Silverstein, attorney for stopthemillennium

II. Approval of minutes - Julie Kremkus

III. Officers' Reports

- A. President's Report - Charley Mims
- B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres
- HF Financial Support - Policy & Process

IV. Old Business

- A. Hollywood Center (AKA Millennium project)
- B. 3003 Runyon Canyon Rd. - Joan Cashel
- C. AB 3279 update - John Given

V. New Business

- A. Housing Element - Wendy-Sue Rosen

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting:

September 15, 2020

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
June 16, 2020
Via video conference
Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Guest: Fernando Morales, District Director Sheila Kuehl's Office

Fernando gave an update on COVID-19 in LA County.

SB 902: The bill formerly had an exemption for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The supervisor wrote a letter advocating for that exemption to be restored. She passed a motion, at the county level, making sure that there is not additional density within our VHFHS zones. Fernando to send the letter to HF.

Over the next few years, West LA civic center will be discussed as affordable housing. <https://supervisorkuehl.com/civiccenter/>

Guest: Seamus Garrity, Sr Field Rep State Assemblymember Friedman

AB 3279: The assemblymember is in regular conversation with environmental groups to ensure we are not undercutting the environmental community. She wants to have a meeting with HF leadership to discuss our concerns about AB 3279 and any other legislation that her office is dealing with regarding natural resources.

Guest: Vickere Murphy, Sr District Rep Senator Portantino

The state budget was passed.

Senate is heavily focused on COVID-19 bills. Some bills currently held in the suspense file may be released June 18.

II. Approval of minutes - Julie Kremkus

The May Minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Charley Mims

Local member organizations should take the lead on projects and submit Requests for Action.

A letter was submitted in response to the DEIR on Sidewalk Repair program consistent with the position we took in the past. The proposed

program especially impacts the Protected Tree Ordinance in hillside areas.

Sullivan Canyon Project: John Given gave the report regarding the removal of three additional protected trees that were not permitted. The trees were substantial and the developer did it knowingly, in violation of the ordinance. The city then pulled all their permits for the entire job and there was a potential due process problem and ended up being litigated by the developer. At California Courts, the judge gave them back their permits, then the city appealed. The applicant (developer) offered a confidential settlement to the city. It went to City Council and many community groups opposed including the HF. It's continued until tomorrow morning. It's a closed session but they will take public comment. Anyone can attend the meeting to oppose a settlement that would trade permits for dismissal. If the city agrees to the settlement, it sets a precedent that a developer can illegally remove protected trees. They can sue the city and the city will fold. The enforcement process then is virtually ineffective. HF executive committee took action last week to oppose settlement on that basis.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

All bills paid; there are no outstanding expenses. Expenses are reduced due COVID-19 and not having to pay for a meeting room All 44 members have paid dues for 2020.

IV. Old Business

A. Hollywood Center (AKA Millennium Project)

ENV-2018-2116-EIR. Mary Ledding gave an update. Alexa Iles Skarpelos from Hollywood Dell Civic Association was responsible for the massive letter they put together. Additionally Robert Silverstein submitted a massive letter

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.

(over 1000 pages), engaged experts, talked about the voting corruption. It was suggested to have Robert speak on the status at the next meeting. Final EIR is supposed to come out at the end of July. The project lacks affordable housing. Impacts on traffic were not addressed for the Argyle and Franklin intersection. Caltrans studies were not included. Several areas of analysis were not included such as the on ramp at Franklin. Stephen Krawchuk discussed how four HOAs are effected by this project and that the actions of the city sets a bad precedent. There was a discussion on the timing of when to take a position. Everything is in the preliminary stage right now. When the EIR is final, the HF will take a position and respond. Comments from the HF that were already submitted can be viewed on the website.

V. New Business

A. CA housing legislation: SB 902, SB 995, SB 1120, SB 1299, SB 1385

Wendy-Sue Rosen suggested sending the same letter for all bills about the HF policy addressing fire safety and densification in hillside areas. She said she would draft it with the help of John Given. There was discussion that affordable housing should be addressed for each individual bill.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen and John Given to draft a letter opposing all the bills unless they have an exclusion for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The motion passed.

B. AB 3279 CEQA attack - John Given

This item was tabled as Seamus Garrity, State Assemblymember Friedman's Sr Field Rep offered a meeting with Friedman.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm. Next meeting via Zoom: on July 21, 2020.

Julie Kremkus - Secretary

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Argyle Civic Assn	Stephen Krawchuk
	David Gadd
Beachwood Canyon	Eda Hallinan
	Fran Reichenbach
Bel-Air Assn	Linda Whitford
Bel Air Hills Assn	Robin Greenberg
	Wendy Morris
	Steve Twining
Bel Air Skycrest POA	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon Assn	Nickie Miner
	Robert Schlesinger
Brentwood Hills HOA	Carolyn LoBuglio
Brentwood Res Coal	Wendy-Sue Rosen
	Donald Keller
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
	Steven Kates
Canyon Back Alliance	John Given
	Lois Becker
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA	Ellen Evans
Franklin/Hollywood Bl W	Don Andres
Franklin Hills Res Assn	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell Civic	Mary Ledding
	Alexa Iles Skarpelos
Hollywoodland	Jeff Swofford
Kagel Canyon Assn	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn	Cathy Wayne
LFIA (Los Feliz)	Dennis Chew
	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon NA	Julie Kremkus
Oaks Homeowners	Gerry Hans
Outpost Estates	Tom Davila
Shadow Hills POA	Cindy Bloom
Sherman Oaks HA	Jay Weitzler
Upper Nichols Canyon	Stacy Sillins

GUESTS:

Supervisor Kuehl's office	Fernando Morales
SD 25 Portantino's office	Vickere Murphy
AD 43 Friedman's office	Seamus Garrity

The Importance of Trees to Birds

Marian Dodge

The Federation has long been fighting for a strong and meaningful Protected Tree Ordinance. We are trying to get important native trees such as toyon and Mexican elderberry added to the list to preserve smaller but equally valuable native trees. When other programs such as the Sidewalk Repair Program undermine the Protected Tree Ordinance, we fight back and do our best to preserve trees.

The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society hosted a webinar on the importance of trees – especially street trees – to birds. The presentation was made by Dr. Eric Wood, a specialist in urban ecology, life-long birder, and now a professor at Cal State LA.

Eric gives a brief history of the development of the urban tree canopy and how it follows economic patterns. Affluent areas have higher density of trees, trees of larger diameters, and more feeding birds. LA is famous for winter migratory birds; however many birds are in decline.

Most street trees are non-native. Birds prefer native trees like California sycamore and Coast live oak. They don't prefer camphor, crepe myrtle, or London plane tree.

We should encourage street tree planting, especially in disadvantaged areas. Cities should have incentives to keep trees alive. Be cautious

about planting all the same trees because disease could wipe them all out; we need diversity of trees.

A video of the presentation is available at www.sfvaudubon.org on the lower left.

Eric Wood has published a research paper “The Importance of Street Trees to Urban Avifauna.” It is available at <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eap.2149>



<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</p>	<p>Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. Lake Hollywood HOA Laurel Canyon Assn. LFIA (Los Feliz) 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 HOA Silver Lake Heritage Trust Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn.</p>	<p>Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT Charley Mims CHAIRMAN Marian Dodge VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton John Given TREASURER Don Andres SECRETARY Julie Kremkus</p>	<p>Argyle Civic Assn. 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 Crests Neighborhood Assn. Dixie Canyon Association Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywoodland HOA Hollywood Heights Assn.</p>	<p>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Steve Twining</p>	<p>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Jerome C. Daniel Brian Moore Gordon Murley Polly Ward</p>

Coopers hawk in Coast live oak