

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
April 4, 2018**

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest: Doug Carstens - SB 827

Doug Carstens, an attorney from the environmental law firm of Chatten-Brown & Carstens, explained his concerns about Scott Wiener's proposed bill SB 827. The intent of the bill is to create more housing, and encourage development near public transit. However the most disturbing aspect of the bill is the removal of local control. The state would assert pre-emption over cities. The bill would override any city ordinance or specific plan, the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO), or the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO). The bill is an end run around CEQA, an attempt to evade CEQA. Real estate developers' attempts to increase profits is what is increasing housing prices.

Jay Weitzler commented that the bill cannot be amended to fix it; it needs to be stopped in committee. He requested that members copy their letter opposing SB 827 to him. John Given observed that studies have shown the City could accommodate 8 million people if it were built out to current zoning levels.

Guest: Seamus Garrity (field rep for AM Laura Friedman)

Seamus announced that Assemblymember Friedman has a full legislative package. AB 2911 Fire Safe Communities is in response to the recent fires. It would restore lost vegetation with native plants. John Given expressed concern over the environmental impacts of clearing fire breaks. The bill is still being amended so send your comments to Friedman.

II. Approval of Minutes

The March minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Charley Mims

8150 Sunset Bl. - The Court of Appeal ruled to allow the demolition of the Lytton Savings so the Gehry project can continue. However, the judge said the removal of the right turn lane for a plaza is a street vacation and has to go to hearings.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) - Charley contacted Councilmember Huizar, the head of PLUM, who said the City Attorney is holding up the PLUM Committee draft ordinance which would prohibit ADUs in hillsides. The report back is available at: http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2014/14-1635-S2_rpt_PLAN_03-22-2018.pdf. We don't yet know the date when the item will be heard again. Huizar said he would move it forward so contact your councilmember to ask that the motion be moved forward.

AB 2422 California Natural Predator Protection Act of 2018 - The Federation sent a letter supporting Bloom's bill banning rodenticides except in certain specific situations.

The Planning Department is holding a series of workshops called Planning 101 throughout the city.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

All Federation expenses have been paid. Most of the member organizations have renewed their membership.

IV. Old Business

A. Report of Nominating Committee - Suellen Wagner

The Nominating Committee renominated the current officers. There were no nominations from the floor.

B. Election of Officers

MOTION: Lois Becker moved to accept the nominations on a white ballot. The motion passed.

C. Hollywood Millennium Project - John Given

The developer has appealed the project again. The opposition needs to get Caltrans “to do the right thing.”

MOTION: John Given - to write a letter to Senator Portantino urging Caltrans to submit a report describing the environmental impacts the project will have on traffic. The motion passed.

IV. New Business

A. SB 827 - Marian Dodge

(covered by guest speaker Doug Carstens)

B. 2521 Nottingham Dr. - Marian Dodge

The applicant is requesting a haul route permit for the removal of 110,000 cu. yds. of earth instead of the 2,800 cu. yds. allowed under the BHO, down a steep, narrow substandard street. The applicant is also planning a 600-foot driveway with a 40% slope. (Maximum slope allowed in 20%.) The driveway would have “trellis walls”, a retaining wall with a trellis on top of it. The permit was denied by the Building and Safety Commissioners; however the applicant has appealed that decision.

MOTION: Nickie Miner - The Federation support the Board of Building & Safety Commissioners denial of a request to export 10,000 cu. yds of earth from 2521 Nottingham Dr. and not accept the MND. The motion passed.

C. Retreat at Benedict Canyon - Mindy Mann & Bob Schlesinger

A developer is planning to build a 99-room hotel and a dozen mansions on 33 acres of wildlife habitat at 9712 Oak Pass Road in Benedict Canyon. The project would cover multiple lots. It would require a change in the General Plan to allow commercial development in a residential area. The project would set a terrible precedent. Benedict Canyon Assn. people are trying to meet with Councilmember Koretz to find out his position.

D. 2251 Nichols Canyon Road - Linda Whitford

The community and the applicant have entered into an agreement so the community representative is recusing herself from this discussion. The applicant had placed so many restrictions on what he would negotiate that protections achieved for the protected trees, stream, and wildlife corridor were inadequate. The SMMC appealed the decision yesterday.

MOTION: Linda Whitford - That the Hillside Federation support the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's appeal of the Board of Public Works' approval of the protected tree removal permit and the associated MND, and write a letter to Councilmember Ryu expressing that support, asking him to require a new MND or an EIR on the project, and asking that the Tree Removal Permit not be issued until the appeal is heard. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Mark Stratton - Andrea Francesco of Casa Torelli Imports has donated wine for the Federation Holiday Party. He will sell wines at a discount to Federation members.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Next meeting May 2, 2018

Stephen Benson
Secretary

Members in Attendance:

Beachwood Can NA	Florence Isabelle Megginson
Bel-Air Assn	Linda Whitford
Bel Air Hills Assn	Robin Greenberg
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Benedict Can Assn	Nickie Miner
	Mindy Mann
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Cahuenga Pass POA	Krista Michaels
	Steven Kates
Canyon Back All	Lois Becker
Franklin/Hlwd Bl W	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Mary Ledding
Los Feliz Impv Assn	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon NA	Julie Kremkus
	Chris Brown
	Justine Schmidt
Oaks HOA	Bob Young
Res Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Suellen Wagner
Sherman Oaks HA	Jay Weitzler
Studio City Res Assn	Claudia Freedle
Upper Nichols Cyn	Stacy Sillins

Guests:

AM Laura Friedman	Seamus Garrity
Chatten-Brown & Carstens	Doug Carstens
Benedict Can Assn. unknown	Robert Schlesinger
	Daren Foster
	Mark Levin