

## **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 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 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<br>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,<br>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<br>Emely Candray<br>Taylor Campbell<br>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   |