

**Hillside Federation  
November 19, 2019  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City  
12355 Moorpark Street  
Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest: Cindy Montañez - TreePeople CEO**

TreePeople is now the steward of the Mountains Restoration Trust with a new joint organization. They have added 3,000 acres of protected land in the Santa Monica Mountains. Private land can be donated to the Trust. Cold Creek Canyon Preserve near Calabasas features indian artifacts and endangered species. They are different from the MRCA in that they are a private entity, not governmental. The intention is to preserve and maintain the land as it is in perpetuity.

The new board will be 5 TreePeople and 4 MRT Board with 3 open seats. They will be adding some community members. Board members either need to raise money or donate \$12,500.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The October minute were approved as written.

**III. Officers' Reports**

A. President's Report - Charley Mims

There was no President's Report.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don updated the Federation finances. He urged people to purchase their tickets for the Holiday Party December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Twining suggested that the Federation make a donation to Tree People.

**IV. Old Business**

A. 901 Strada Vecchia - Update – Marian Dodge

Hadid's mega mansion was partially built and then was found to be structurally unsound with much unpermitted work.

MOTION: It was moved that the Federation write a letter supporting the City Attorney Office's recommendation that the unsafe house be demolished. The motion passed.

B. Mike Bonin Fire Safety event - Mark Stratton

The workshop featured lots of fire personnel and a DWP representative to speak about the fire danger and the electrical wires that are still above ground in an area along Mulholland Dr. that is prone to fires. DWP said that both under grounding wires and insulating overhead wires are expensive. They are educating communities on how they can raise money to have their wires buried. Experts are recommending that cities stop building in hillsides, no more density, no more large institutions. Jamie Hall commented that they are overdoing brush clearances and not following best practices.

C. Berggruen project - Ileana Wachtel

This is an informational presentation as there is no project to comment on yet. If the Berggruen project gets built then it could be precedent setting and cause for concern. It is a commercial development, not residential. It is the wrong project, in the wrong place, with the wrong use. She distributed a packet. Mission Canyon and Mountain Gate are direct neighbors. There is potential for a devastating fire if they build a complex of this magnitude on this site.

D. Burbank Flight Path update - Suellen Wagner

The new flight path has planes coming up and over the foothills and hillsides causing considerable noise, frustration and anger. The FAA unilaterally changed the flight paths. The FAA has not budged on their stance and has not made any effort communicate with the constituents of the affected areas. The Los Angeles City Attorney has sent a cease and desist letter to the FAA and demanded that the flight paths be moved back to where they were in 2017.

MOTION: Suellen Wagner moved that the Federation support changing the flight paths to the pre-2017 paths. The motion passed.

**V. New Business**

A. Dixie Canyon Membership - Don Andres

Residents of Dixie Canyon visited several Federation meetings. They have worked with Jamie Hall on protecting trees and open space. They have created a 501(c)(3) and asked to join the Federation.

MOTION: Don Andres moved that the Federation accept Dixie Canyon as a member of the HF. The motion passed.

B. 1830 Blue Heights Dr. - Jamie Hall

A 20,000 sq. ft. plus 9,000 sq. ft. of exempt basement, house has been proposed near Kirkwood Bowl. The basement didn't count because the project was initiated before the BHO. The developer filed for an extension late so it should not have been extended. The project exceeds the cubic yardage for excavation. It would require 7 retaining walls, and a soil nail wall. The Area Planning Commission decided not to deny the project.

MOTION: Jamie Hall moved that the Federation request that CM Ryu bring a motion to assert jurisdiction over the project pursuant to City Charter 245. The project does not comply with the HCR Ordinance and the MND is defective. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Joann Deutch suggested the use of the private Attorney General statute when appropriate.  
Charley Mims asked if any members have media skills.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting - Holiday Party December 12, 2019, Mulholland Tennis Club

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Bel Air Hills Assn        | Robin Greenberg |
|                           | Steve Twining   |
| Bel Air Skycrest POA      | Mark Stratton   |
| Benedict Canyon Assn      | Nickie Miner    |
| Brentwood Res Coalition   | Wendy-Sue Rosen |
| Cahuenga Pass POA         | Krista Michaels |
| Canyon Back Alliance      | Lois Becker     |
| Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA    | Ellen Evans     |
| Franklin/Hlywd Bl W       | Don Andres      |
| Franklin Hills Res Assn   | Charley Mims    |
| Hollywood Dell Civic Assn | Mary Ledding    |
| Kagel Canyon Civic Assn   | Kit Paull       |
| Laurel Canyon Assn        | Jamie Hall      |
|                           | Cathy Wayne     |
| LFIA (Los Feliz)          | Marian Dodge    |

Nichols Cyn Neig Assn	Julie Kremkus
Res of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Save Coldwater Cyn	Heidi MacKay,
	Suellen Wagner
Studio City Res Assn	Joann Deutch
Upper Mandeville Cyn	John Binder
Upper Nichols Cyn	Joan Cashel

**GUESTS:**

TreePeople	Cindy Montanez, CEO
Mountaingate	Kay George
	Ileana Wachtel
Nichols Canyon	Pam Wick