

Hillside Federation
May 19, 2020
via videoconference
Minutes

I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the videoconference meeting to order at 7:03 pm. (Member and guest introductions were not needed, since all attendees names were onscreen).

Guest: Councilmember David Ryu (CD4)

Councilmember David Ryu presided over the installation of officers. The following officers were installed for the 2020-2021 year:

President	Charley Mims
Chairman	Marian Dodge
Vice President	John Given
Vice President	Mark Stratton
Treasurer	Don Andres
Secretary	Julie Kremkus

Following the installation of officers, Councilmember Ryu remarked on preparation of a discretionary funds report by his office, which will be made public, along with a task force for the fifty plus organizations that his office has donated to during the pandemic. There is still money left over and available for pandemic-related issues in support of communities and organizations. CM Ryu also offered assistance for fundraising to purchase land. He commented on how pleased he is to have a partnership with the Hillside Federation.

Guest: Vickere Murphy

Rep. for Senator Portantino (SD25)

Vickere reported that the legislature just went back to session with a number of members working remotely. Committee chairs are in Sacramento to hear bills. Sen. Portantino is a member of the Economic Recovery Working Group, which is working on a mutual agreement between tenants, landlords, and the state. A proposal would allow tenants not to pay rent during the crisis, and repay it over a 10 year period. In exchange, the landlord would get an equivalent tax break from the state over the same 10-year period. Currently there is about 25% unemployment in LA County, a lot of residents are renters. Many landlords are small mom-and-pop operations.

Senator Portantino is working on a bond measure for parks with Senators Allen and Stern.

Sen. Portantino is providing constituent service support for EDD claims to dozens of people.

Vickere sends out daily updates from CAL Office of Emergency Services (CALOES) along with California Department of Public Health and offered to forward them to us. Charley requested that she send Marian announcements of any town hall meetings.

Following her remarks, Vickere fielded questions about focusing job-growth in environmentally friendly fields, whether high-speed rail was effectively dead due to the economic downturn, how pandemic response has provided opportunities for greater public participation in meetings via videoconference and hopes that this will be retained in a post-pandemic world, and great concern about the large slate of housing bills. Regarding the last topic, Vickere expressed a belief that the California Senate is most heavily focused on COVID-19-related bills.

II. Approval of Minutes

The April 2020 minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report — Charley Mims.

Charley made a few comments about the pandemic. Hopefully everyone is following the rules, even maybe a little bit more careful with the current age group. Going into the future, we should be continuing to wear a mask. Not for our protection but protection of the people we're meeting. He hopes in the not too distant future, we can meet either in person or continue the Zoom meetings. We are all learning a lot from this process. It gives us an opportunity to reevaluate how we interact with our neighbors and friends in the society. So thank you all for helping everybody.

B. Treasurer's Report — Don Andres

For the last 9 years we have had at least 40 members. All 44 current members have paid their dues. The annual holiday party is scheduled to be held at Mulholland Tennis Club, December 10.

IV. Old Business

A. Hollywood Center (AKA Millennium Project)

Robert Young (Oaks Homeowners Assoc.)

spoke on the Draft EIR for the Hollywood Center Project. In conjunction with Beachwood Association, they commissioned a traffic consultant to write a memorandum about the omission of the Franklin/Argyle intersection, one of the main impacted intersections that was omitted. They will also study existing traffic data in that area.

Marian Dodge stated one of the first things addressed in the DEIR is aesthetics. SB743 refers to the public resources code, "aesthetic impacts on residential mixed use residential in a transit priority area, shall not be considered significant impacts on the environment." It doesn't matter how badly it impacts the aesthetics, it's just not considered. The Hillside Federation took a position on the 2013 version of this project. She thinks we should do so again. The city flatly refused to extend the comment period.

Members suggested that the Federation might consider filing a writ of mandate due to the City's failure to extend the comment period due to public libraries being closed and whether we should consider a motion to oppose the project. Charley Mims suggested we get a little deeper into the administrative process before taking a position on the project. John Given mentioned the the DEIR is 12,400 pages with only a 45-day review period. He compared the 157-day extension the of the citywide Sidewalk Repair DEIR. He agreed with Charley it is premature to demand the city deny a project without going through the process. Wendy-Sue Rosen thought it's usually up to the project applicant whether there is an extension. John Given said the city really has the discretion to extend or not. He noted it is a complex project and we will be submitting a comment letter, and asked member organizations to forward their comment letters to him to assist in preparing our letter.

A. Burbank Flight Path – Suellen Wagner

The task force recommended the departure flight path from Burbank be restored to the 2007 conditions, not fly over the Santa Monica Mountains, Studio City, or Sherman Oaks. The task force rejected the proposed procedure departures flight changes that condense the path further over Ventura Boulevard and Valley Vista into Encino, but passed changing the rate of ascent and dispersion.

The community is trying to get the task force interested in runway rotation and going in another direction other than south. Senators Feinstein and Harris and Congressmen Schiff, Sherman, and Lieu all came out and made great public statements in support of the community group. The FAA is supposed to send reports every 45 days.

Charley Mims recommended Suellen send a list of federal and local officials that were on the task force to Marian Dodge to send a thank notes.

C. Wildlife Pilot Study – Marian Dodge for Ali Simard (CD 5)

The City Council meeting on May 20 (10 am) will allow for public comments on the budget. People can call in to make comments. Funding is being cut for the wildlife corridor ordinance as well as the climate emergency office. On May 21 there will be a special meeting to hear budget reports from the CLA in the CAO. Tentative follow up meetings will be scheduled as needed starting in June.

The city budget is currently in limbo from the impact of the coronavirus and it's a work in progress. Ali thanked us very much for our letter of support for the project. Wendy-Sue Rosen asked if David Ryu could put money toward the pilot program, and asked Charley to send an email to Ryu about it. Charley Mims agreed to talk with Councilmembers Ryu (CD4) and Koretz (CD5)

Jamie Hall mentioned that he spoke with a planner about the City's Open Space element (part of the general plan) and was told Planning decided to put housing first and open space on pause, but all the central ideas from the open space element were being inserted into the Wildlife Corridor Pilot Program. Even though it keeps the same name, it's more like wildlife corridor pilot program with an asterisk. The ideas included would broaden the scope of protected trees within the pilot study area, including Mexican elderberry, Toyon and non-native significant trees. Jamie urged everyone to speak at the council meeting.

Charley Mims said they are going to have open comment on the budget, taking motions from all the council members about the budget. It's important that everyone contact your Councilman and ask them to make a motion to restore the funds for the project.

D. 8144 & 8146 Gould St. Project – Jamie Hall

Jamie presented information on a two-home development project on a tiny, substandard street in Laurel Canyon on Gould Street. A few years ago, part of the house fell onto Laurel Canyon Boulevard, shutting down the street for over a month. Laurel Canyon Association has filed a CEQA appeal and is asking for Hillside Federation support for the appeal.

The cumulative export for both lots is more than 1000 cubic yards, which ordinarily triggers a discretionary haul route permit (and therefore CEQA review). The hillside regulations state that when you have contiguous lots in common ownership, you have to count the grading from both lots. There is no question it is over 1,000 cubic yards. The City cannot allow deferring improvement of the roadway to at least 20 feet until after the construction of the house. The only way to get around the required ZAD is to improve the frontage of your road, such that you have the 20 foot continuous paved roadway requirement, which must occur *prior* to issuance of building permits. The applicant had a survey done stating the existing roadway is 20 feet wide, when in fact it is 14 feet wide. The City claims they must accept the applicants report as true.

Emma Howard (CD4) is contacting the Bureau of engineering to get it corrected. The senior structural engineer is also looking at whether 750 cubic yards is the right number, as opposed to 1000.

Charley Mims asked if the existing roadways are 14 feet paved or flat. Jamie Hall stated where Gould intersects Laurel Canyon Boulevard it is mostly 20 feet wide. Three parcels before 8144 and 8146 it ceases to be concrete and starts a tiny paved road with wooden guardrails. This portion is less than 20 feet wide.

MOTION: Jamie moved that the Hillside Federation support Laurel Canyon Association's CEQA appeal of the project. The motion passed.

V. New Business (none)

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Next meeting:

June 16, 2020 (via videoconference)

Julie Kremkus, Secretary

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Argyle Civic Assn

Stephen Krawchuk
David Gadd

Bel-Air Assn	Linda Whitford
Bel Air Hills Assn	Robin Greenberg
Bel Air Skycrest POA	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon Assn	Nickie Miner
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
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res Assn	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell Civic	Mary Ledding
Kagel Canyon Assn	Kit Paull
Laurel Canyon Assn	Jamie Hall
	Cathy Wayne
LFIA (Los Feliz)	Dennis Chew
	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon NA	Julie Kremkus
Oaks Homeowners	Linda Othenin-Girard
	Bob Young
Outpost Estates	Tom Davila
Save Coldwater Can	Suellen Wagner
Shadow Hills POA	Cindy Bloom
Sherman Oaks HA	Jay Weitzler
Studio City Residents	Joann Deutch
Upper Nichols Canyon	Stacy Sillins

GUESTS:

CD 4: Councilmember David Ryu
Emma Howard, Director of Planning

SD 25: Vickere Murphy, Sr. Rep., Sen. Portantino