

Hillside Federation
June 16, 2020
Via video conference
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 may conflict with 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 (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