



HDCA Meeting Notes
March 9, 2022
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Bruce Bermudez
David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Madonna Cacciatore
Pamela Clay
Brandi D'Amore
Linda Deutsch
Judy Dowden
Anne Fitzgibbon
Debra Gainor
Terri Genger
Mark Glassock
Craig Griewe
Scott Grodner
Jan Hohenstein

Wendy Horowitz
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Pamela Kalmus
Jerrica Kelly
Thomas Kelly
Shelley Kiah
Kwock Koe
Mary Ledding
Swami Mahayogananda
John Mannino
Cynthia Martinez
Jason Maruca
Heather Mata
Jeff McDonough
Jennifer Parker

Andrea Paymar
Namita Rathi
Lois Rosby
Jack Rosenfeld
Helene Rotolo
Xanthe Scheps
Diane Silva
Janet Simon
Merle Singer
Nathan Singer
George Skarpelos
Jacqui Tager
Ethan Weaver
Kelly Ziegler

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President

II. Presentation of Ford Theatre Trail Project

Special guests, Mark Glassock and Diane Silva from the LA County Department of Parks & Recreation were invited to share the plans for a formal hiking trail in the hillside around the John Anson Ford Theatre.

Mark Glassock, Acting Capital Projects Group Manager
Email: mglassock@parks.lacounty.gov

Diane Silva, Park Project Coordinator
Email: dsilva@parks.lacounty.gov

Overview

Los Angeles County owns the 32-acre site, which includes the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, just north of the Hollywood Dell. A rehabilitation and improvements project for the Ford was proposed in 2011. The massive theater renovation project was completed in 2017 (at a cost of \$72.2 million). The trail project was part of the initial planning process for the master plan for the site but has not been implemented yet.

At just under a mile in total length, the proposed trail design includes 475 feet at the north end that is an ADA accessible wood boardwalk that culminates at one of five scenic viewpoints positioned along the trail. The rest of the trail will be a 5-foot wide "natural" trail much of which follows the natural ridgeline. Each of the five viewpoints will have interpretive signs featuring historical information about the area.

Making a formal trail is intended to create the following benefits:

- Safer and improved trails for the public to use (instead of the current ad hoc / unauthorized trails that have been created by hikers forging their own paths) and ADA access.
- A formal trail will help protect natural habitats and reduce hillside erosion by directing use away from sensitive areas.
- It will provide public access to views of Hollywood landmarks such as Lake Hollywood and the Hollywood Sign.
- As a formal facility the operators will be able to seek funding for staff to monitor the area, which they feel will reduce wildfire risk.

The north parking lot is the primary access point for visitors and will include new public restrooms, a bike rack, trashcans, a pet waste station, a water fountain, and information signage about trail rules. There are also plans for potential public artwork at this location. The north lot can accommodate 14 cars in total, including one disabled parking spot. The south trail entry is off the main parking lot close to the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre entrance.

So far the project has had an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certified and construction documents have been funded and completed. The next big step is to complete funding for the \$8 million project before construction. So far \$2.5 million has been secured, another \$999,822 has been committed and the final \$4 million is pending. The target date for the project completion and opening to the public is in 2024.

Q&A:

Q: Why is the cost of this project (\$8 million) as high as it is?

A: The terrain makes it challenging. The need for the erosion measures alone is \$1.5 million. Also because of the delay, and the pandemic, the costs of construction have soared since the original plans were drafted. It's possible by the time they actually break ground that the costs may come down, but this number is the figure they are working with in the current world.

Q: Will the parking be free for users?

A: Public users of the trail will be able to park for free at both ends of the trail. The exception being that when there are events at the theater, access to the trail will be restricted.

Q: How regularly will the trash receptacles along the trail be emptied?

A: Each day as needed.

Q: How will trail rules and laws be enforced on the trail?

A: Maintenance staff will be responsible for enforcing trail rules. LA County Parks don't have rangers. The County Sheriff's department generally does public safety enforcement.

Q: Is it possible to have signs with the rules (especially rules about NO SMOKING in the area) at each of the five viewpoints in addition to the two entrances? Visitors may not be familiar that this area is a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and not realize that smoking outside in this area is forbidden.

A: They will make a note about adding signs.

Q: Are there benches at points along the trail for resting?

A: Yes, at each viewpoint there are benches planned.

Q: What are the mitigations for impacts on wildlife?

A: It's their position that by formalizing the trail they can minimize the negative impacts that are currently happening by informal use of the public in this area.

Q: What kind of crowd control is planned? Once the public will be invited to use this hillside it may increase the number of people in the area. Has there been any discussion of requiring permits or reservations for use like those used in other types of parks?

A: There are currently no plans for crowd control.

Q: Will dogs be allowed on the trail?

A: Dogs will be allowed on the trail, but only ON LEASH. There will be pet waste stations provided as well.

Q: What about people traveling south on Cahuenga (south of Pilgrimage Bridge is two-way traffic) attempting left turns into the south lot?

A: The entrances to the south lot are all chained off. The only access point will be via the north lot. Cahuenga Blvd. is one way, from Pilgrimage Bridge north, so there won't be southbound drivers trying to turn left into the north lot.

Q: What about access and water sources along the trail for fire fighters?

A: There is no water source along the trail route. LAFD is the agency responsible for fighting fires in this area.

Q: Will there be an emergency contact to report illegal activity around the trail?

A: Once the project is completed a contact will be provided.

Note: Please direct any further comments or questions to Diane Silva.

Email: dsilva@parks.lacounty.gov

cc: alexa@hollywooddell.com so we can stay in the loop!

III. Updates from Local Officials & Reps

LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's office

Jason Maruca introduced himself as our new rep. With the redistricting, we now fall under a new LA County Supervisor's office. Kathryn Barger is the Supervisor for the 5th District (our previous supervisor was Sheila Keuhl).

Jason arranged for the Ford Trail presentation tonight and wanted to share his contact information. He promised to attend a future meeting and give an update from Supervisor Barger's office.

Jason Maruca, Field Deputy

Email: JMaruca@bos.lacounty.gov

Phone: (818) 993-5170

CD4 / Council Member Nithya Raman's Office

Helene Rotolo announced a change in her role and introduced the new rep for our area, Xanthe Scheps. Helene will still be working at CD4 as the Special Projects Deputy and will work with Xanthe during the transition to get her up to speed. Please note Xanthe's contact information for CD4 issues going forward.

Xanthe Scheps, Field Representative
Email: xanthe.scheps@lacity.org
Phone: (213) 645-7721

Zero-Carbon Building Requirement

Last month (February 9th) Council Member Raman introduced a motion to require all new residential and commercial buildings in LA to operate on a zero-carbon basis. The motion would require that new buildings source their power from the city's energy grid, which is anticipated to be carbon-free by 2035. The LA Dept. of Building & Safety has to report back within 180 days with a plan to implement an ordinance effective at the start of 2023 mandating zero-carbon for new buildings.

Severe Blood Shortage – Donors Needed

Officials have warned that the state (and the rest of the nation) is currently experiencing a severe blood shortage, the worst in over a decade. This Sunday, March 13, 2022 the We Love U Foundation is hosting a blood drive at Dodger Stadium from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm. For more information on how to participate visit: <https://weloveuusa.org/>

Update From CD4 Homelessness Team

In the month of February they were able to get 60 people indoors. 24 of those people were from the encampment at Cahuenga under the 101 Freeway. There are weekly CARE cleanups scheduled to repair the damaged streetlights, clean up trash and remove graffiti at this location.

LA City Attorney's Office

Ethan Weaver, Hollywood Area Neighborhood Prosecutor
Email: ethan.weaver@lacity.org
Phone: (213) 978-7904

Hollywood Gateway (Cahuenga & Franklin) Triangle Update

Waiting for the funding okay from the accounting office, and once that happens the order for replacement plants (same type as what was there previously) will go in. Once the plants are on hand, a temporary fence will go in to keep the area protected until the newly planted shrubs get established. When timing is worked out, the CD4 homelessness team will be working to get the encampment occupants on the triangle moved into housing as part of the Encampment-to-Home program.

The City (General Services Dept.) will be installing an irrigation system as part of the effort and take on the responsibility for providing water (for decades the community had been doing the watering) going forward.

For those who were wondering about the status of the Jacaranda Tree at the center of the triangle, an arborist has been out to look at it and has determined that while a couple of branches had been damaged, the tree itself is healthy and should be okay.

There is a pending case against the individual who caused the damage and Ethan will be asking for restitution to compensate for the cost of restoring the median.

LAPD Update (per Officer Mata)

Officer Mata went out and made contact with the individual who had set up an encampment at the south end of the Holly tunnel recently that had caused many Dell residents to make complaints. He has since moved on.

Crime stats in our area are overall going in the right direction, down. Since January / February there are small declines in every category except petty thefts.

Hollywood United Neighborhood Council

Brandi D'Amore, HUNC Board Member

Email: brandi@hunc.org

Phone: (323) 861-4418

Upcoming RYLAN Event

The LA Emergency Management Dept. is putting on a RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood) presentation on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm. The Hollywood Hills West, Hollywood United and Los Feliz Neighborhood Councils are sponsoring this event. For more information on how to participate go to: <https://hollywoodunitednc.org/2022/03/04/learn-about-rylan-and-neighborhood-emergency-preparedness/>

Gelson's Application for Conditional Use Permit

March 15, 2022 at 9:30 am there will be a Planning Dept. hearing about Gelson's Market application to sell wine and beer for sale and onsite consumption in a planned new, 370 square foot café (17 indoor seats, 12 outdoor seats) within the supermarket property (5877 Franklin Avenue). Proposed hours of operation: 7:00 am – 11:00 pm daily.

Notice of Public Hearing: <https://planning.lacity.org/dcpapi/meetings/document/71559>

You may email concerns and comments directly to the staff administrator. Be sure and ref the case number (ENV-2021-10033-CE): Sophia Kim, City Planning Associate
Email: Sophia.kim@lacity.org

Proposed 23-Story Building

On March 23, 2022 there will be a hearing about a proposed project at 1715 – 1739 Bronson Avenue (between Hollywood Blvd. and Carlos). This project is for a 23-story building with 128 residential dwelling units (12 are set aside as low income units) with 134 parking spaces. There are concerns about the building height (275 at its highest point), and impacts from added density of this project. There are also concerns about safety, specifically relating to traffic in this area. The HUNC PLUM Committee (Planning and Land Use Management) has recommended opposing this project as proposed.

IV. New Business, Events & Announcements

Craig Greiwe, candidate for Los Angeles Mayor introduced himself and gave a brief introduction to his campaign. For those who would like to learn more about him: <https://craigformayor.com/>
In-person Meet & Greet, Tuesday, March 15th at 6:30 pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/join-us-for-a-meet-greet-with-mayoral-candidate-craig-greiwe-tickets-291036486967>
To sign up to be notified of upcoming events: contact@CraigForMayor.com

TUE March 15, 2022 (6:00 pm)

Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) Emergency Preparedness Presentation via Zoom
This is an event by the Los Angeles Dept. of Emergency Management.
To learn about this program: <https://www.readyla.org/>

SAT March 19, 2022 (11:00 am)

The Real Hollywood Story of P22
The HDCA has invited wildlife expert Beth Pratt from the National Wildlife Federation to speak about our local mountain lion, P22. This will be a virtual meeting and we have scheduled it on Saturday morning so that kids can join in and learn about this fascinating creature.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83105083684?pwd=QUNEN2IHN3ZkZkI5bWVGZVQ4Nk5iQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 0508 3684

Passcode: 748841

SAT March 19th (7:00 pm)

Pamela Clay is performing a “Spring Fling” Zoom concert
https://metropolitanzoom.ticketleap.com/pamela-clay-031922/dates/Mar-19-2022_at_0700PM

SUN March 20, 2022

The Los Angeles Marathon - be prepared for street closures and traffic impacts

For details about the schedule: <https://lamarathon.com/pages/lam-schedule>

For road closures: <https://lamarathon.com/pages/lam-road-closures>

For course map: <https://lamarathon.com/pages/la-marathon-course>

SUN March 27, 2022

Academy Awards Ceremony – road closures (Hollywood Blvd.) starting March 20th
For specific street closure information: <https://hollywoodpartnership.com/alerts>

WED April 13, 2022 (7:00 pm)

Hollywood Dell Neighborhood Meeting
We will see if we can (finally) meet in person in April!

SAT April 23, 2022

Hollywood Dell Annual Neighborhood Cleanup Day
In honor of Earth Day (April 22) the HDCA is organizing a neighborhood cleanup.
We will provide snacks, water, tools and projects for volunteers to work on!
Contact: david@hollywooddell.com for information or to sign-up to volunteer! Kids welcome.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:24 pm