



October 11, 2023
Neighborhood Meeting Recap

Attendees:
(alphabetically)

Malek Adel
Ed Bender
David Brewer
Deborah Brosseau
Bruce Bermudez
Panela Clay
Mario Correa
Jason Cottis
Kerry Crutchfield
Brandi D'Amore
Jodi Ehrlich
Anne Fitzgibbon

Matt Franco
Debra Gainor
Scott Grodner
Jan Hohenstein
Wendy Horowitz
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Pamela Kalmus
Kwock Koe
Cynthia Martinez
Christopher Murray
Jeff Natkin
Karim Nasr

Deirdre Owens
Benjamin Perez
Julianna Politsky
Namita Rathi
Josh Scarcella
George Skarpelos
Andy Swanton
Josef Siroky
Gehrig Urbane
Ethan Weaver
Anji Williams
Steve Young

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President

II. HDCA Business

Support of LAFD Station 76

The HDCA Board approved a \$1,000 donation to the fund organized for LAFD Station 76. The goal for the project is to raise \$50K towards repairs and remodeling of this aging station. Station 76 is located at 3111 N. Cahuenga Blvd. and is one of three stations that serve our Hollywood Dell Neighborhood (the other two are Stations 27 & 82).

LA City Council File 21-1230

The HDCA has been alerted of this motion regarding re-zoning of R1 (single-family) neighborhoods to increase density.

There was a question about whether this would apply to areas that are designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones like ours.

George Skarpelos offered to review the file and report back at our next meeting.

Hollywood Central Park (HCP)

The Friends of HCP asked HDCA to write a letter in support of their application for the "Reconnecting Communities" Program grant.

The HCP is a proposed landmark infrastructure project that will create a 38-acre street-level community park covering a portion of the Hollywood (101) freeway.

Hillside Federation Update

Jan Hohenstein attended the September 19, 2023 Hillside Federation meeting and briefed us.

The Hillside Federation is a broad coalition comprised of 48 member organizations in the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles.

Memet Berker gave updates for Council District 4. He is the transportation and infrastructure deputy. He spoke about new tour bus regulations, personnel updates, increased helicopter traffic and road repairs / improvements in Griffith Park.

Friends of Griffith Park filed a lawsuit against the City of LA for failure to adequately analyze the impacts of the Zoo's proposed projects and mitigate the impacts. This includes an 18,000 square foot building on top of a ridgeline, which is to be a visitor center.

They voted to accept the membership of *Save LA River Open Space* a 501c3 organization that has been around for 20 years. <https://www.savelariveropenspace.org/our-mission>

Fire Safety Virtual Workshop

Jason Cottis attended the September 21, 2023 Virtual Workshop hosted by the LA County Fire Safe Council and gave us a recap. He will also send a PDF of the handouts for us to share with our members.

They covered, how to take steps to harden your home and protect your property. They provided instructions on building a "GO" kit and tips for evacuation in the event of wildfire emergency. He has handouts to share and will send them to Alexa to share with the neighborhood.

There was a question about how the insurance companies are aggressively looking for reasons to drop people and dramatically raising premiums to cover the rising costs of covering people in wildfire areas.

Debra Gainor shared a recent tragedy in her family. Her mother lost her entire house in June of this year. A faulty surge protector was the cause of the fire. She was told by the fire department that surge protectors are the cause of most home fires.

There is a "Virtual Wildfire Town Hall" being held on October 19th at 7:00 pm.

To join the zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81778805638> Meeting ID: 817 7880 5638

Hollywood Bowl Community Advisory Group

Jodi Ehrlich gave an end of the season recap as our HDCA representative of the Hollywood Bowl Community Advisory Group. She reviewed the measures taken in our neighborhood this year (traffic barricade added to Dix at Cahuenga, LADOT traffic control at Primrose & Holly) and that the Bowl has retained InfraStrategies, a new traffic consultant, to conduct traffic studies and a report.

Jodi reminded everyone to go online to file traffic or noise complaint form if you are having issues during Bowl events.

Hollywood Bowl Traffic Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfoSRcvfRvaRQD2Klwo9NdK9AIV5mSpKA5ODhCqfbACdNCACQ/viewform>

Hollywood Bowl Noise Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRVDjr8SPOq9QIf5ekWaWy876BsYaKmg4FtqPHjUdLP2G_sQ/viewform

"No Trespass" Signs

David Brewer gave an update on the new Hollywood Dell "NO TRESPASS" signs that the HDCA is having made.

We have ordered 100 signs. HDCA members who pay their 2024 membership dues can get a sign at no charge. Members may also opt to purchase additional signs at \$10 each. Non-members will be charged the full cost of the sign.

Signs must be posted at the entrance to your property. You must also fill out a "Trespass Arrest Authorization" form ANNUALLY (they are only valid for 12 months) and have it on file at the

location Police Station. Our SLO Heather Mata has offered to collect them at our neighborhood meetings.

To download the authorization form:

https://www.ladbs.org/docs/default-source/forms/code-enforcement/tresspass-arrest-authorization.pdf?sfvrsn=7cebeb53_8

III. Neighborhood Hot Topic

Dix Street Encampment Discussion

Resident Julianna Politsky shared her first-hand experiences with the encampment located on the north side of Dix near 6439 the Chevron station. She lives directly across the street and gave an account of numerous disturbing and frightening incidents. She feels the City Council office has not been responsive to her concerns, and those of her neighbors despite numerous emails for the past several months.

The ringleader of this encampment (“Rumple”) has been placed multiple times in housing and keeps returning back to the street. He has been issued several citations. He hosts regular gatherings at his location, often in the late hours (2:00 am – 4:00 am). There is open drug use, and drug sales witnessed by multiple neighbors.

Josh Scarcella, Senior Homeless Deputy for CM Nithya Raman’s office (CD4) attended the meeting to hear the concerns and participate in the discussion. The Council Office approach is to do “outreach” and offer services to the occupants of the encampment. They have arranged to trim the overgrown trees that were providing cover for the illicit activities and have had the LA Department of Sanitation out to do a cleanup.

Council Member Raman has taken the position that she will not consider designating special “no camping” zones in her district (LAMC 41.18 gives each Council Member the discretion to ID special areas that can be enforced by LAPD as no camping zones for 500 ft. radius) despite it’s location near a public park and adjacent to a gas station that is a fire hazard in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).

There was quite a bit of discussion around what the Council Member’s position was for individuals who don’t accept services and conduct criminal activity in their encampments. Multiple residents have witnessed open drug use and drug dealing at this location. The reality is that unless there is a large quantity of drugs, there is unlikely to be an arrest that results in incarceration.

In 2014, California voters passed Proposition 47. The result was that non-violent property crimes (less than \$950 value) and simple drug possession were reduced to misdemeanors. The “Zero Bail Policy” also impacts whether people arrested are kept in custody for non-violent offenses.

Mr. Scarcella indicated that they just keep trying different types of outreach. There are a variety of outreach teams that can be brought in to try and connect with them.

Mr. Scarcella was asked if CM Raman would be amenable to funding additional LAPD officers in Hollywood to patrol this area.

What are they doing to work with Mayor Karen Bass’ office to help with the homeless encampments?

When asked what the community could do to assist with resolving this situation, Mr. Scarcella was only able to recommend contacting his office or the police when incidents occur.

There was also a comment that Governor Newsom has just signed a bill that should help get people who have mental illness issues or addiction can be compelled to get help. Here’s a link to read more

about it: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/10/12/governor-newsom-puts-historic-mental-health-transformation-on-march-2024-ballot/>

IV. Upcoming Events & Announcements

West Nile Virus Detected In Hollywood Hills

West Nile virus has been detected in the Hollywood Hills in the past month.

Take precautions by wearing repellent, report any standing water, uncared for pools, ponds, hot tubs to vector control.

<https://www.glamosquito.org/west-nile-virus-activity-2023>

<https://westnile.ca.gov/>

Street Closures in Hollywood in October

<https://hollywoodpartnership.com/alerts>

Hollywood Community Police Advisory Board Meeting CPAB)

TUESDAY, October 17, 2023 (5pm)

In person, Hollywood Community Room

6501 Fountain Avenue

Halloween in the Dell!

This will be the 17th year! The theme this year is "Vintage Horror Movies"

Location is Primrose & Willetta (Willetta will be closed to vehicle traffic)

TUESDAY, October 31, 2023 (5pm – 7pm)

Hollywood Dell Virtual Neighborhood Meeting

WEDNESDAY, November 8, 2023 (7pm – 8:30 pm)

Meet Candidate Fidencio Gallardo

Meet and greet at Anji Williams home

Fidencio is running for School Board for the newly formed district 5 (our area)

2140 Vine Street

SUNDAY, November 5, 2023 (1:00 pm)

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm