



February 5, 2025
Neighborhood Meeting Recap

Attendees:
(alphabetically)

Tifani Acosta
Jonathan Anderson
Angela Bellias
Ed Bender
David Brewer
Jason Cottis
Brandi D'Amore
Jeff Dowden
Jonathan Fitzgerald
Anne Fitzgibbon
Greg Fuller

Lindsay Fuller
Scott Grodner
Sharon Harris
Jan Hohenstein
Wendy Horowitz
Alexa Iles-Skarpelos
Schelley Kiah
Kwock Koe
Mary Ledding
Yennie Lee
Sam Mao

Cynthia Martinez
Lois Rosby
Merle Singer
Frank Shotwell
Brian Summerset
Robbie Staenberg
Jacqui Tager
Holly Werner-Thomas
Kelly Ziegler

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Alexa Iles Skarpelos, HDCA President

II. Updates from Officials & Reps

Robbie Staenberg

Field Representative, Office of Assembly Member Rick Chavez Zbur (AD-51)

Email: Robbie.Staenberg@asm.ca.gov

Robbie gave an update on a working group that is looking into traffic issues around the Hollywood Bowl and the idea of changing State law to allow for "soft" or partial street closures (resident access only) around the Hollywood bowl. Currently state law only allows "hard" closures. Some neighborhoods around the Hollywood Bowl have been doing hard closures on high volume event nights. This was to stop Bowl visitors from cutting through neighborhoods and causing traffic jams, however residents were also prevented from accessing their neighborhoods using the closed streets. This pilot program is proposing "soft" closures on high volume nights only.

Fire Related Response

Currently working on bills around fire safety and protection. He should have more to share next month. One example would be to Cal Fire year round.

Insurance Challenges

Hillside Federation Meeting February 18th (virtual via zoom) will have a representative from the Insurance Commissioner's office.

Jonathan “J” Anderson

Field Representative, Office of LA City Council Member Nithya Raman (CD4)

Email: jonathan.anderson@lacity.org

J shared that CD4 had hired a private security company to lock up Franklin Ivar Park at night.

RAP (Recreation And Parks)

He said he is very aware of the ongoing issues with encampments in and around the park. They have outreach teams working almost every day.

If you see encampments inside the park, the appropriate place to report it via the LAPD Non-Emergency number (877) 275-5273 / 877 ASK LAPD and they will route the call to the CIRCLE program. CIRCLE is tasked with sending a 24/7 un-armed, trained “crisis and incident response through community lead engagement” team to the location. Be prepared to wait on hold for a very long time.

Park Security

CD4 has hired “Leader Private Security” as of February 5, 2025 to lock up the park at sunset every day. It is part of their protocol to walk through the park and let people know the park is closing and they need to leave. This is for the next 6 months. If anyone sees that the park has NOT been locked up, please take a photo and alert Jonathan.

High Fire Days Recommendations

There is work being done to see what other types of things should be triggered during high fire days, other than parking restrictions.

We have asked that Franklin Ivar Park be included with the list of parks that are closed on Red Flag days.

Q: Is CD4 aware of the man (Bertram Jackson) who is encamped regularly on the hillside below the Pilgrimage Cross and starting fires?

A: Yes, they are aware and working with LA County Supervisor Barger’s office (because it’s LA County property). There were arrests made.

Q: There has been quite a bit of work by LADWP on Odin, is there plan to repave that street? This is one of the few entrances / exits in our neighborhood.

A: There is currently no plan to repave.

Q: Scenic was repaved. Can J look into it and find out how they were able to get that done?

A: Yes.

Note: David C. Nguyen (Mayor’s Office) had been scheduled to attend, but had to cancel due to illness.

III. HDCA Updates

2100 Cahuenga Blvd. Housing Project

- Planning Department Ref# ADM-2024-1833-DB-VHCA-ED1
- 100% Affordable Housing Project Approved via the Mayor’s Executive Directive*
- 5-Story Building
- 182 Units
- 72,880 Square Feet
- No Off-street Parking

The Executive Directive streamlines the approval process for affordable housing projects, typically bypassing a standard public comment period due to its expedited nature. The ED I was updated July 1, 2024 to exclude this type of project on parcels located within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ). However, this project was approved BEFORE the update went into effect.

To review the Executive Directive I: <https://planning.lacity.gov/project-review/executive-directive-1>

Anyone who has concerns or comments may still contact the Planning Department. Be sure and include the project case number. Email: Planning.HCA@lacity.org

J commented that once the project is approved, they have 3 years to begin work.

There is a state rule that residents in this type of project are NOT allowed to apply for permit parking.

Franklin Ivar Park Maintenance & Security

We discussed ongoing concerns about the maintenance of the park (care has declined significantly in the past year and a half). Responsibility of park maintenance is on LA RAP (Rec & Parks).

Note: The HDCA board has approved the purchase of the correct paint (color from the original design) to paint over the tagging on the park walls when needed. Currently they have used many shades of green and it looks pretty tacky...

Dunn Edwards Sparta Shield Exterior Flat

SSSL 10-0-L-5

Color Name: "Rustling Leaves" <https://www.ppgpaints.com/color/color-families/greens/rustling-leaves>

We will add painting to our list of tasks for our Dell neighborhood cleanup day in April.

Hollywood Dell Neighborhood Watch (Jan Hohenstein)

The Neighborhood Watch was established in 2017. The main reason we have this is so that we have a way to contact each other during a situation or big emergency. We have tried to create "blocks" or segments with a point person or "captain." We have some success but there are still large areas of the neighborhood that aren't covered. Our goal is to have a high level of basic participation so that in the event of a major emergency we can communicate effectively important public safety information.

The HDCA is making it a priority to get as many Hollywood Dell residents to participate. Volunteers will be delivering sign up forms with the membership flyers this month. Once we gather the forms we can organize the smaller groups by area.

Hollywood Bowl Community Advisory Group (Lindsay Fuller)

May 31st is the date for this year's community pancake breakfast

June 17th is the Ford Theatre "happy hour" event for neighbors

Mid March tickets for the upcoming season will go on sale.

The hotline for feedback on sound / traffic: (323) 741- 5999

For more information Hollywood Bowl neighborhood page: <https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/about/neighbors>

They have additional resources planned for the April Phish concerts

Neighborhood Fire Safety Committee (Frank Shotwell)

Last month Frank shared information about a program called FIREWISE. It is a program organized by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). It is a free, voluntary program that helps communities reduce the risk of wildfires, encourages neighbors to work together to take action to make their homes and neighborhoods fire resistant. He is now chairing the HDCA committee on this topic. About a dozen people have already reached out to join the working group.

LAFD directed Frank to the MySafeLA group. He has had communication with Dante who has volunteered to work with our committee. The next step is to do a "ride along" to visit the Dell and get the lay of the land.

There are two certifications that we can try to get for the Dell. One is thru the Fire Safe Council (MySafeLA) and we would do it under the umbrella of the HDCA, so that we could apply for grants (since we are a 501c3 organization).

The next step would be for the committee to hold a meeting via Zoom and do the ride along. After that the committee would create a plan / goals to make the neighborhood more fire resistant.

Update on the man who has been camping on the hillside below the Pilgrimage Cross

Suspect name: Bertramed Jackson was arrested and charged with “misdemeanor trespass on closed lands” (they couldn’t charge him with arson because no law enforcement witnessed him light a fire).

There was a hearing and several people from the Hollywood Dell did attend (January 13, 2025). The judge requested a psychiatric evaluation and scheduled a hearing for February 26, 2025 to determine if he is competent or not.

If he is found competent they will proceed with the trespass charge, but expect that he will likely be released with time served.

If he is found mentally incompetent two things could happen:

1. He could be put into a diversion program
2. Put under a conservatorship

He is still in custody and will be until February 26th hearing date.

IV. 2024 Recap

Membership

2024 membership was up +4 % from the previous year with 216 member households
12% of memberships were at the reduced senior / student (1/2 price) rate
88% were at the regular \$50 dues rate or higher (\$50 since 2011)
14% were first time members

Financials

INCOME

Dues	= \$10,404
Donations	= \$ 1,104
Interest	= \$ 291

Total = \$11,799

EXPENSES

Events	= \$5,382 (60%)
Donations	= \$1,845 (20%)
Operating Costs	= \$1,604 (18%)
Projects	= \$ 187 (2%)

Total = \$9,018

Events

- Monthly Meetings
- Annual Cleanup Day
- Hollywood Bowl / Ford Theatre
- Summer Block Party & Pet Parade
- Hollywood National Night Out with LAPD
- Holly-ween in the Dell (this year it was a Tim Burton theme)
- Holiday Dell Holiday Mix & Mingle / Toy Collection

Perks

Vouchers

FREE tickets to the Hollywood Bowl and Ford (35 performances in 2024)

Members Only Raffles

No Trespass Signs

Community Involvement By Hollywood Dell Residents

Thank you to all of you who serve as volunteers in the Hollywood Community!

- Weekly Food (fresh produce) Distribution in Hollywood (at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church)
- Hollywood Bowl Community Advisory Board
- Hollywood Community Police Advisory Board
- Federation of Hillside & Canyon Associations

Remembering Those We Lost

- George & Judy Sunga
- Judy Kass Dowden
- Linda Deutsch
- Nathan Singer
- Joe Levy

V. HDCA Board Elections

Position	Candidates
President	Alexa Iles Skarpelos (running for re-election)
Vice President	David Brewer (running for re-election)
Treasurer	Kelly Ziegler (running for re-election)
Secretary	Jan Hohenstein (running for re-election)

Motion was made to approve the slate, seconded, and vote was taken. The board was approved.

Final thoughts...

Being part of the HDCA helps us have a bigger voice. If you haven't joined yet, please do!