

HOLLYWOODLAND™

Hollywoodland Homeowners Association March 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The board of directors of the HHA thanks all Hollywoodland residents who took the time to attend the March 8th Griffith Park Advisory Board (GPAB) meeting. The meeting presented the \$120,000 Dixon Resources study, the aims of which are to improve and foster tourist access to the Hollywood sign.

The friends and residents of Hollywoodland who were in attendance, on the other hand, presented a desire to return the neighborhood to the residents. They were thoughtful and well spoken, and they packed the auditorium. Council District 4, Recreation and Parks and the GPAB had to have been somewhat taken aback by the strength of this showing. Despite its strength, the officials listened to the impressive set of our 2-minute concerns with little smiles or narrowed eyes which may indicate that they will not heed us.

As Julie Dixon, head of Dixon Resources, explained in Q&A after her presentation, the proposals have been put before the full City Council and are being vetted by assorted city staff. She assured the members of GPAB that the implementation of the simple ones could start in six months. She also stated that the Mayor's Office is firmly aboard with converting our R1 community into a recreational/tourist destination, *complete with world-wide branding*. She drew upon the Pier in San Francisco, The Hearst Castle, and a park in Seattle as examples of what our neighborhood could become.

These "strategies" will be detrimental to HOLLYWOODLANDERS' fire concerns, property values, insurance rates and peace and quiet. Michael Morrow pleaded with officials "for a day of rest". Will we get it? Many resident speakers reiterated the HHA'S support of moving tourism out of all residential neighborhoods. Several mentioned the irony that the city is now facing problems that it, itself, created by promoting the HOLLYWOOD sign, taking unilateral action without due-process, and inviting tourists from all around the world to traipse through the sub-standard public streets of this residential zone.

The Dixon study is a tin-full of Band-Aids. It turns the focus away from a true solution by providing "a little of this and a little of that." Tourism traffic has increased since Ryu took office, and he has done nothing to stem the flow. CD4 has spearheaded actions that further impact us, e.g., erecting Uber/Lyft stations in Hollywoodland. Independent studies show that Uber/Lyft increase traffic, not decrease it—and we witness that every day. Make no mistake, the Dixon study with its 29 proposals serves as a way for CD4 to claim they are working hard on solutions yet tie up The City for years in meetings, hearings, and law suits. Meantime, in HOLLYWOODLAND, conditions will deteriorate.

Keep the heat on CD4 with your calls and emails. None of us want to wake up some morning with retractable bollards outside our front doors and branded signage reminiscent of Disneyland. Ryu will not reply to emails, but his able assistant can be responsive: shannon.prior@la-city.org

While the Dixon study misused the word strategy 29 times and failed to use the word tactics, a reading of it shows that **the strategy is to make HOLLYWOODLAND nice for tourists**. You can't have 29 strategies to win a war; the **strategy** is to win the war; the **tactics** are **how** to win. This \$120,000 study did not even state clearly its goal. It is not, therefore, based on speaking the truth. A pitiful few of its points address safety for the residential community—and most of those pitiful few are nothing more than suggestions that the city enforce existing laws. We have been requesting enforcement for nearly a decade. It is the **will to enforce** that is lacking. **The strategy of the HHA, by contrast, is to return the neighborhood to safety, tranquility, and historic value. To that end, we forward 5 tactics**

1. Maintain the legal closure of the illegally opened trail-head at the top of Beachwood
2. Replant the illegally scraped sections of Canyon Lake Drive
3. Enforce laws against parking, traffic, j-walking, smoking. Report on tickets and revenue
4. Divert all visitor traffic away from any and all residential neighborhoods in Hollywood.
5. Focus on a forward-thinking, intelligent, feature-full, revenue-producing tourist center which also sports a HOLLYWOOD sign photo-op in the business district of the city.

Thank you for your continuing support.

JOHN DELARIO CLUB

The John DeLario Club is suggesting DeLario owners to begin documenting and inventorying unique features of your home. We would like to cross reference some design elements in order to fill in visual holes where remuddling overtook the original design. These holes could be as interesting and as important as an exterior light fixture or an interesting iron piece or tile. Please forward all images to: hollywoodlandgiftedpark@gmail.com.

Thank you

HOLLYWOODLAND WILDLIFE GROUP

MISSION:

Our mission is to encourage, and help guide, Hollywoodland homeowners to document wildlife on their property using game trail cameras. Would you like to know what critters are using your property? It is fun, interesting, and may be valuable information to wildlife biologists and conservationists.

People are learning P-22 was on their property as well as bobcats, raccoons, and deer among other wildlife. If you have kids, this project may also be a great way for them to learn about nature, video, and conservation. The images you collect can be shared with naturalists and the group.

BACKGROUND:

Griffith Park is a unique urban “city” park. We have deer, bobcats, fox, a mountain lion, raccoons, hawks, owls as well as other critters inhabiting a fragile hilly desert landscape. This area is surrounded by residential neighborhoods with homes that have habitat in their yards that also offer these animals places to roam, feed and even den.

These places are a “buffer zone” into the park before more dense urbanization takes place that is dangerous to wildlife. Many people’s yards offer a valuable resource to the larger ecosystem of Griffith Park.

In Hollywoodland there are 575 homes and 100 vacant lots comprising 640 acres and 444 acres of parkland. In 1944, it was originally a gift by the Sherman Company to the city. The “open space” gift that is now part of Griffith Park, identified as a SEA, or Significant Ecological Area, is also located in a high fire hazard zone per state fire code #49. It is also the only Los Angeles hillside residential area bordered by three sides of Griffith Park. So, Hollywoodland is especially valuable as an ecosystem in its own right and as “buffer” to Griffith Park.

Over the last few years we’ve heard anecdotally that many people are seeing fewer deer and other wildlife. What kind of future do we want for Hollywoodland and Griffith Park? Do we want it to become like Central Park in NYC that has only pigeons and rats and tons of people? Maybe some do, but surely many want to preserve Hollywoodland, and our 444 acres of “open space” within Griffith Park, so our unique habitat and wildlife can be enjoyed for future generations.

Experts have already graciously guided us from the Museum of Natural History, the State Park and the city wildlife officer who are excited by our mission. We hope you’ll join our group! If you want to join us, please contact us, and we’ll help you get started. To get a jump-start see the Action Plan below.

ACTION PLAN:

Buy a game trail camera. Our experts suggest the Bushnell trophy camera HD essential E2 12 MO trail camera. “Amazon” is not necessarily the cheapest and some have used B&H in NYC. So, shop around! The camera needs batteries, and rechargeable is a great way to go.

They need a 32 GB SD card. Check the class & speed needed for your camera. If theft is possible, then buy the cable and housing. Most of us are just putting them in our yards out of view. Use 1080 HD “video” mode for 12 seconds. So, we catch behavior. Then, if desired, take still snapshots from the video. Always use the date and time stamp! If you need tech help, Bushnell has a great help line; we are here for you too.

Place the camera in a likely spot. Look for game trails on your property. A game trail, aka wildlife corridor, is a padded down trail of vegetation due to frequent use. DO NOT “bait” (water, food) the camera to draw in wildlife. If you have a pool or spa, so be it. But don’t add a water bowl, etc.

How often you use the camera is up to each person/family. Some of us have filmed, deer, bobcats and even P22, but these are rare events so be patient and consistent!

Some are setting them up on Sunday, and the next Sunday downloading the images to see what wildlife was recorded, putting the images into a folder, recharging the batteries, and setting the camera back up to be checked the following Sunday. It becomes part of an interesting and fun ritual.

What to expect on video? You will have leaves blowing triggering the camera, or birds, lizards, etc. Except for leaves, this is all useful data! There are naturalists interested in just lizards, others birds, even rats.

For example, if you post on “iNaturalist.org” experts and regular folks will see it. It’s run by the Museum of Natural History, and the L.A. Nature Map allows citizen scientists to map biodiversity in the L.A. area. This platform accepts photos only.

On iNaturalist experts may notice you have an endangered species, they want to know about! You’d probably never realize it. Even lizards and rats are important to them. Did you know we have kangaroo rates? Never seen one, but we hope to.

Record the location, and the duration the camera was set there. For example, one property has 3 game trails. So, each trail will have the camera trained on each trail for four months of the year.

Over time, you may find you have P22, or a just a nutty squirrel, who likes selfies and keeps coming back to pose.



If you want to share your video or stills with the group, you can post them to the HHA Facebook page.

The Hollywoodland Wildlife Group wants to help you with any questions, and for you to share your images & stories with each other and the professional wildlife folks! Also, images taken from security cameras are welcome. Contact info: info@hollywoodland.org



THANK YOU FROM JEAN CLYDE MASON

Last month Hollywoodland's own Jean Clyde Mason of Woodshire Drive and her 1937 MG were featured in the Wall Street Journal's "My Ride" column. Here is the link to the article: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-vintage-mg-that-still-turns-heads-in-hollywood-inspired-by-the-movie-rebecca-a-los-angeles-designer-and-her-husband-bought-the-stylish-car-she-has-enjoyed-for-half-a-century-1519138801>

I have so many Hollywoodlanders to thank.

During 55 happy years living here I have a heart full of gratitude. I have been physically helped, artistically encouraged, feted, forgiven and even tolerated for my outspokenness.

Someday I will write a whole list of the friends and neighbors who have shown their true neighborliness, but this note is regarding the recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*. It was all due to Chris O'Brien, our enduring Hollywoodland Champion, who contacted the *WSJ's* A.J. Baime, to promote the story about my big MG, It would not have happened without her. Then, how lucky I am to have also discovered Derek Powell, a thoroughbred automotive journalist who not only found, bought and installed a special battery - just in time for the photo shoot - and who with Bob Andrus, an architect and writer, once actually pushed the car **UP-hill** to reverse a vapor lock. Wow !



Here's an extra "thanks" to everybody who has taken the time to just stop to say "hello". It means a lot to see your smiles and to help me to remember your names.

Rock on Hollywoodland !

Jean Clyde Mason

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Hollywoodland Design Review Board meetings can involve three proposals or just one. If you are adjacent or across from projects will you be officially contacted by the city. With our narrow winding streets, haul routes and construction could impact you and your property no matter where your house is. You can sign up for agendas by contacting our planner

richard.reaser@lacity.org 213-978-1326 and or check the Hollywoodland Facebook page.

These projects were reviewed since January 2018:

- 3061 Belden, new house
- 6405 Flagmoor , new house
- 3062 Hollyridge, accessory building
- 6107 Dorcas , new house
- 3072 Hollyridge, new house

Please note, time and day changes for meetings. As of January 1, 2018 the Hollywoodland DRB meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of each month (projects permitting) at 6:30 PM in the Hollywoodland Real Estate Office.

An appeal was filed against a new house at 3314 Lugano Drive. This project was denied by the DRB 5 to 1, approved by the Planning Dept. and appealed before the area planning commission on Feb. 26. The appeal was denied by the commission.

We are concerned that many of our neighborhood character design elements are disappearing. Both Lugano and Dorcas are unique cul-du-sacs almost unchanged in 100 years. Both streets have proposed new house projects that are not in character to the topography and current homes that grace these streets. We encourage your involvement! A larger voice gives a stronger message.

A DRB sub-committee has been formed who will draft a clearer design guide that will hopefully better communicate and support the purposes of our plan.

The Hollywoodland Specific Plan has been in place for more than twenty-five years. It affects room additions and new houses in Hollywoodland (tract 6450). To date there are 575 Hollywoodland homes and approximately 100 vacant lots. In order to more clearly reinforce the plan's purpose we are asking CD4 to authorize development of a revised point system and a new design guide for the plan. This will be a community involved effort with a series of workshops, public hearings and/or meetings. Your involvement will be welcomed. To move forward with council action we need to show community interest and support. If you agree with this proposed revision please include the following and email it to:

info@hollywoodland.org :

1. Name print and sign
2. Date
3. Address of home/lots
4. Number of lots
5. phone/email

HOLLYWOODLAND ORAL HISTORY

**Interview with Gail Kennard
conducted by Laura Davis,
November 10, 2017**

Gail Kennard and her siblings, Lydia and William, grew up at 3370 Ledgewood in one of Hollywoodland's most striking homes, a mid-century modern design by her father, the distinguished architect Robert Kennard, FAIA. Gail attended Chermoya Avenue School and is a graduate of Stanford (BA) and UC Berkeley (MA).

INTERVIEWER: Do you know why your parents chose this area to build in?

GAIL: So this is 1961 and Hollywood was one of the few areas where blacks could buy property because there were still restrictive covenants in real estate and also my dad was an architect and he was designing homes in the hills. He was a protégé of Richard Neutra and Richard Neutra's design ethic was that you designed for the site and he did hillside homes, too. And my father ultimately worked for Neutra, actually before he designed the house. So he found this piece of property that was for sale. Every weekend, even sometimes before school, he would pile us into the station wagon and we would drive all through Laurel Canyon and all the canyons around here looking for property. My father found this piece of property that was for sale by a Hollywood producer named Herbert Biberman, who won an Academy Award. He was a member of the Academy and he was a film producer or director – I can't remember which (interviewer's note: Herbert Biberman was a screenwriter and director and one of the blacklisted Hollywood Ten.) So, Herbert Biberman owned the site that my father ultimately purchased from him. And Herbert Biberman was a progressive guy. He didn't have any issues with race. Nobody wanted to buy this lot though because it's like a loaf ... how can I describe it? It's a slope. There's no flat area at all, steep slopes on both sides and kind of a natural watershed, kind of a creek on the east side. So, my father, what he did to maximize the flatland, he took an L-shape and cut it out of the slope, so he created some flat space on the first level and a flat area on the second level. So, he saved what he could capture from the land for the open space and he cantilevered the house, which is like a long rectangle, off the east. So he designed this beautiful ... it's about 2300 square feet for our family. My mother was a very short lady. She was 4'11" and so he designed the countertops in the kitchen a little lower for her. Both my parents were very organized people. Thank God, they found each other! So there's a huge amount of storage because they didn't like any clutter. They liked everything out of sight and closed. So, he built this house and he had a craftsman, Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor was a painter. There's a lot of wood in the house -- there's wood panels, walnut, maple, oak, and there's a sconce that covers the light fixture, but he ran out of the oak wood. He

couldn't get anymore that was long enough, so we got a piece of regular plywood and Mr. Taylor -- this is a lost art -- he put the grain in with his brush to match that wood. Because he [Robert Kennard] was influenced by Richard Neutra, there's this real sense of indoor-outdoor. So, there's these full-length sliding glass windows throughout. So when you're sitting in the living room and family room, there's no real distinction. If you're sitting there, you can see out all three ways, so it's great. He loved trees and landscaping so he hired Garrett Eckbo, who was a very prominent mid-century modern landscape architect to do the landscape, and he had been working with Garrett Eckbo. There was this kind of circle of the modernists and my dad was solely in the modernist school.

INTERVIEWER: So, how did your dad come to work for Neutra?

GAIL: He loved Neutra's work. He really believed in the whole aesthetic of modernism because, remember, this is post war, this modernism is just coming into being and at USC, it was very much a modernist thing. That was the new thing so a lot of his contemporaries were doing that. So when he was at USC he met an architect who was practicing at that time, Robert Alexander. Now Robert Alexander is significant because he designed the [Baldwin Hills] Village Green that was cutting edge design for communal living and it's national register status. It's a big deal. So, anyway, my dad's a student at USC. This is post World War II LA. Booming population and there's not enough housing, so Robert Alexander was involved with a progressive organization called the Housing Council and my father volunteered as a student to help them out in the summer. He wasn't paid but he just felt that was an important thing to work on and he met Robert Alexander. When he graduated, he ended up working for Robert Alexander and Robert Alexander was entering into a partnership with Richard Neutra and the partnership was to design housing in what was called Chavez Ravine, where Dodger Stadium is now. And so my dad was working with Robert Alexander, got assigned to work with Richard Neutra and he's like over the moon excited. It's like his dream come true. He graduates from USC School of Architecture, he gets a job, which was difficult enough. He gets a job for Robert Alexander doing housing and working in Richard Neutra's office! He said Richard Neutra would stay up all night doing these sketches and he would give them to him in the morning and he would have to refine them. He's having a ball!

(Interviewer's note: Gail went on to describe how her father's tenure with Richard Neutra was interrupted by his service during the Korean War. The Chavez Ravine project was never built. After the war, Robert Kennard worked at a handful of firms before deciding to found his own architectural firm in 1957.)

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about the 1961 Beachwood Canyon fire.

GAIL: OK, so my parents, Robert and Helen Kennard, were building the house on Ledgewood and they had sold the house

they lived in in LA. It was on Curson near Washington because my father's office was right around the corner. They had sold that and the construction was not going as quickly as they had thought, so they had to move out of that house into a rental house in the same neighborhood because they had three children, my siblings and I, and we couldn't be too far away from our elementary school. So we're in this rental house and then we got to the point [where] the construction was finished enough so that the walls were in, and they moved all their furniture to the house. All the furniture's in the house. We're [now] in this little motel on Venice Blvd for a couple months before the house is finished. So this is June of 1961. All of a sudden, the news – 'There's a fire in the Hollywood Hills! There's a fire' and my father's like, 'Oh my God!' All our furniture's there. So he's watching the news, he comes up here, but he doesn't have a residence address so they won't let him up there to see what happened. So this is like a Thursday or Friday and he's listening, 'Okay, there's houses down on Deronda, there's houses down on Durand.' It's like right here! And this is 1961, so there's no 24-hour news cycle. Radio's got minimal news. So Sunday morning, he finally can come up, they open it up and he realizes that the house is saved, so we dodged a bullet. The house is not completely built but we moved in. We didn't have carpet on the floors or any other stuff, but, you know, my parents were young and we were kids and it was just fine. So then, that winter, torrential rains. Or maybe not torrential rains, but rains. We used to get more rain in those days. And there's a mudslide. Fortunately, it didn't affect us at all. But it was coming down Ledgewood and these houses along Beachwood, up to where the market is, they were like three or four feet up in mud. I remember all this. I was ten years old.

INTERVIEWER: How did you get out of Beachwood Canyon?

GAIL: I can't remember, but I think school was closed for several days. And I was in the fifth grade [at Cheremoya] and there used to be a school bus that would make a circuit all through the hills and pick up all the kids because there were a lot of kids here. So, I'm going to confess to something! So, I hadn't done my homework, so I went to my teacher, Miss Richmond, and I said, 'I didn't finish my homework because of the flood (laughter), the mud and all that!' I didn't, like, *totally* lie, but it was a misrepresentation of the truth. And she said, 'Oh, don't worry. I feel so sorry for you.' We had no mud in our house, but, you know, I used that little fib to get out of some homework.

INTERVIEWER: In the New York Times and L.A. Times obituaries of your dad, there were mentions of Paul Williams, but they wouldn't have been the same generation and Williams was not Neutra influenced. They had very different styles.

GAIL: Yeah, he (referring to Williams) was the generation above my dad and Paul Williams is the reason my dad even

aspired to be an architect. My father grew up in Monrovia. He loved to draw. One of his high school teachers says, 'Oh, you know, you're a colored boy. Do you know about Paul Williams?' He said, 'No, I don't know about Paul Williams.' And then my father's older sister brought him a newspaper clipping or a brochure or something about Paul Williams. He says, 'Wow, he's a colored architect. Wow! There might be a way for me!' Because Paul Williams -- when my dad was in high school -- he was already architect to the stars. He was a big deal.

INTERVIEWER: Even now I wouldn't describe Beachwood Canyon as a particularly diverse community. Were you the only black family when you were growing up?

GAIL: No, actually there were the Taylors and the Taylors lived on Beachwood, in the Village. You know when you're coming up Beachwood and you pass the bus stop? That white Spanish house? It was much smaller when the Taylors lived there. There were [other] black families before we came. The Johnson family who lived on Graciosa, they were there. And the Taylors were here. And then later on, by the time my siblings were in high school, there were other black families. And for some reason, the covenants were not enforced or they didn't have them up in the hills. Because the hills -- this was always the people who were kind of on the outskirts of polite society!

Interviewer's note: If you know any longtime residents who might be interested in contributing to an oral history of Hollywoodland, please email info@hollywoodland.org

PASSINGS

Long time Hollyridge neighbor and former HHA board of director, Joyce Hagen.

BeldenDrive neighbor and husband to Judy, James Marinkovich.



ODDS & ENDS

◆ Thank you to Rose Ware for her generous donation to assist in underwriting welcome packets to our new property owners.

◆ Does anyone have experience with service marks? We need your volunteer time to assist the HHA. The service marks have been secured, but we need someone who will help us monitor them. We are also looking for an attorney who can assist in reading simple documents, etc. Please contact us at info@hollywoodland.org. Write trademark in the subject line.

◆ Interested in learning and/or playing the card game of bridge? Or learning how to watercolor? If we get 3-4 members interested in these activities we will offer free instructions. Please email us with your contact data and write "watercolor or bridge" in the subject line sending it to: info@hollywoodland.org

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

◆ Did you know Hollywoodland had their own gravity fed water system until the 1930's?

◆ Did you know Hollywoodland currently gets their water from the Tyrolean above ground tank off Deronda and Mulholland Hwy? This process is still gravity fed. Do you think it is a safe idea to have RAP filter tourists interested in viewing the Hollywood sign to the Tyrolean plateau an area previously considered off limits?

RODENT POISON AND OUR WILDLIFE

What you should know. Research shows that anticoagulant rodenticide, commonly referred to as rat poisons, meant to control (kill) rodents, are also killing our native wildlife

How? Rodents do not die in the bait boxes used to poison them. Instead, the poisoned rodents leave the box and move around the environment for several days before they die. These toxic rodents are easily caught and eaten by our wildlife and the poisons pass up the food chain, leading to the death of many wild animals such as hawks, owls, bobcats, foxes, and even mountain lions.

To control rodents without poison, use traps and remove the resources that attract them such as food, water, and shelter.

- Use mechanical traps such as capture, snap, and electronic traps.
- If you choose to hire a company to assist you, make sure they perform rodent exclusion techniques rather than pest control.



90% of bobcats tested during an NPS study in LA and Ventura Counties had rodent poisons in their systems.

Photo courtesy of TJ Escott, Beachwood Dr.

Prevent access into houses or buildings

- Seal all holes, gaps, and crevices that allow access into businesses, homes, garages, attics, and crawl spaces.
- Use 1/4 inch metal mesh or metal flashing to seal up entry points and steel wool from small holes.
- Keep hedges and bushes away from buildings.
- Remove tree limbs within three feet of roofs and buildings.

Remove rodent food sources

- Prevent access to fruiting trees and gardens. Trim fruit tree branches two to three feet away from fences and wires.
- Secure metal band (36" tall) around fruit trees trunks to prevent climbing.
- Prevent access to bird feeders and fallen bird seed.
- Feed pets inside and secure trash and compost bins.
- Keep trash and recycling areas clean and bins covered.
- Replace trash cans and dumpsters with holes.

Remove rodent shelter

- Remove ivy and trim thick vegetation.
- Remove wood and debris piles.
- Seal up under decks (use 1/4 metal wire or solid panels).

Help Stop This Toxic Food Chain

Article courtesy of the National Park Service

Special thanks to guest editors Soren Kerk & George Clark

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