



Green Team Committee Minutes

Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 7:00pm
Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Committee Members : Rachel Lester, Larry Hess, Barry Levine, Saran Kirschbaum, Phyllis Rothman, Veronica Cabello, Sherilyn Correa, Anne Sutton, Karen Smith-Laramay, Karen Antholis, Charmaine Colina, Anne Geffner, Elisa Leonelli, Neal Anderberg, Paula Waxman, Armando Roman, Martin Epstein, Erick Morales

Members Present: Rachel Lester, Saran Kirschbaum, Phyllis Rothman, Anne Sutton, Karen Smith-Laramay, Charmaine Colina, Paula Waxman, Martin Epstein

Community Committee Members Present: None

Committee Members Absent: Larry Hess (excused), Barry Levine, Veronica Cabello, Sherilyn Correa, Karen Antholis, Anne Geffner, Elisa Leonelli (excused), Neal Anderberg, Armando Roman, Erick Morales.

II. General Public Comment

- A. **Phyllis Rothman discussed the Keystone XL Pipeline:** It is a pipeline system projected to transport synthetic crude oil from northeastern Alberta, Canada to refineries in Illinois, Oklahoma, with proposed connections to refineries along the Gulf Coast of Texas. It would consist of the operational "Keystone Pipeline" (Phase 1) and "Keystone-Cushing Extension" (Phase 2), and two proposed Keystone XL pipeline expansion segments. After the Keystone XL pipeline segments are completed, American crude oil would enter the XL pipelines in Montana and Oklahoma.

In Jan. 2012 Obama blocked the project, citing a need to review its route across sensitive lands and a Nebraska aquifer. Proponents of the project feel the pipeline will stimulate jobs and energy production. The House Energy and Commerce Committee recently voted to send the bill to the full House where it will likely become part of a highway infrastructure bill or a must-pass payroll tax-cut bill.

Phyllis said that concerned citizens can reach their state Senators at the numbers below to state their opinions on the project:

- Barbara Boxer: (202) 224-3553
 - Diane Feinstein: (202) 224-3841
- B. **Councilman Paul Koretz has a new Deputy of Environmental Affairs & Sustainability, Andy Shrader.** Andy has worked on the passage of two bills currently in the city and state legislature: a ban on single-use plastic bags, and a ban on Styrofoam.

III. New Business

- A. **Robertson Tree Planting on Sat. March 24** The Green Team of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council will be in charge of planting Chinese Elms along South Robertson on Sat. March 24th. The trees will be provided by Million Trees LA with funds from the South Robertson Neighborhoods

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Nick Burkhart
Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

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Council and the offices of Councilmen Wesson and Koretz. The tree that we preferred was the California native Sycamore but for various reasons the city does not approve these trees.

1. Volunteers: We will need about 100 volunteers for both physical and non physical jobs (organizing volunteers, passing out snacks/water, etc.)
 - i. We will be asking for volunteers from local schools, businesses, religious organizations, HOA's, farmer's market.
 2. Advertising: we will need flyers in English and Spanish. **Martin Epstein** will get text for the flyers from Larry Hess and ask Doug Fitzsimmons to design.
 3. The tree planting project is in two phases:
 - i. Phase I: Sat. 3/24/12 Chinese Elms will be planted in empty tree planters and additional cuts will be made in the sidewalk to provide planters for additional trees..
 - ii. Phase II: (To begin next year) Existing Chitalpa trees will be removed and the remainder of the Chinese Elms will be planted.
- B. **Mayor's Day of Service, March 31st:** The Green Team does not have to participate this year in this event.
- C. **Speakers Scheduled:** April Meeting- Lisa Novick, Director of Outreach and K-12 Education, Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants, Inc.
- D. **Motion to Allocate Funds Passed Unanimously**(See attached Motion GT Budget Expenditures)
- E. **Possible Submissions for Future Expenditures** came from Anne Sutton of Shenandoah and Charmaine Colina of Castle Heights Elementary Schools. They will discuss with Paula and submit in the form of a motion at the next meeting.

IV. Old Business

- A. **Coalition of Los Angeles Green Committees** will meet Thursday, Feb. 23rd at 7pm at Tree People Center on Coldwater and Mulholland. All are welcome. The theory behind a coalition of green committees is to share best practices, promote education on important environmental issues and legislation, provide mutual assistance to individuals wishing to start green committees.
- B. **Sustainable Works Environmental Workshops** : begin Feb. 6 and run for 6 Monday nights at 7pm. ... except on Monday Feb. 20th, President's Day, the workshop will be dark. There are still four remaining. Attendance is free.
- C. **Hami Garden Fruit Pick:** students, committee members, and neighbors picked 1800 pounds of citrus fruit in three hours on Jan. 22, 2012. The harvest went to the food banks at SOVA and St. Augustine's Catholic Church in Culver City. Because we had such an abundant harvest, **Martin Epstein** has agreed to find us more food banks that could use the fruit.
- D. **Future Speakers Selected:**
 1. SIERRA CLUB, "Beyond Coal Campaign"



2. SIERRA CLUB, “Zero Waste” Hillary Gordon
3. TREE PEOPLE/ WATER CAPTURE, Andy Lipkis, Founder
4. LOW ENERGY LIGHTING, Jake Hakimi, Alcon Lighting
5. RAIN CAPTURE, Paula Henson from “Rainbud”
6. ELECTRIC CAR TECHNOLOGY, representative from “Plug in America”
7. COMPOSTING TECHNIQUES, Rob Kadota from City Waste Management
8. OCEAN GYRES, Ann Cummins from Agalita Marine Research
9. REUSE PRACTICES, “The Reuse People of America”
10. SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MATERIALS “Thread Collaborative”
11. WELLNESS, Jeanne Kuntz of “Teaching Wellness”
12. CLIMATE CHANGE, Gore’s Climate Reality Project

E. Field Trip: Ballona Wetlands Eco Reserve

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.