



Green Team Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 9, 2012, 7:00pm

Meetings end at 8:30pm unless the committee votes to end earlier or extend the time

Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria

2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

ROOM CHANGE: [Hamilton Senior High School, Room 607, Second Floor, LAB BUILDING](#)

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Paula Waxman, Larry Hess, Barry Levine, Saran Kirschbaum, Karen Laramay, Martin Epstein

Community Members Present: Dorothy Gray, John Krogstad, Miryam Bachrach, Simon Ghertner, Ashanti Durham, Leslie Robin, Katayoun Marciano, Ariana, Marciano, Andy Shrader

Committee Members Absent: Rachel Lester, Veronica Cabello, Sherilyn Correa, Anne Sutton, Charmaine Colina, Anne Geffner, Elisa Leonelli, Neal Anderberg, Erick Morales

II. General Public Comments

- a. Hami Garden needs volunteers. Summer hours Tuesdays and Saturdays 10 to noon.
- b. Green Team is working on a list of substitutes for plastic. Please come up with other idea.

I. New Business

- a. Soro Festival, June 3rd, 2012
 - i. Collecting Recycled Wine Corks
 - ii. Distribute Conservation Corps Trees
 1. We have asked for Cal Native Trees.
 - iii. Selling worms, compost bins, worms, cuttings for the Hami Garden.
 - iv. Signing Up New Members
 1. Easel with photos of our activities.
 - v. Hand outs about Green Team programs.
 - vi. Reusable bag give-away with information on plastic bag substitutes.
 - vii. Other Ideas are welcome.
- b. Tonight's Speaker-Anna Cummins, Algalita Marine Research Foundation, speaking on the OCEAN GYRES of plastic pollution
 - i. Introduction
 - ii. Presentation on our oceans
 1. This issue is truly a global issue. It exists in all oceans around the world.
 2. A Gyre is a spinning ocean current.
 3. Plastic is relatively new to society.
 - a. 1940's during WWII increase in plastic use.
 - b. We have created a throw away culture.
 - i. (Photo of beach on the big island of Hawaii, covered in junk).
 - c. After a rain, Ballona Creek is full of garbage and a lot of it escapes into the ocean.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Nick Burkhart
Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920
F: (310) 295-9906
E: info@soronc.org

soronc.org





- d. Debris from the Japan, China, and the West Coast of the US make up the northern Pacific gyre.
- e. This trash is not bio degradable, but it does photo degrade into small bits which is eaten by marine life as food or can entrap marine mammals and sea life. (Photos of Turtle grown into a plastic ring. Photo of bird's stomach full of plastic on Midway Island.
- f. Potentially 100% of sea animals have plastic inside.
- g. Roughly 35% of what's in fish that feed on Zoplankton at night is plastic.
 - i. This is in our food chain.
- h. WWW.5gyre.org
- i. Persistent Organic Pollutants (Pops) will stick to plastic. So plastic absorbs pollutants.
- j. Could pollutants be in us?
 - i. Blood tests show levels of pollutants are now in humans.
 - ii. How do those chemicals interact with one another in our bodies?
- k. Pangaea Explorations travelled to other Gyres to study amounts of plastics in the ocean.
 - i. North Atlantic sea exploration. Found many items of plastic.
 - 1. Finds many samples of plastic bottles with fish bites taken out.
 - ii. Indian Ocean Gyre.
 - 1. Samples of plastic were the same as north Atlantic and North Pacific.
 - 2. Only once did they not come up with plastic.
 - iii. Video on living at sea. Travelling through South Atlantic Gyre.
 - 1. Full of Marine Plastic Pollution. Like plastic confetti across the entire ocean surface.
 - iv. Plastic bags can be found, but they usually photo degrade into smaller elements which are found.
 - v. On Easter Island, plastic all around the island.
- I. Solutions
 - i. Not Recycling, Not landfills. We bury, burn and ship our plastic around the world.
 - ii. **Just don't buy it.**
 - iii. Refuse straws
 - iv. Bring your own bag, everywhere.
 - v. Innovation, from the top down.



1. We need an alternative to plastic.
2. Sugar based not corn based plastic.
- vi. Burning plastic is not a solution either. It releases toxins.
- vii. Legislation is critical, but it's difficult
 1. Locally we can push for legislation
 2. EPR Extended Producer Responsibility. Putting the responsibility on the producers of products to redeem their products at the end of its life cycle.
- viii. Education
 1. Algalita Marine Research Foundation will train high school students to reach out to the community, to spread the word about the dangers of plastic.
- m. What you can do.
 - i. Refuse single-use disposable items.
 - ii. Beach cleanup is gbye cleanup.
 - iii. Contact your legislators.
 - iv. Get involved with 5 Gyres Institute.
 - v. Educate others.
- n. Join an Expedition.
- o. Reach out to us on Facebook and Twitter.
- iii. Questions and Comments
 1. Plastic is everywhere. Where do we begin?
 - a. Stop using throw away plastic.
 2. Is plastic infinitely recyclable?
 - a. No. It becomes lower grade when it is mixed recycled.
 3. Read *Cradle To Cradle*, great, informative book.
 4. Take Sustainable Works workshops in Santa Monica
 5. The single use plastic bag ban is going to LA City Council May 23rd. Please come show your support.
 6. Deny the right of corporations from personhood and Campaign Finance Reform.
 7. Earthbound Farms
 8. Take an old T shirt and turn it into a ready made produce bag.
 - a. Great project for students.
 9. PHA is sugar based "plastic" product that is not readily available yet, but will be use.

II. Old Business

- a. Robertson Tree Planting discussion

III. Adjourned at 8:30

Notes:

Special thanks to our official posting locations:
Demers & Associates, The Robertson Blvd Library, The Robertson Recreation Center, The Office of Councilmember Paul Koretz, Malcolm Brown Insurance Co., Hamilton High School, and the SORO NC and DONE websites.



In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website (soronc.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact us via phone at (310) 295-9920 or via email at info@soronc.org.

Translators, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices for the hard of hearing and/or other auxiliary aids/services are available upon request. To ensure the availability of services, please make your request at least three (3) working days before the scheduled date. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call (213) 485-1360.

SI REQUIERE SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION, FAVOR DE NOTIFICAR A LA OFICINA 3 dias de trabajo (72 horas) ANTES DEL EVENTO. SI NECESITA ASISTENCIA CON ESTA NOTIFICACION, POR FAVOR LLAME A NUESTRA OFICINA AL (213) 485-1360.