



## Green Team Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August, 10 2011, 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

Doug Fitzsimmons  
President

Brian Kite  
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria  
Secretary

Terrence Gomes  
Treasurer

South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council

PO Box 35836  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

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

[soronc.org](http://soronc.org)



### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. **Committee Members:** Paula Waxman, Larry Hess, Barry Levine, Bette Billet, Saran Kirschbaum, Phyllis Rothman, Veronica Cabello, Sherilyn Correa, Anne Sutton, Karen Smith-Laramay, Marie Trapnell, Karen Antholis, Charmaine Colina, Anne Geffner,
- b. **Committee Members Present:** Paula Waxman, Larry Hess, Saran Kirschbaum, Phyllis Rothman, Veronica Cabello, Anne Sutton, Charmaine Colina, Anne Geffner
- c. **Committee Members Absent:** Barry Levine, Sherilyn Correa, Karen Smith-Laramay (on vacation), Marie Trapnell, Karen Antholis (on vacation),
- d. **Vote in New Members: The following members were voted in unanimously:** Martin Epstein, Rachel Lester, Erick Morales
- e. **Visitor:** HarSimran Khalsa

### II. General Public Comment

- a. **Peace Picnic:** will be held at the Robertson Recreation Center on Sunday, September 18 from 1 to 4 pm.
- b. **Raymond made the follow announcements:**

Sunday, August 14th,  
Nisei Week Parade  
<http://niseiweek.org/>

September 25th  
Los Angeles Triathlon  
<http://www.latriathlon.com/>

October 1st  
Los Angeles Korean Festival.  
<http://www.lakoreanfestival.com/>

### III. Business

- a. **Amendments to the Strategic Plan:** The Committee voted unanimously to accept the following amendments to the Strategic Plan:
  - i. **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY:** encourage the community to express opinions on environmental and legislative matters with reasonable efforts given to exploring and encouraging participation from all sides of issues.
  - ii. **GRANT WRITING:** to find outside funds to support efforts and action areas outlined in the Green Team Committee's Strategic Plan and with the approval of the SORONC Board and SoRo Inc.



- iii. **CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE:** to support the efforts of charitable organizations within our community, and outside our community when deemed appropriate by the SORONC Board.
- b. **Styrofoam Ban:** At the June 16<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting, the Board voted to approve that the Board write a letter to select state assembly representatives and the state governor supporting the passage of SB 568, a bill prohibiting food vendors from dispensing food in styrofoam food containers. Vote 13-Y, 1-N, 2-A.
- c. **Green Team Committee Budget:** The working budget approved by the committee chairs for the Green Team for 2011 is as follows: School Recycling \$600; Robertson Beautification \$4900; Fruit Picks \$200; Hami Garden \$900; Hami Beautification \$500. The committee unanimously voted to **approve** spending up to \$200 for fruit pickers to be used when volunteers conduct urban fruit harvests. In the past we have had to borrow fruit pickers from the mayor's office and various community members. There have never been enough tools, slowing down the harvesting. The fruit pickers will be housed in the Hami Garden shed.
- d. **Zero Waste:** recycling Hamilton High School. No Hamilton teachers were present so this discussion tabled until September meeting.
- e. **Solar Panels for SORONC public schools.**
  - i. **Hamilton High:** Dina Kraemer, AP Environmental Science teacher at Hamilton wrote to the Committee reporting that:

"I met with the LAUSD Director of Sustainability, Kim Kennedy on July 26. Hamilton solar panels were one of the top topics. We were initially selected as one of the first high schools in the LAUSD to receive solar panels. However, after structure evaluation we were eliminated because:

    - The buildings were basically too old
    - Cost prohibitive to update and pass the wind shear tests for solar panels on roof
    - Other option was parking lot panels. Our parking lots are too small for cost to benefit.
  - ii. **Canfield Elementary:** Karen Antholis, a former parent at Canfield wrote to the Committee reporting that: "I worked for a couple of years trying to get solar panels at Canfield. The LAUSD Office of Sustainability surveyed area schools for suitability. I believe in the end they selected Castle Heights. The contact at the Sustainability office was Randy Britt."
  - iii. **Castle Heights Elementary:** Charmaine Colina, a teacher at Castle Heights reported that: "Three or four years ago, LAUSD designated our school to receive solar panels after coming to survey our rooftops. They came a second time and did some preliminary work and then the whole project died. No one ever told us the exact reason (and it is very difficult to get an answer from ...LAUSD), but a Castle Heights parent who works in the solar power industry said he had heard it was a problem between DWP and LAUSD that eventually killed the project.....Maybe with the neighborhood council behind it, we can make it happen this time."
  - iv. **Shenandoah Elementary.** Anne Sutton will check with her principal to see if Shenandoah qualifies.



- f. **Cisterns for SORONC public schools.** Saran Kirschbaum will research the possibility with Andy Lipkis of Tree People and DWP.
- g. **Robertson Beautification (Robertson Trees)** Larry Hess reported that he and Paula Waxman met with the Mayor's administrator of Million Trees LA, Lisa Sarno, Liz Carlin, Field Deputy for Herb Wesson and David Giron, Field Deputy for Paul Koretz to request that the city do an inventory of trees along S. Robertson between Cadillac and Cattaraugus. We needed to know the number of existing trees, dead trees, new cuts needed in order to get a sense of the total budget required to plant new trees. The city sent out an auditor but the official inspected the wrong blocks so a new inspection needed to be done. To date, after several emails not only from Larry, but also from Liz, we have not received Lisa Sarno's report. **(Storm Drain Clean Up.)** Saran will do an inspection of the neighborhood to determine what drains need cleaning. We will try to get the city to remove the blockages.
- h. **Hami Garden "Stepping Forward" teen program:** Hami Garden is hosting incoming Hamilton High School freshman students from the "Stepping Forward" program. They work in the garden once a week and will be beautifying the school. The idea of the program is to familiarize the students with the school before starting in the fall.
- i. **SCHOOL CONSERVATION PROJECT 2011-2011:** THIS PROGRAM WILL PAY ANY LAUSD SCHOOL FOR SAVINGS IN WATER AND ENERGY COSTS. IF A SCHOOL SITE SAVES A MINIMUM OF MORE THAN 1% IN ITS COSTS AND CONSUMPTION FOR WATER AND ELECTRICITY, THEN THE SCHOOL ERNS 50% OF THE COST SAVINGS! Contact Naomi Zimmerman at (213) 241-6546 or [Naomi.zimmermann@lausd.net](mailto:Naomi.zimmermann@lausd.net) Paula passed out flyers to Charmaine Colina, Eric Morales, Anne Sutton, and Saran Kirschbaum who will take them to Canfield. This program might qualify for the Business Greening Program attached to the grant. Paula will investigate.
- j. **DWP Grant update. GREEN LIVING WORKSHOPS and BUSINESS GREENING PROGRAM**

Paula Waxman announced that Paul Koretz's Council District 5 was awarded a grant from the DWP which enables them to offer free to the community a six-week program led by trained instructors from Sustainable Works. Each meeting is 1-1/2 hours and is designed to educate participants on the following topics as they relate to the environment: water, energy, waste, chemicals, transportation, shopping, and food.

The first series of workshops will be held at the Westside Pavilion Community Room B, running for 6 Thursdays beginning October 13 from 7 to 8:30pm. Register by visiting [www.sustainableworks.eventbrite.com](http://www.sustainableworks.eventbrite.com) or call Gina Garcia at (310) 458-8716 x 4.

The grant also provides for sustainability experts to visit 18 businesses in District 5. This Business Greening Program is designed to guide businesses in cost effective ways of converting the workplace and business practices into achieving significant reductions in the use of energy, water, and waste materials and at the same time reducing overhead costs. This Business Greening Program is free to businesses with 5 employees or more. Contact Sustainable Works at (310) 458-8716 x2.



Everyday, over six billion of the earth's inhabitants make choices that can either help or harm the planet that sustains us. We are all part of an interdependent web of life that begins in our local communities and expands into our global ecosystem. It is easy to become overwhelmed with concern for the planet, so realizing that our daily choices can have a positive effect on the global community makes the task less daunting.

- k. The committee unanimously voted to spend up to \$200, first to purchase compostable utensils if needed after an inventory is conducted of what utensils the SORONC already has on hand in storage. Whatever monies remain after utensils are purchased may go toward the purchase of food for the Peace Picnic. All purchases not to exceed \$200.
- l. **Newsletter:** Larry is trying to put together a newsletter from the Green Team Committee (perhaps in both English and Spanish). Martin, Phyllis, Saran, and Rachel have agreed to help him.

**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](http://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](mailto: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.