



# Green Team Committee Minutes

Wednesday, December 14, 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

## I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. **Committee Members:** Paula Waxman, Larry Hess, Barry Levine, Saran Kirschbaum, Phyllis Rothman, Veronica Cabello, Sherilyn Correa, Anne Sutton, Karen Smith-Laramay, Marie Trapnell, Karen Antholis, Charmaine Colina, Anne Geffner, Elisa Leonelli, Martin Epstein, Rachel Lester, Erick Morales, Neal Anderberg
- b. **Committee Members Present:** Larry Hess, Barry Levine, Saran Kirschbaum, Phyllis Rothman, Karen Smith-Laramay, Elisa Leonelli, Rachel Lester
- c. **Committee Members Absent:** Paula Waxman, Veronica Cabello, Sherilyn Correa, Anne Sutton, Marie Trapnell, Karen Antholis, Charmaine Colina (excused), Anne Geffner, Martin Epstein, Erick Morales Neal Anderberg.
- d. **Vote in New Members:** Armando Roman
- e. **Non Committee Members Present:** Chelsea McFarland, Rob McFarland, Charles Miller, John Hoeffel

## II. General Public Comment

- a. Saran Kirschbaum and Larry Hess discussed an interesting web site: [Ideas.LA2B.org](http://Ideas.LA2B.org): where the city of LA is looking for ideas to reduce LA traffic using an interactive discussion board.
- b. Saran Kirschbaum discussed the dangers of BPA, which is now banned in baby bottles by the State of California because it is an endocrine disruptor. However, BPA is still used to line canned products. Saran suggested that the Committee address this further. For more information see: <http://www.peoplespharmacy.com/2011/11/24/canned-soup-raises-bpa-levels/>
- c. Phyllis Rothman: A study published in *Science* by E3 (Energy & Environmental Economics, Inc.) indicates the only way to reduce green house gas emissions to the goal of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 is to completely decarbonize electricity generation. Details of report at: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/electricity-is-key-to-solving-climate-challenge-134462283.html>
- d. Climate Resolve: Larry Hess mentioned a conversation he had with Jonathan Parfrey of Climate Resolve. He is eager to work with Green Committees around Los Angeles to help increase awareness of the local effects of climate change and how we can help shape the future by pressuring governments to change current destructive practices. We hope to plan an educational seminar with his help. For more information see: <http://climateresolve.org/>

## III. New Business

- a. **Bee Colony Collapse Disorder:** Rob and Chelsea McFarland of Honey Love read the attached statement. Honey Love is looking for our support in recommending that Los Angeles allow for controlled residential bee keeping. Mar Vista Neighborhood Council and Marina Del Rey Neighborhood Council have lent their support following the results of a feasibility thorough study:
  - i. <https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B3mjhYhHhzMrNGRiYjkzNjltMGExNi00Y2I1LWlyMWUtY2VhYTlwNzJkMTQ5M>

The Soronc Green Team discussed and unanimously passed the following motion:

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Nick Burkhart**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

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“The South Robertson Neighborhood Council moves to recommend the implementation of a Beekeeping Pilot Program in the City of Los Angeles in order to test the possibility that urban beekeepers can help to reverse the trend of diminishing bee colonies.

We also recommend that the City of Los Angeles adopt a policy that would include the safe transference (rather than destruction) of existing colonies wherein their current position poses a threat to citizens. This policy should also include conditions relating to the maintenance, location, registration and identification of beekeepers to insure the safety and continued preservation of the quality of life for those living near urban beekeepers and bee hives.”

- b. **Indigenous California Native Plants along the Light Rail Expo Line:** Charles Miller of the Palms NC gave a short presentation on the importance of encouraging the Exposition Construction Authority to use native plants in phase II of the Exposition Line.
  - i. **Non-native** plants usually require more water,
  - ii. **Non-natives** require fertilizer which leads to algae bloom in the ocean.
  - iii. **West side neighborhood council, mar vista neighborhood council, Sustainable works supports this.**
  - iv. **SORONC Green Team approved the submitted motion unanimously.**
- c. Motion to Recommend LA Dept of Recreation and Parks replace City Hall lawn with sustainable landscaping. Charles Miller of the Palms NC, informed us that the City Hall has already fertilized and reseeded lawn for grass. The Soronc Green Committee agreed to continue with the motion as attached which passed unanimously.
- d. Coalition of Neighborhood Council Green Committees is underway and should soon be organizing a quarterly meeting.
- e. Phyllis proposed that we CC Jonathan Palfrey, Paula Daniels and more Los Angeles Government employees on our Letter Motions.
- f. Our winter Fruit Pick has been set for Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We need volunteer pickers and trees. Rachel has agreed to create the fruit pick flyer.
- g. Rachel and Larry will be creating the Winter Green Team Newsletter.

**IV. Old Business**

- a. Neighborhood Tree Plantings: Robertson Blvd. tree planting set for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>. Gibson tree planting date not set. Larry is working with Stephanie Ripps of Reynier Village on this project.
- b. DWP Grant Update: Temple Isaiah Workshop begins February 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 for 6 weeks. Contact Gina Garcia at 310-458-8716 to enroll. Workshop is free for anybody to attend.

**V. Adjournment**



## Attachment

### Urban Beekeeping

by Rob & Chelsea McFarland of HoneyLove.org

They say that you don't choose to be a beekeeper, but rather the bees choose you. So when a swarm of honeybees showed up in our organic garden on my birthday last Spring, we were recruited into the ranks of beekeepers, an order that includes everyone from Aristotle, the Apostle Luke, Alexander the Great and several of our country's founding fathers, to Steve Jobs, Martha Stewart and Michele Obama.

As avid gardeners, Chelsea and I had been following the Backwards Beekeepers blog for several years prior to the swarm showing up, so we knew exactly who to call. A few hours later, a volunteer from the organization showed up and removed the bees without incident. We were able to find a new home for them in Santa Monica where they are now happily making honey.

This experience drove us to learn more about honeybees and start HoneyLove.org an organization committed to saving bees from extinction by educating and inspiring urban beekeepers. The more we have learned about the plight of the honeybee, the more we are drawn in, like honeycomb filling in a frame.

The histories of the human species and that of the honeybee are inseparable. Neither species could have evolved to present conditions without the symbiotic relationship that we harbor.

Albert Einstein is thought to have said, "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."

The reason for his grim prognosis is the fact that bees pollinate 80% of the world's plants including 90 different food crops, which means that 1 out of every 3 bites of food is thanks to a bee.

Unfortunately, we have real reason to fear the specter raised by Mr. Einstein. Since 2006, more than one third of honeybee colonies collapsed nationwide, a phenomenon now called Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD. And while there is no one smoking gun causing CCD, scientists now widely agree that it is a result of a combination of factors, made manifest by industrial beekeeping, a practice which involves trucking thousands of hives great distances to pollinate crops, exposing bees to countless pesticides, interfering with the species natural defenses by treating them with miticides and antibiotics, and feeding them high fructose corn syrup – junk food. This deadly cocktail has made bees incredibly vulnerable and on the brink of collapse. If present trends continue, scientists estimate there will be no more bees by 2035. That is, only if we fail to act, if we fail to recognize this disaster in the making and don't take strong action to counter the slow march to extinction.

So what do we do?

According to Simon Buxton as quoted in the new documentary *The Vanishing of the Bees*, "the future of beekeeping is not in one beekeeper with 60,000 hives, but rather 60,000 people with one hive."

The best science tells us that the future of the honeybee lie within the urban environment. Despite this irony, cities actually provide safer habitat than the farms and rural areas traditionally associated with beekeeping. Cities provide a much more diverse source of forage for bees, drastically reducing if not eliminating the need to artificially feed bees. Rather than having to eat exclusively whatever is in bloom wherever they have been unloaded from the trucks, city bees are able to find everything they need in people's gardens and landscaping. And due to most people not wanting pesticides on their property or near their family, bees are granted a 'get out of jail free' card, thus eliminating one more reason for their decline. The city environment is therefore the last refuge of the honeybee.

Atlanta, New York, Seattle, Portland, Denver, Spokane, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver and most recently Santa Monica have all taken decisive action and legalized beekeeping. And just recently 2 communities within Los Angeles (Mar Vista and Del Rey) have passed a motion in favor of creating a pilot program for urban beekeeping. We are here today to get you to add SoRo to that list! We believe it to be a necessary and just measure requiring immediate action. We humbly request that you consider our motion in the spirit of preserving the future of the honeybee and thus the future of us all.

Thank you.

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*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.

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