



SORO GREEN TEAM Minutes

Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 7:00pm

Meetings end at 8:30pm unless the committee votes to end earlier or extend the time
Hamilton High School Cafeteria, 2955 S. Robertson Blvd., LA, CA 90034

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- I. **Attendance:** Paula Waxman, Larry Hess, Monica Morant, Rowena Romano, Karen Laramay, Barry Levine, Hillary Gordon, Charmaine Colina, Bette Billet, Phyllis Rothman
- II. **General Public Comment**
- A. **Earth Hour** sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund, March 27 from 8:30-9:30 pm, local time. During this hour, there will be a world-wide event in which all people are asked to turn out the lights to make people more aware of light pollution and energy consumption, and take a symbolic, collective, action on climate change. To learn more about this, go to the following link: www.earthhour.org
- III. **NEW BUSINESS**
- A. **Earth Day Commemoration:** Members in attendance of the Green Team Committee recommended the following activities:
1. **Children's Earth Day at Star Eco Station:** 101010 Jefferson Blvd, Culver City, CA, Sunday April 26th, 10 am to 4 pm. Kids and parents will meet real environmental heroes, talk to conservationists and discover the benefits of sustainable living.
<http://www.ecostation.org/ecostation/eventearthday.htm>
 2. **Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase,** Sunday, April 25th from 2-6. See the latest and best in drought tolerant garden ideas.
<http://marvistagreengardenshowcase.blogspot.com/>
 3. **Topanga Earth Day,** March 30th, the 10th annual Topanga Earth Day Festival at the Topang Community House Fair Grounds, 1440 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd.
www.topangaeearthday.org
 4. **Earth Day 2010 in Whittier,** Sat. Apr. 17, 10 am-2 pm at Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles Co., Whittier, CA. Educational activities for all ages. Tour a water reclamation plant, take a train ride that follows the journey of your trash from home to recycling center to landfill, attend gardening and composting workshops, and other environmental issues.
<http://events.sgvtribune.com/city-of-industry-ca/events/show/82361712-free-elctronic-waste-recycling-event>
 5. **Sierra Club** usually has events. Check their website.
- B. Presentation by Monica Morant, of the Robert Group, and Rowena Romero, from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation on Alternative Technologies for Processing Black Bin Material Municipal Solid Waste.
The Problem: The City of Los Angeles has 6 "wastesheds" (West Valley, East Valley, Western, North Central, South LA, and Harbor) that generate 3,300 tons of black bin trash per day. Landfills generate 23% of all greenhouse gases.
Studies: In 2004 the City of LA Bureau of Sanitation began investigating alternative technologies for processing black bin waste. They received 13 proposals from firms that provide a diverse array of technologies. The

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Jon Liberman
Vice-President

Ann Hammond
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

soronc.org



analysis of these proposals and a selection of waste disposal company is expected to conclude in 2009-10.

Solutions: The following technologies proposed have the capability to convert waste into energy (electricity, fuel, heat):

Anaerobic digestion, Advanced Thermal Recycling/Waste to Energy, Gasification, Plasma Arc Gasification, and Pyrolysis.

Current Status: To date, California Renewable Technologies has been determined as the most reliable company capable of building and maintaining the new waste management facility.

Site Selection: will be made based on many factors including access to freeways, 5-20 acres, appropriateness for the technology, impact to individuals.

Cost: One facility is expected to cost between \$100,000,000 and \$500,000,000.

The Green Team Committee Members had many questions for the presenters, which, because of lack of time, or expertise, were left to be answered at a later date. For example:

-Can we have a more in depth description of the proposed technologies and their advantages and disadvantages?

-What assurance do we have that, once built, the feed stock will be entirely of post-sorted materials, and that the City will continue its efforts toward Zero Waste?

-Have sites already been identified?

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **Hamilton High School S.A.F.E. CLUB:** Nika Allahverdi-absent

B. **Friends of the Hami Garden:** Erin Amini-absent

Larry Hess reported for Erin that we have broken ground on the garden. We have cleared the area of debris, weeded, hand tilled, composted, bought a storage shed, installed compost bins, and have begun roto-tilling. The roto-tiller was donated by, Sandra Willard, who has also worked in the garden. Volunteerism has been phenomenal but we could always use more. We are in the garden every Sat. and Sun. from 10 to noon. Sign up with Paula or Larry to let them know you are coming out. Hamilton Science teachers are bringing their classes to the garden. We are ahead of schedule.

C. **Neighborhood Beautification Update-**Tree Planting Along Robertson
Larry Hess reported that he again met with the City over a question he had regarding the number of trees needed along Robertson. An arborist now feels that because of the sad state of many of the existing trees, more may have to be removed. They are still studying how many trees will be needed, which type, and size to plant. The City is not convinced that we can save the existing trees.

D. **Soro Festival:**

1. Phyllis Rothman and Bette Billet have contacted the principals of schools within the Soro boundaries to see if they would, again like to have booths at the festival displaying their artwork illustrating principles of Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. We have added a request that they might want to have a science display, illustrating an aspect of environmental science. For example an exhibit illustrating how worms break down vegetation into compost.
2. We are trying to green the festival by urging the food vendors to use compostable utensils.



3. Phyllis has been talking to Athens, a company that would pick up our compostable material. We would have to station volunteers near the bins to educate people on what goes into a compost bin. Saran mentioned that if we can't get Athens, the Bureau of Sanitation might also give us a bin and collect it.
4. Our booth has yet to be designed.

E. **Newsletter:** Larry Hess finally got permission to use the Soronc logo on our newsletter.

F. **Job Training with the Chamber of Commerce:** Paula Waxman. This was cancelled by the Chamber because they will be doing their own program during the spring.

G. **Farmer's Market:** there has been some discussion about our having a presence at the 18th Street Farmer's Market. They will provide us with a free table, chairs and booth. We will consider this once the Hami Garden is finished in June.

H. Meeting adjourned at 8:20

Special thanks to our official posting locations:

Demers & Associates, The Robertson Blvd Library, The Robertson Recreation Center, The Office of Councilmember Jack Weiss, 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.