



Green Team Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 7:00pm

Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria

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

I. Paula Waxman called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Committee Members Present: Rachel Lester, Bette Billet, Paula Waxman, Barry Levine, Anne Geffner, Elisa Leonelli, Sherri Lester, Julie Weise, Saran Kirschbaum, Phyllis Rothman, Dan Witzling

Guests: Eric Weiser

II. General Public Comment

- A. Saran Kirschbaum: a study spearheaded by the Environmental Working Group, has identified BPA aka "Bisphenol A" (a chemical used to line the inside of metal food and drink cans), as the cause of birth defects in the reproductive systems of humans. There are no government safety standards limiting the amount of BPA in canned food. Saran recommends that consumers call any 800 number found on can labels and ask if their cans contain BPA. If yes, then state that you will boycott the product until the lining is changed.
- B. Eric Weiser: When passed, the new rules for watering are:
1. Limited to 8 minutes per watering
 2. Odd numbered addresses may water on Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 3. Even addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday
- C. Barry Levine: Wendy Gruel put out a press release on the salaries of city employees. It was shocking how many employees made in excess of \$100,000. To access the c. 500 page report, go to Wendy Gruel's website.
- D. Phyllis Rothman: Please be aware that Costco sells large quantities of endangered or unsustainable fish. If you are a Costco member, the stores have suggestion boxes. Using the suggestion box is a simple way in which one can express objection to this practice and request that they end the sale of endangered fish species. *****(Note update: This was sent to me on 8/12)According to the August edition of the [GoodFunds Wealth Management](#) newsletter, Costco will now cease the sale of seven species of fish currently at risk of collapsing from over-fishing: Atlantic cod, Atlantic halibut, Chilean sea bass (see end note), orange roughy, shark, swordfish, and bluefin tuna.
- E. Paula Waxman: It was brought to her attention that the September meeting now scheduled for September 8th, falls on Rosh Hashanah. Paula will research moving the meeting to September 15th and inform the members by email, of the next meeting date.

III. New Business: Committees

- A. Hamilton S.A.F.E Club: Dark for the summer
- B. Friends of the Hami Garden: Paula reported for Erin Amini who is on holiday.
1. The City Beautification Grant (which paid for the garden, together with matching funds from the Soronc), is ending soon. We would like to

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schedule the “Grand Opening” of The Hami Garden in late September/early October, to coincide with the new school year which begins 9/13. Ideas of invitees included: Grant Administrators/Staff, Soronc Board, Hamilton Administrators, LAUSD Administrators, Hamilton Students, Teachers, parents, important Hamilton alums, Councilmen and their field deputies, Slow Food people, important restaurant owners in the organic food movement. We will form an ad hoc committee to plan opening once we have a date.

2. This is the work schedule for the garden until school starts September 13th. It is subject to change, best check with Paula before setting out. The Hami Garden is located in the northwest corner of the campus, behind the Cheviot Hills Continuation School.

Monday and Wednesday: Erin is in the garden from noon to 2:00 pm. Enter campus through any of the front gates.

Sundays: Paula is in the garden from 10am to noon. Getting into campus can be tricky. Enter the campus through the Canfield parking lot or the Kincardine custodian lot and walk across the track to the garden.

C. Robertson Revitalization

1. Neighborhood Beautification and Clean Up

- a. The Green Team would like to do a Robertson Boulevard clean up every 4 months, taking a different section of Robertson each time. We are looking for volunteers to organize these.
- b. Saran Kirschbaum, who docents at Ballona wetlands, is concerned about the curbside drains that direct street run off water to the Ballona Creek. She has noticed that our neighborhood drains are filling with trash and leaves and need to be cleaned out before the rains come, sending this material into the Ballona wetlands. Saran and Paula will notify all homes associations to see if neighbors, or their gardeners, can remove debris from curbside drains. The Green Team will make flyers in both English and Spanish to request that neighbors monitor their drains through the winter months. (Julie Weise offered to translate into the Spanish)

2. Tree Planting Along Robertson: This project, headed by Larry Hess, is now part of a larger Robertson Revitalization Plan. Marj Safinia is coordinating the efforts of several committees including Green Team, Land Use, and Outreach so that we can make the best use, and get the biggest impact, of our funds, time, and city services.

3. Development of a Green Business Corridor: it has been the hope of the Green Team to attract more “green” businesses to move to Robertson. A green business can be defined as one which directly improves the environment through the sale of a product (solar company), or a business that makes a conscious effort to implement day to day green practices (recycles trash, composts vegetable matter, uses LED or CFL lighting). At the same time, we hope to encourage existing businesses to implement environmentally friendly practices through certification and awards programs. . Kathy Lewis and Karen Antholis are working on this project. Dan Witzling informed the GT that the City of Los Angeles is starting a Green Business Certification program. The goal is to get the criteria for certification finalized by the end of this year



4. Business Award for Outstanding Green Citizenship: this award was established by the Soro Green Team and Board and the Soro Festival Planning Committee to honor businesses in our neighborhood that make extraordinary efforts to green their practices and be responsible stewards of the environment. This year's award went to Vons Supermarket. We want the entire Green Team to seek out and identify neighborhood businesses that fit this description. (To determine our neighborhood boundaries consult the Soronc website.) We will highlight these businesses in our minutes, and forthcoming newsletter and hope to promote them in the new Soronc website.
 - a. Green Beginning Pre School: this month Paula attended the grand opening of the Green Beginning Pre School located at 3047 South Robertson, near Hamilton high School. It is taking its first enrollment applications now. Their facility is very eco-friendly and their mission statement expresses the belief that it is important to teach respect for the environment. Elisa Leonelli agreed to visit the school and feature it on the Reynier Village blog.
- D. Green Team Newsletter/Blog: Paula would like to develop a newsletter/blog. The purpose would be to promote all neighborhood green events, to inform, and to educate. Elisa Leonelli volunteered to help set up the newsletter. Saran Kirschbaum and Phyllis Rothman have agreed to contribute articles to the newsletter. Barry Levine volunteered to contribute photographs whenever possible. Paula and Larry will edit and publish the blog.
- E. Education/Town Hall
 1. Field Trips to the county landfill. Ideally one field trip for each public school in our area. Cost is about \$350 per field trip. It was thought that this would also be a good event for neighborhood business owners, especially those businesses that generate large amounts of trash. Sources of money to pay for trips: Soronc, Council Offices, Vons, Athens, Sierra Club. Green Team is seeking someone to spearhead this project.
 2. Workshops (Town Hall): The Mar Vista Green Team sponsored a series of 6 evening workshops put on by Sustainable Works. In order to make the workshops free to their citizens, they were awarded \$2,000 grant from their neighborhood council. (Sustainable Works charges \$100/person for the 6 workshops for those living outside the city of Santa Monica.) Mar Vista had about 150 to 200 attendees. Both Phyllis and Paula have attended this series and found them outstanding. Suggestions on when to hold the workshop series was January/February. Places: Pattis Theatre, Hamilton Cafeteria, Museum of Tolerance, Temple Beth Am, Temple Isaiah, The Mark (Dan suggested that we contact the wife who manages the Mark which is owned by Factors). Paula and Phyllis will be working on this event.
- F. Grants: with city budgets in crisis, we would like to look more and more to writing grants. The Hami Garden was paid for by a grant, and Paula just submitted a second grant to help pay for on-going garden needs (tools, soil amendments, seeds). Anyone who could help with writing grants please contact Paula.
- G. DWP: Paula distributed a list of environmental targets, policies, mandates, and ordinances imposed on the DWP to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and water usage, and to increase energy supplies from renewables. Paula



would like assistance in maintaining contact with our representative at the DWP and to invite them to one of our meetings to explain what their targets are and whether they are meeting them in the required time.

- H. Soronc California Garden Showcase: last meeting we discussed highlighting drought tolerant gardens in our neighborhood. This type of project is too ambitious in a year focused on Robertson Revitalization. Therefore Eliza volunteered to pursue setting up an Open House limited to School Gardens this year, for sometime in the spring.

Paula wanted to thank all of those who volunteered to help with specific projects and to encourage those members who have not yet decided on how they will contribute, to review the above projects and let her know which ones interest them. She reminded the group that most of the work of the committee takes place between meetings, so it is important to become involved and contribute according to their talents and available time.

- V. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.