



Green Team Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 7:00pm

Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria

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

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Present: Barry Levine, Samantha Lyon, Anne Geffner, Christina Scarborough, Steven Coker, Saran Kirschbaum, Larry Hess, Phyllis Rothman, Carol Eisner, Charmaine Colina, Rachel Lester, Theresa Fives, Veronica Cabello, Paula Waxman

II. General Public Comment

- A. Charmaine Colina: On 9/19 Roots & Shoots event from 11am to 4 pm at the Santa Monica pier presenting environmental products.
- B. Steve Coker: On Sunday, 9/25 the following events are taking place: Coastal Clean up day, many areas; Pesto Day at Venice High School, and a native Plant event at the Veterans Garden in Brentwood.
- C. Phyllis Rothman brought up the subject of **Proposition 23**, which will be on the November 2nd, ballot. Prop 23 wants to delay the implementation of AB 32 (known as The Global Warming Act , passed into law by the state legislature and signed by the governor) which attempts to reduce green house gas emissions.) Prop 23 proposes that AB 32 not be implemented until California has 4 consecutive quarters with an unemployment rate of 5.5% or lower. California has had this rate only 3 times since 1980. The primary financial backers of Prop 23 are two oil companies. Saran Kirschbaum proposed that the Green Team take a "Vote No on Prop 23" position. It could take the form of an email/phone campaign, canvassing, picketing, and letter writing. A motion will be considered and agendized for the October meeting

III. New Business

- A. **The Hami Garden:** (Samantha Lyon had to go to another meeting so this report was moved up on the agenda.)
 1. Paula Waxman introduced Samantha Lyon, the new Garden Manager. Her extensive background includes farming and installing a school garden and teaching gardening to elementary and middle school children in an after school program. Samantha said that she will probably open the garden to Hamilton teachers and their students on Thursday mornings.
 2. Larry Hess reported that Karen Laramay, Head of Hamilton's Science Department, made the garden even more beautiful with the addition of table, chairs, umbrella, and bird bath. As a result of Karen's work, we will be getting a certification and signage indicating that the Hami Garden is now an Official Wildlife Habitat.
 3. The garden has provided 20+ pounds of tomatoes, together with squash, string beans, eggplant, peppers, lettuce and okra to SOVA, our neighborhood food bank.

Doug Fitzsimmons
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4. George Pessin, a Master Gardener, will be opening the garden to the Student Garden Club afterschool on Tuesdays.
5. The garden is open Saturdays from 10:30 to 12:30.

B. Chrissy Scarborough from the Sierra Club, discussed the DWP divesting itself of coal for the use of energy. The Sierra Club has stopped 129 out of 150 proposed new coal-fired power plant construction. L.A. uses 2 coal plants which supply 39% of L.A.'s energy. The DWP no longer wants to be using coal, for it is dirty energy and could potentially be fined millions of dollars if mandated goals are not reached. The plants also face possible new EPA regulations requiring expensive improvements. It takes over a billion gallons of water, which comes mostly from the Colorado River each year to process the coal. Costs associated with the transport of coal will also increase. Whether we continue with coal, or we transition to clean, renewable energy, our DWP bill will increase.

A motion was written by Paula Waxman, the Mar Vista Neighborhood Council Green Team, and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council Green Team.

Phyllis Rothman moved and it was seconded that the South Robertson Neighborhood Council submit a letter to the LA City Council encouraging them to support a plan to eliminate coal from the electricity supply of Los Angeles and to provide 40% of the Los Angeles energy supply with clean, renewable energy by 2020. The letter follows:

President Eric Garcetti and Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

16 September 2010 Re: Eliminating coal from the electricity supply of Los Angeles

Dear Council President Garcetti and Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports eliminating coal from the electricity supply of Los Angeles by 2020 as well as providing 40% of our power from clean renewable energy sources. There is growing support for Los Angeles to build a clean and renewable energy future.

36% of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions come from the combustion of coal. Carbon dioxide is a major contributor to global climate change and coal mining results in the destruction of eco-systems. Los Angeles owns significant shares in two of the dirtiest coal plants in the nation: the Navajo Generating Station and the Intermountain Power Project. In 2008 both released a combined total of 32, 468, 461 tons of CO2 into the atmosphere and used 8 billion gallons of water for cooling. Other costs of coal: polluted rivers and fish, increased asthma rates, strokes, cancer, strip-mining, coal- slurries, and mountain-top removal.

Regulatory uncertainty surrounding the coal industry is leading to increasing costs and price volatility. A well-planned transition away from coal-fired power, together with energy efficient programs will protect DWP bill payers and keep DWP bills down. A transition to renewable energy will update our city's infrastructure, and create new jobs. Investments now, will benefit our long-term economic future because once the system is paid for, the sun and winds are free.

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council would like the City Council of Los Angeles to demonstrate its leadership in the area of sustainability by:

- Mandating that the LADWP devise and execute a plan to end the city's use of coal-fired power by 2020.
- Displacing Los Angeles' coal fired power through aggressive energy efficiency



programs and providing 40% of our power from clean, renewable energy.

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council looks forward to working with the city to achieve these goals together. We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Doug Fitzsimmons President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

The vote was 14-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Item approved.

C. Robertson Beautification Project: Paula Waxman, Kathy Lewis, Karen Antholis will canvass 4 areas on Robertson. They will meet with business owners to get their input on what needs to be done to beautify S. Robertson and also to discuss what they are currently doing to make their businesses “green”. The city will provide equipment for the clean-up project.

D/E. Plastic Bag Ban: This ordinance did not pass our state legislature (specifically the senate). Our Senator, Curren Price did not vote for the ban. However, the LA City Council is going to vote on a city-wide ban. The Green Team will be reaching out to other Green Teams around the city to encourage a discussion of this issue in the hope that each neighborhood council will inform their respective council members on where their neighborhood stands on this issue.

F. Sustainable Works Workshops: Originally Paula Waxman was going to recommend that the Soro Green Team consider sponsoring 6 Sustainable Works evening workshops. However, Speaker Karen Bass, and the 47th Assembly District’s Peoples Council is giving a free one-night event called “Green Living Workshop” conducted by Sustainable Works. The event will be held from 7-9 at the Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City. It will cover useful and sustainability tips and techniques for greening your home, decreasing waste and limiting water usage.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.