

## Green Team Minutes, August 20, 2009

- I. Meeting Called to Order
- II. Attendance: Paula Waxman, Karen Laramay, Elisa Leonelli, Barry Levine, Phyllis Rothman, Saran Kirschbaum, Nika Allahverdi, Larry Hess, Mark Davis, Brooke Powers.
- III. General Public Comments
  - a. Next Green Team meeting will be WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, AT HAMILTON CAFETERIA 7-8PM
  - b. On **September 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a Coastal Cleanup Day hosted by Heal the Bay.** Information on Heal the Bay's website: <http://www.healthebay.org/>
  - c. Steve Coker letter: Mr. Coker wrote, requesting the following:
    - That regularly scheduled street sweeping take place on
    - Robertson Blvd. from Venice Blvd. N. to the BH City limits
    - La Cienega Blvd. from Venice Blvd. N. to the BH City limits
    - National Blvd. from Venice Blvd. to Robertson Blvd.
    - Venice Blvd. from La Cienega W. to Robertson Blvd.
    - Any sections of Pico Blvd. the Green Team deems appropriate.Sweeping should include the center curb where any medians exist, such as on Venice Blvd. Sweeping could be done once a week between midnight and 6am to minimize inconvenience to local businesses. If the city balks at the cost, then reduce the residential sweeping to every other week.

Furthermore, we need to powerwash our sidewalks under freeway overpasses (such as Robertson/National, Cattaraugus/Regent, etc.) Paula Waxman called Liz Carlin, Field Deputy for Herb Wesson, who will speak to the appropriate city departments and get back to the Green Team. Elisa Leonelli will follow up with a call to Liz to find out when her discussions with these departments will take place.
  - d. Mark Davis announced that there will be a **Community Trash Pick Up** on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Public Parking Lot 8866 West Pico Blvd., between Doheny and La Cienega at 4:30 pm.
  - e. Elisa Leonelli announced The Gas Company is offering a rebate until December 31 of 15-cent per square foot for wall and attic insulation.

Call the Gas Company for more details: 888-431 2226.  
Check out their website [www.socalgas.com/rebates/residential/](http://www.socalgas.com/rebates/residential/)  
They also offer rebates on Energy Star qualified appliances: cloth washers, dishwashers and water heaters.
- IV. Member Reports
  - a. Paula Waxman reported that the **Sierra Club Zero Waste Committee** is mobilizing a campaign to prevent the City from its plans to incinerate unrecycled material. First plant planned for Griffith Park. Their next meeting is Tuesday evening, Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. 3435 Wilshire, st. 320.
  - b. Paula Waxman reported that the **DWP** has too many issues for one person to deal with. Bette Billet will study fair DWP rate policy, Saran Kirschbaum will study water policy, Paula Waxman will study the status of renewable energy goal.
  - c. Saran Kirschbaum reported on the **Watershed Symposium**-which was a discussion of LA's water crisis and a tribute to Dorothy Green who felt that there was enough water for all CA if handled properly. Mark Gold, of Heal the Bay, stated that 80% of water in CA is unmetered including Sacramento. Most agreed there should be no pumping of water, a process that sucks up fish. Delta is getting too much ocean water, no more dams, levees are at risk from earthquakes and age, no peripheral canal. Large factory farms and small farms have to be dealt with differently. The former

get subsidized water. 80% of farming water goes to growing cotton and rice. There is no incentive for farmers to conserve because their allotment is based on prior use. CA clean water laws not followed. 40 million people in So. CA depend on water. Conservation and sustainable water use were top on “to do” list.

- d. **Larry Hess -Green Garden Survey-**. This was an email survey sent by the City to South Robertson stakeholders in order to find out if a training program to educate gardeners in the use of drought tolerant plants and plants indigenous to California would result in the gardener’s ability to charge higher fees for their gardening services. Larry Hess was going to see if he could get the results of the survey.
- e. **Reynier Village and Park Cleanup.**  
Brooke Powers, from the Robertson Rec. Center used students seeking community service credits to assist in cleaning up Reynier Park. Elisa Leonelli and Martha Groves cleaned up back of Shenandoah Elementary school . Brooke also reported on the ongoing success of the Rec. Center’s vegetable garden planted by her RAL program students with assistance by the Green Team. Saran Kirschbaum came to the center to discuss trash with the young people which was a great success. Paula Waxman called Mike Cones at Cal Trans (323) 939-9994, [Michael\\_cones@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Michael_cones@dot.ca.gov). about cleaning up the trash, weeds, and trimming the trees between the chain link fence and the freeway from Cattaraugus to La Cienega. Cones said that this area will be taken care of by the end of October. We could also pursue adopt-a-highway program. The program allows communities to adopt a two mile section of highway (smaller areas can be negotiated). Steve Mellinger (213) 897-4273 runs the program.  
Hamilton’s student environmental club or “S.A.F.E.” (aka Students Allied for the Earth) will be educating the high school student body on the problems of leaving trash on the city streets and will also be hosting a school wide Reynier Village clean up during the next school year.
- f. **Saran Kirschbaum-Robertson trash bins and clean up.** There are no trash cans on Robertson from Airdrome (there is one on the SE side of Robertson and Airdrome) to Pico. The newsstand and Walgreens have their own bins. Saran reported that current trash bins are under the following jurisdiction: if a trash can has a city logo, it belongs to and is maintained by the city. If a can is by a bus stop it is maintained by LADOT. Saran will see if we can get more cans for Robertson Blvd from the City.

## V. New/Projected Business

### a. August:

- i. **Hamilton’s Recycling Program-** Hamilton Student, Nika Allahverdi and teacher sponsor Karan Laramay were introduced to the Green Team. Allahverdi explained the development of Hamilton’s Recycling Program (aka S.A.F.E.) and the partnership between the Soronc Green Team and S.A.F.E.- During the month of August, Paula Waxman introduced S.A.F.E. to Steve Casares of the Dept. of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation. Together, students and city decided on a recycling program that best suited Hamilton. It is called the “wet/dry” method. All trash cans inside the classrooms and offices will be considered dry/recyclable trash will be put in recycling dumpsters by the custodians. All trash cans outside the buildings will be considered “wet” and put in traditional dumpsters. S.A.F.E. will educate the students, teachers and administrators on the program and encourage them to bring all recyclable material to inside trash cans. Conversely, students, teachers and administrators should place all food, and cans with liquid in outside trashcans. S.A.F.E. and the Green Team met with Hamilton’s Plant Manager and Custodial staff to explain the system and to answer any questions. S.A.F.E./Green Team have long term plans to bring solarization and a learning garden to Hamilton’s campus.

- b. **August 30<sup>th</sup> Pico Planting** c. 100 Succulents/ Impatiens August 30th from Andrea Hodos Larry Hess. Larry will be on vacation so Brooke Powers will let Paula know when the planting will take place.
  - i. **Compost Bin Distribution Day**-Paula Waxman reported that Steve Isoda, Bureau of Sanitation, will allow us to take preorders for the compost bins- collecting checks made payable to the city. They will deliver the bins to us and we will distribute. All this is contingent upon, the treasurer of Soronc, Terry Gomes' approval. Do together with Hamilton High's environmental club if possible. **Rain Barrel Distribution**-Larry Hess reported on the Wise Water Use Expo in Mar Vista Park- Hess said that he learned of several good rain barrel manufacturers at the Expo. Paula said that she met a man at another expo who sells do-it-yourself rainbarrel construction kits.
  - ii. **Hamilton's Greening Program** continues to be planned
- c. **October: World Wide Climate Change Day**, October 24., <http://www.350.org/> 350 stands for the amount of CO2 parts per million are needed for a healthy atmosphere. We are currently at 384 parts per million. On October 24 there will be a worldwide demonstration emphasizing the importance of bringing down the co2 to reverse climate change. We are still looking for someone to plan this activity and make suggestions as to what it will be.
- d. **November:** Larry Hess announced that The Green Team is going to move forward with a **Tree Planting** design and execution along Robertson south of Beverly Hills. Mark Davis, Field Representative for Paul Koretz, worked for a short time with Liz Carlin on the recent 260 tree planting project along Motor Avenue. It turned out to be very successful. Mark Davis has agreed to help us with our tree planting project and see it through to its conclusion.
- e. **December:** E-waste and battery drive at Hamilton

- VI. Old Business
- VII. Adjournment