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City of Los Angeles Certified
Neighborhood Council

GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, October 14, 2009, 7:00 to 8:00pm BECAUSE OF THE FULL AGENDA, THIS MEETING MAY EXTEND UNTIL 8:30.

Meetings end at 8:00pm unless the committee votes to end earlier or extend the time

Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria

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

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- I. **Call to Order & Roll Call:** Sandra Willard, Eleanor Meyer, Brooke Powers, Saran Kirschbaum, Nika Allahverdi, Alycia Witzling, Charmaine Colina, Dina Kraemer, Caitlin Lowe, Mark Davis, Karen Laramay, Larry Hess, Paula Waxman
 - II. **General Public Comment**
 - a. **Steve Coker letter and vote: poison rat traps**

Steve Coker requested by email that the Green Team write a letter to the County Agriculture Dept. asking them to please remove the freeway rat poison bait traps. According to Steve's email, the company that makes the exact same poison indicates that: "This product is toxic to fish, birds and other wildlife. Predatory and scavenging mammals and birds might be poisoned if they feed upon animals that have eaten the bait." "...Protect bait from rain...." Steve states that no one is monitoring these stations and they have holes on both ends allowing rain to enter. A Caltrans employee told Steve that the original request for the stations came from the Co. Environmental Health Services Dept. The Green Team voted in favor of writing a letter to the County Agriculture Department, asking them to remove the poison traps. Nine members voted in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstained.
 - b. **Residential tree program:** Susan Robinson of The LA Department of City Planning susan.robinson@lacity.org, would like SORONC to participate in a pilot program creating a Master Plan of street trees in West LA. They would like us to pick 3 square blocks in need of trees and have Street Services survey this area as part of a pilot program. The blocks need to be contiguous, and could include single-family, multi-family, or both. Once chosen, they would meet with the community to discuss what trees to plant based on a character that already exists, or based on a new character that we would like to create. The tree species would be included in the Community Plan, probably in a table in the Urban Forestry section of the Plan.
Factors to consider when selecting the area:
 - Blocks with consistent trees in place that you want to preserve
 - Blocks without consistent trees, or not enough trees, that you'd like to make more consistent
 - Multi-family areas where different developers have chosen different trees, that you'd like to be more consistentShe would like the data by January. Volunteers for street selection are:

Zone 9- Beverlywood Saran Kirschbaum; Zone 4,5 and 6-Elisa Leonelli;
Zone 7-8-1-Paula Waxman; Zone 2,3,10-Larry Hess
Eleanor Meyer brought up two major concerns regarding the project: 1.) Will trees be drought tolerant?, and 2) who cares for trees til established?
 - c. **Electronic-Waste (E-Waste) and Used Battery Drive in January with Hamilton High.** The Green Team and Hamilton High's S.A.F.E. will conduct an electronic-waste (any item with a cord) and used battery drive sometime in January. Hamilton will get back to us with available places and dates. Charmaine Colina knows a local, environmentally acclaimed e-waste service that has been used by the LAUSD community before and will get the contact



information to SAFE. They even reimburse for certain items. Saran Kirschbaum cautioned that sensitive data be removed from hard drives before contributing to e-waste drives and any LAUSD equipment be carefully removed from LAUSD inventory lists.

III. Committee Member Reports

- b. **Hamilton's S.A.F.E. (Students Assembled For Earth) Report: Nika Allahverdi, reported for Hamilton's environmental club.**
 - i. **Recycling Project:** is proceeding well considering that SAFE has still not been able to advertise the program. Their budget money will be released after the Board Minutes are passed on 10/15/09.
 - ii. S.A.F.E. is acknowledging International Day of Climate Action on October 24th, by participating in Tree People's Mountain Restoration Project. You may learn about this and other events by going to <http://www.treepeople.org/calendar>
 - iii. **"The Hami Garden"** Paula Waxman and Larry Hess reported on the progress of the application for the Community Beautification Grant due October 20th. This grant will be used to construct a garden on Hamilton's campus. Larry showed the group a copy of the most recent rendering of the garden.
-Volunteers are needed. Paula passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Please contact her should you want to volunteer.
paulawaxman@soronc.org
- c. **Soro Festival: -Charmaine Colina:** Suggested that we contact the head of the Venice Eco Festival, Stephen Fiske, since it was so successful, to understand how they attracted their exhibitors.
- **Paula Waxman** requested that each Green Team member research environmentally important products that we can include in this year's Soro Festival Goodie Bag. We do not want something that will just be contributing to the landfill, but items serving an environmental purpose or teaches an environmental lesson. She showed examples: reusable food covers, CFL's, book bags made of reused fencing, re-usable grocery bags, vegetable bags. If we each research and select one product, contact the manufacturer and see if they will donate 700 units of each product-500 items would go to Soro's Festival, 200 to Castle Heights Festival.
- c. **Green Team & S.A.F.E. Co sponsor a Compost Bin Sale/Distribution**
Our two groups are selling compost bins on behalf of the City of Los Angeles. They go on sale now, until October 28th. Bins will be distributed to purchasers at Reynier Park on Sunday November 8th. Sign up to help distribute the bins on November 8th from 9am-1pm. Info: paulawaxman@soronc.org
The City Free Rain Barrel & Installation Pilot Program appears to be very successful. However, all L.A. City Residents are still encouraged to go on line and sign up for possible inclusion in the program at www.LArainwaterharvesting.org. The Green Team will not sponsor a Rain Barrel program until the pilot program has ended.
- d. **South Robertson Tree Planting Project: Larry Hess**
Larry has met with the City of Los Angeles and the LA Conservation Corp. regarding where new trees can be planted, who will remove stumps and dying trees, who will plant new trees, and what will be the cost of maintenance until new trees are established. He is waiting for reports from both the City and the LA Conservation Corps. Costs will be presented to the Soronc Board for discussion and vote. Therefore, it is unlikely that the plantings will occur before January or February 2010.
- e. **DWP**



- i. **Aqueduct Tour:** Paula Waxman represented the Green Team on a 3 day tour of the LA aqueduct system sponsored by the DWP. We have a dwindling supply of water and an increasing population. They showed the damage caused by the aqueduct system to Mono and Owens Lakes and how expensive it will be to reverse the damage. As a result of law suits, we are required to take less water from California's Owens River (c. \$200/acre foot) and purchase more from the Metropolitan Water District (Colorado River water at \$700/acre foot). Los Angeles has done a good job of reducing per capital water usage. However at 144 gallons per day per person, it is still way above that of Europe which is 69 gal./day. An L.A. woman on the tour who, after taking out her lawn and replanting with drought tolerant vegetation, reduced her usage from 140 to 69 gal./day. This is less than 1/2 of the LA average.
 - ii. **Low Impact Ordinance: Saran Kirschbaum**
The main purpose of the low impact ordinance is to manage the quantity and quality of storm water runoff. There will be a Low Impact Development (LID) handbook out soon. Every new development must have onsite infiltration, capture and reusing measures with 90% removal efficiency. They are working with Fremont High now. The goal is to reduce storm water run off by 50% city wide. They should complete the draft for the ordinance to be voted on about Jan. 2010.
 - f. **Reynier Village Clean Up Day:** Elisa Leonelli called Mike Cones, of Caltrans to report that she, Steve Coker, and Fred Zaidman cleaned the garbage on Cattaraugus by the 10 Fwy underpass. After the cleanup, Elisa noticed Caltrans had put a lock on that open gate. She phoned to thank him for the lock and some dry weed cutting. He said that his crew had been pulled off our job, but he would try to complete the work by November. He was familiar with the overhanging branches by the Halm-Olin underpass. Elisa will follow up. Elisa felt The **Clean Up Reynier Village** project with Hamilton High School should be postponed because, at present, Reynier Village looks pretty good.
 - g. **Robertson CleanUp and Trash Can Adoption Day.** We will try to coordinate Robertson Clean up with the South Robertson Tree Planting which we will schedule hopefully in the first quarter of 2010.
 - h. 350.org has declared Saturday, October 24th **International Day of Climate Action**. Science tells us we can have a livable planet with 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (currently we have c. 390). The Green Team is hoping that the members of the neighborhoods making up SORO, will find a way to participate. Two ideas are listed below but there are many others:
 - www.350.org/SouthBay350. 40 groups from all over LA have been planning this event: Heal the Bay, Green Peace, League of Women Voters, State Senator Jane Harmon, and many others. The LA Co. Board of Supervisors supported a resolution to back the event declaring it "International Day of Climate Action"
 - Join Hamilton students at Tree People's Mountain Restoration Project. You may learn about this event by going to <http://www.treepeople.org/calendar>
- III. **New Business:** Paula Waxman will try to schedule a tour of a city landfill facility, a recycling plant, and/or wastewater recycling facility (Edward C. Little Recycling Facility, El Segundo) for both students and members of the community, with buses possibly provided by city council members.