WISPPA – Natural South Pasadena, Feb. 2, 2019, 9:30-10:30 AM

Notes by Barbara Eisenstein

Panelists

Richard Schneider, City Council Member

Marianne Veach, South Pasadena Beautiful

William Kelly, Environmental Journalist, Author, NREC Commissioner

Barbara Eisenstein, Native Plant Horticulturist, Friends of SP Nature Park

Peter Kalmus, Climate Scientist, Author & Practitioner of Climate-Appropriate Lifestyle

Keep response to about 3-4 minutes so we can open it up for questions.

1. *Peter Kalmus*

Since we are already seeing the effects of climate change, and it seems like it is going to be worse than many predictions, is there anything we can actually do to make a difference?

2. *Bill Kelly*

What is the heat island effect and how does it fit into the climate change story? What can we do about it? What are some of the other impacts of climate change on quality of life in cities like ours?

3. *Marianne Veach*

So planting trees – especially since we are losing so many due to their age and the increasing temperature extremes and periods of drought – can help reduce the heat island effect. What other benefits are there to having trees in urban settings like SP? What is SPB doing to help preserve and increase our existing urban canopy?

4. *Rick Schneider*

As we are hearing, it is important to reduce our use of fossil fuel, increase urban canopy, conserve water, and convert to renewable energy. Can you tell us about a few of the actions being taken by the city in these areas?

5. *Barbara Eisenstein*

It is estimated that (and I can confirm this from my own water bill) 60% or more of residential water is being used for landscaping. What can we do to reduce this, while still protecting our trees? What are some of the other benefits of changing our gardening practices? Where can I see examples of gardening for habitat?

**TAKE AWAY MESSAGES**

1. We can and must act now. Action does not have to mean sacrifice. Benefits include cleaner, healthier lifestyle.
2. Actions to reduce use of fossil fuel:
   1. Transportation is a large part of our carbon footprint.
      1. Fly less, drive less, more bicycles, safer bicycling
      2. Sunday May 19, 2019 - 626 Golden Streets | Mission-to-Mission (South Pasadena - Alhambra - San Gabriel)​
      3. Walk/bike to School Week
      4. More local activities like Art Walk, Nature Park cleanups, SPB events
   2. Clean Power Alliance – use renewable energy sources
   3. Plant trees to reduce heat island effect and make city more livable
   4. Improve air quality, quality of life and improve habitat (butterflies and birds) by:
      1. Banning leaf blowers
      2. Reducing lawns
      3. Adding habitat plants (locally appropriate natives)
   5. Conserve water
      1. Landscaping practices
   6. City (outreach, classes, rebates, codes and ordinances)
      1. Water: Where does our water come from? How secure is our water supply? What can I do? (Tour reservoirs)
      2. Landscapes: Sensible gardening practices with emphasis on trees, edibles, and native habitat (SPNP)
      3. Trees: Planting and care (SPB)
      4. Home energy conservation: Solar panels, tree placement, insulation, curtains, rebates (Classes, articles on website, local paper)
      5. Waste: REDUCE, reuse, recycle – the truth. How does Athens recycle our waste, especially given our mixed waste stream? (Classes, articles on website, local paper)
      6. City codes and ordinances. Offer rebates for indoor water-efficient appliances and landscape changes (lawn removal, better irrigation practices)