

MINUTES IATSE 873 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SAT. NOV. 10, 2007

In attendance: Melissa M., Mark M., Myles R., Phil S., Becky C., Heather R., Brad J., Pam E., Jacqui H. Welcome to newest attendee Kirk Cheney, who has past experience at setting up recycling of construction and set materials

1. Read proposed agenda, accepted

2. Minutes from Aug 8 meeting will be read at next meeting

3. Reports

a. Update on the Green Screen Alliance: how it came about and where it stands at the moment. Following the Paint dept. seminar in June, Ken Ferguson from TFS and a number of IATSE873 Enviro Committee members organized a round table discussion with associated media groups in Toronto to discuss ways to make our business more sustainable. (minutes available online @ iatse.com/ members only/ green zone)

It was suggested that we apply as a group to the OMDC for funding for our initiative. Planet in Focus, the environmental film and video festival group, offered to apply on behalf of the roundtable group, and offer stewardship as the Primary Partner. We are awaiting the result from the OMDC, which will be officially announced in early Dec. It should be noted that the funding (known as the Cluster Fund Partnership) is to facilitate the Alliance (as yet unnamed)

b. Planet in Focus Film Festival: A short discussion about the PIF film festival that took place Oct. 24-28

It was suggested to invite Planet in Focus to give a workshop, based on what they do, their archives, carbon neutral films, maybe show a movie. It could be a fundraiser for PIF.

We have all the talent necessary to make a movie about our Initiative. Heather has offered a significant photographic image that we could use in promotion of our greening initiatives.

c. Improvements needed in transport mindset around environmental issues: Some producers, such as those at The Incredible Hulk are encouraging Transport to use low sulphur diesel, more efficiency in transporting people, and a reduction of vehicle idling time. Demand will create the solutions. Cost is still a stumbling block to alternate solutions such as hybrid rental vehicles and biodiesel generators. Planning is the key. These costs have to be worked in to the cost from the beginning. Suggestions will be included in our Producer's Package.

Some research could be done to inform members as to exactly what reducing your carbon footprint means, how carbon offsetting works, alternate energy sources, and the impact of growing fuel.

d. Water bottles: A new batch of stainless water bottles has arrived. Available are: 18 oz. (\$14), 27 oz. (\$15), 40 oz. (\$20), wholesale cost. We are still searching for a suitable non-profit organization to receive our donation from water bottle sales. Included, top styles are: sport top, loop top, flat top. Slings are \$4.00. The Union office has agreed to cover the initial outlay of the cost, and will be reimbursed as the bottles get sold. Everyone on the Environment Committee should promote the sale of these bottles, in order to cut down on plastic bottle use. Heather offered to ask a few connections for suggestions of likely non-profit groups, but if anyone has suggestions please let us know. Any suggestions may be submitted at the "contact us" button via the Green Zone.

e. Donations Database: Phil put together a list of non-profits that would be interested in recycling and reusing leftovers from film sets. This is another example of something that should be worked into the costs from the beginning, and hopefully, a production could save money. Kirk, who had tried in the past to set up a recycling program for sets, pointed out that it's a huge amount of work to organize this kind of thing with no guarantee of success, but that times are different now and success is more likely. It's still a lot of work, tho! The Alliance would like this to be part of a Certification Program, that will help to promote Toronto as a green Destination. Health and safety issues, such as removing staples from flats, have to be dealt with before things get distributed.

4. New Business

a. Outreach to membership for input re best practices in all depts: What is the best way to gather info. Some suggestions were: posters, suggestion box, heads of dept distribute a survey, departmental meetings, post mortems after a show, but how is it done to get max value. What are the pressing environmental issues, what are people aware of already. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

b. Input for the newsletter: We should be submitting something every month to the newsletter. Anyone can take a turn, but the submission has to be in by the 25th of each month for the following newsletter. If we have a Committee meeting at the beginning of each month, the next month's submission can be organized at that time. We could also have a "Green for Green" suggestion for the month, best suggestion gets a green prize.

Adjourn. Next meeting: DECEMBER 8 @ 10 am Union Office

Possible items on agenda: Outreach to membership for input on developing Best Practices

Document

IA 873's role in Toronto Green Screen Alliance / update on funding
Further work on charitable donations list. please bring additions!

Thanks to all for attending. Keep up the greenthusiasm!

MM & JQ