

**Sustainability Commission
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**MINUTES
Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, January 15, 2013, Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Klein called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Jackson led the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL: A quorum was present for the final meeting of the 2012 calendar year. All commissioners were present.

	This Meeting	Present To Date	FY 2011/2012 Excused Absences	FY 2011/2012 Unexcused Absences
Brett Klein, Chair	x	17		
Thom Bettinger	x	6		
Kate Castle	x	9	2	
Michael Harris	x	13	4	
Paul J. McCreesh	x	11		
Joe Jackson	x			
Grant Wilson	x			
Staci Schafer, Vice-Chair	x	14	3	

X = Present

L = Late

E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)

U = Did not notify of absence

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Michele Mician MS, Manager, Office of Sustainability
Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

ACTION: Approve Sustainability Commission Agenda for Regular Meeting of Tuesday, January 15, 2013. Commissioner Castle made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Commissioner McCreesh. Changes were made to the agenda and it was approved as presented.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no City Manager comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS All other guests in the audience were welcomed.

1. **Parks and Recreations-Water Waste Concerns**

Victor Opella spoke regarding their recent neighborhood meeting with feedback from the residences. There are concerns about water waste regarding irrigation and lack of education regarding upgrades to toilets and setting timers to reduce this going problem. He suggested more information be placed on our company website to help residences conserve water. Also, the Parks & Recreation department is requesting funds under Measure J funds request community garden. This will be their second community garden and it will cost \$75,000.00 and they are looking to place it Desert High on the north side of town. Commissioner Castle asked "if they have discussed making it available to the homeless and the new garden. Mr. Opella stated he will bring that up at their next meeting. Also, Chair Klein interjected contacting the COD to see about partnering with them and the student can become involved as well. Cycling stencil and the interest site is Avenida Carbnoros due to the large amount of space and perhaps do an official green lane where the cyclist have first prior to the lane. Commissioner Schafer recommend he contact the Section 14 group and partner with them as they are look at the same area. Chair Klein invited them to attend the next round table meeting on April 28, 2013. Chair Klein was there anything else and Mr. Opella stated he had nothing further to interject.

2. South Coast Air Quality District – Danielle Soto

Informed the commission their agency has approved allocated for Centennial Power Legation funds in the amount of 17 million dollars to go towards the bike lane project on Highway 111 E project. There will be an EPA workshop to discuss air quality now and future requirements as well as possible new monitoring stations over the next few years. Their planning committee will present a status during the hearing. The EPA would like public input for future monitoring locations as recommend if interested submitting a monitoring request. Michele Mician asked "if we could submit a request for a monitoring station". Ms. Soto will e-mail Michele Mician with contact information and criteria guidelines. A status report will be presented during the hearing to the US EPA to. The meeting will be held at the Diamond Bar headquarters located at 21865 Colby Drive, on January 23, 2013 at 1:00 PM. FYI their agency will be hosting High School Conference located at the Long Beach Convention on March 15, 2013. They are notifying all High Schools in the area to see if they would like their student to attend. Each attending school will receive \$300.00 for transportation, as well \$150.00 for a substitute teacher. This workshop will provide education information to the student during two sessions on that day. The first session is from 9:00 AM -11:40 AM and the second session will be from 10:50 AM – 1:30PM. The Commissioner Castle requested a flyer for Palm Springs High School. Chair Klein asked if there were any other comments and there were none so the public comments as closed.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, Innovation Hub Accelerator Campus Joe Wallace

Joe Wallace introduced himself and gave his background. The IHUD has 7 residential offices and 7 virtual locations that can be utilized for meetings and some companies fly in to use the HUB. The IHUB acceleration campus will help current business build a workforce and expand their business while remaining right here. This campus will be located on the Palm Springs Airport in a 5000 Sq. Ft. building. Their mantra is to growth with sustainable attitudes focus on profits, people and the planet. They want to grow companies in the renewable energy industry and sustainable technology but the holy grill this is not in windmills or solar, is in storing. They have two storage companies they are mentoring and these companies can take energy from any source. One company has a patent to store such energy from wind, geothermal, and the grid and places the energy into old car batteries that would normally be the land fields. Companies like this are outside the renewable energy but this is where the profits are as well as bring high-paying jobs. Energy storing is on a global basis. The IHUB has been in business for one year and three of their businesses were choosing to attend the annual World's Best Technology Conference in San Diego. And only 100 companies in the world were chosen and one is in advance stage of negotiations which will allow the company to expand their business from a 1M to a 15M dollar business. The IHUB is being recognized as the fastest moving and best IHUB in California. Their objective is to work with the State of California to establish sponsoring grants to further grow here and elsewhere in the state. They are now in partnership with the Department of Renewable Energy. The IHUB take the risk factor out for new companies by providing the IHUB and Campus. Phase 1 and Phase 2 will allow more companies to move into the Palm Springs area. IHUB campus will have a Youth Internship, Program,

Manufactory Plants, and Commercial space to attract out of state business here. There goal is to be 100% full in three years. Chair Klein the use of the IHUB and will be using the facility again. Michele Mician suggested if calls are received from innovators to utilize the IHUB as a resource. Chair Klein asked "if it is city owned and Jotool.

2. Palm Springs Airport Landscaping Project, Thomas Nolan, Executive Director, Palm Springs International Airport

The airport has contracts and plans to convert 10 acres of grass to convert 90% to 95% into sustainable landscape. Mr. Nolan would like approve to proceed with the project. Wayne Connor with Wayne Connor & Associates stated the sustainable landscape will be accomplished in irrigation and landscaping. The irrigation water system will be a drip and trickle bubbler system and will reduce water use. And it will tie into the city program for a weather satellite, The plants material will be drought resistant, self –efficient, good ground cover, and low maintenance. All plants approved are for the desert and they are tough heat and cool. They do not put out sucker grow or fertilization and they shade the soil. And inner materials for landscaping on the top soil by using decomposed granite, cobble and rocks it will give color and texture while keeping moisture in the soil. The plants aid in keeping down weed growth. Chair Klein opened the floor for questions. Commissioner Schafer asked about ground cover plants. Mr. Connor advised all plants being use for ground cover will keep maintenance cost low. Also, Commissioner Schafer asked "what percentage of drought tolerant plants are indigenes to this desert". Mr. Connor replied 30% of the plants. Commissioner Schaffer asked "if any soil samples were taken". Not yet. The soil samples will be taken by the contractor, but they are normally never any surprise with the soil. But the soil sample report is good to have. Commissioner Schaffer, what percentage is Turf". Mr. Connor advised about 95% of the turf is being removed. Chair Klein asked" is any artificial turf being used?" Mr. Nolan advised no artificial turf is being used. Commissioner Castle, asked to give a visual as to where the 5% to 10% grass areas will be?" Mr. Nolan, one location is near the corridor and fountain area and some walls may be added. The other location is on Ramon Rd where their airport sign is will remain. Commissioner Bettinger asked "what percentage of water saving to you anticipant? Mr. Connor advised about 60%-70% once completed. Commissioner Joe Jackson commended the airport on bring in plants to help with low maintance.and ground cover. Is they any planning on educating our tourist with a demonstration garden which list all the plants being used"? The only practical place would be on El Ciego walkway where they will be a variety of plants will be. Mr. Nolan made another suggestion for the demonstration garden by the tennis statue. Mr. Nolan & Mr. Connor will look at that. Chair Klein; advise them to partner with the city on the "demonstration garden project". This has been on the books for a long time and by them being so close this may the right place. Its about 20 yards long. They will look into that. Michele Mician asked," if a time-line can be provided" Mr. Nolan, stated there are a lot of reviews to be made, but their goal is to complete this by the end of the year. Michele Mician, asked if any formal action is needed. Mr. Nolan answered yes. Commissioner Schafer, stated that direct draft letter of full support be granted. The motion on the floor is to have a formal letter from the commission be sent to the counsel in full support of the "Airport Landside Sustainable Conversion". A vote was taken and Commissioner Schafer, presented approved the project and Chair Klein seconded the suggestion on January 15, 2013. One extension and this passed.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner to make two changes to the meeting minutes including:

The first under: D. NEW BUSINESS ADD LINE ITEM #

Commissioner Grant Wilson suggested corrections be made to a few items on the miniatures regarding roll call. Commissioner Joe Jackson and Commissioner Grant Wilson were missing from the roll call. Michele Mician will add both commissioners.

Commissioner Wilson found on top of page 4 paragraph (continued from page 3) where Chair Klein" asked, "that all checklist for the things that need to be....." Michele Mician will correct that. Chair Klein stated he did not catch that and that is the way he talks. Everyone giggled.

Under item F fourth line Commissioner Wilson stated it was Commissioner Harris made the comment and not him. Michele Mician apologized and it she will correct it. Chair Klein commended Michele Mician on

having minutes by our next meeting.

The motion was seconded by Michael Harris. Approval of Meeting minutes passed unanimously from the January 15, 2013 regular meeting with the amendment including the two changes. Katie Castle agreed to the motion and 1 Abstain by Stacey Schafer due to her being absent. The minutes were approved per Chair Klein and unanimous vote.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Facilitate Bike Path Bridge Partnerships

RECOMMENDATION: Submit a letter from the Palm Springs Sustainability Commission to Mesquite Country Club requesting assistance in repairing a bridge on their property that is part of the Palm Springs Bike Path system. Chair Klein motion for the recommendation to be approved as it. The second was by Commissioner Schafer. Chair Klein opened the floor for discussion: Commissioner Jackson wanted to know "What does request assistance mean"? Chair Klein explained this is strictly to open the lines of communication with the planning and the property owner to ensure proper safety and health. And bring the logistics of the path in order to move it forwarded. This motion was passed unanimously. Chair Klein advised Michele Mician to draft the letter and he will sign it. Michele Mician suggests both letters could be signed.

2. Construction Waste Diversion, Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION: Motion to submit a letter to City Building Department requesting staff to implement a mechanism to track and enforce construction demolition debris waste management plan in compliance with Section 4.408 of the California Green Building Code adopted by the City of Palm Springs on November 17, 2010. Commissioner Schafer asked, "what is the difference in 2010 for code and now. Mr. Calhoun stated in 2010 we were taking a construction demolition ordinance and they did not want to be apart of that. This has been adopted by the city and is now law. Commissioner Schafer clarifies that we want utilized the necessary resources to enforce this. Mr. Calhoun contacts all each company and introduces himself, tells them what is expected. The waste disposal site charge a lot of money so he has advise them to stock pile, if it okay with the building inspector. Once the job has concluded then they call for bin load it up and it's hauled away. Commissioner Harris want to know," if when the permits are being pulled are the getting this information packet". Mr. Calhoun advised they are not getting this information here in Palm Springs. The surrounding cities such as Rancho Mirage have implemented this. Commissioner Schafer suggested implementing a program because this is part of the problem. Commissioner Harris stated we need to have code officer established within the recommendation. It is still cheaper to the recycling verse the waste disposal. Waste Disposal is \$41.00 and recycling is 28.00 Commissioner McCreesh suggested slow implementation and education. The adopted the motion as written with an amendment for a 90 day implementation and educational program. Michele Mician asks 90 days from today's day. Commissioner Castle seconded the motion and everyone agreed. The motion was passed

3. Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee, Chair Brett Klein

RECOMMENDATION: Sustainability Non-Motorized Transportation, to Michele Mician

"Commissioner Klein asked for a motion to approve up to \$2,500.00 for the sustainability non-motorized transportation and for funds to be approved for April 24, 2013 round table which will be discuss. Michele Mician suggested to Chair Bettinger under old business to change the agenda date from April 25, 2013 to April 24, 2013. The motion to approve up to \$2,500.00 for Green Octopus Consulting to present training information to appropriate members in two session prior to the round table meeting in April. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schafer. Chair Klein opened the floor for discussion Michael asked what is going to provide to the committee. Michele Mician advised she will provide the frame work for the committee to decide to move forward or not. The motion was approved unanimously. Chair Klein instructed Michele Mician to wait on the contract until they speak with her and dates are established. .

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Legacy Program for Commissioner's Wisot and Ege, Michele Mician, Staff

Staff asked Commission members how they would like to memorialize deceased Commissioners. Ideas noted were plaques at charging stations, legacy benches, and legacy trees. The floor was opened for discussion. Chair Klein noted that the locations need to be visible locations. It was also

noted that trail signage and naming of trails could be considered. It was asked that this be added to the agenda for the January meeting. Lastly it was suggested that a grant fund or award be named after commissioners. Michele Mician will resend the survey send with last minute report to all commissioners as requested and Chair Klein advise all commissioner to responded by close of business on Sunday. Commissioner Bettinger stated he will not respond because he can not just pick one. He will send his comments separately. Chair Klein advised to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. In the interim the committee will decide and inform Michele Mician.

2. Bicycle Rack Program, Chair Klein – The commission discussed the new bike rack at Tyler's restaurant. Staff responded that the rack is located on private property and the City does not regulate the rack. Jennifer Henning discussed the options for City bike racks. She mentioned that the racks she has researched would be about \$2000 to \$4000. She has not received a formal proposal and is waiting for a response. She also noted that she and Chair Klein want to get merchant approval and buy in of the racks. There are two locations that are potential sites downtown for the new racks. One is near the ZIN restaurant and another near the Village Green. In addition the Convention Center is looking at adding a bike rack. The RFP that Ms. Henning produced is being reworked as well. There are four locations for the RFP which would be the downtown parking lot near Las Casuelas, City Hall, the Palm Springs Library and the downtown parking garage. The goal is to have the bike racks installed on city property locations first that have high visibility and to get community buy in. Chair Klein asked Ms. Henning to contact Commissioner Schafer regarding the Convention Center bike rack and to include her in the information disseminated. Ms. Henning anticipates that the RFP will be going out by the end of January. The goal is to have bike racks installed by May 1st for Bike Month. Chair Klein asked at the check list for the things that need to be. Chair Klein instructed Michele to contact Jennifer Henning to submit three to four designs for approval by the commission. As far as the RFP is to provide a revised time-line as the current time-line states December.

3. Scheduling of 2013 Commission Retreat – The retreat is scheduel for March 24th at the Desert AIDS Project. Commissioner's will do a visioning strategy for the year. A facilitator has been secured to assist in helping all the members identify the basic goals for the year. To focus on a few doable projects in the mai focus areas; Non-Motorized transportation including electric vehicles; food, including gardening and local food production; Health and Wellness, including fitness, healthy eating and choices made that affect people and plant; Waste reduction, including plastic bad mitigation; Air Quality, including vehicle miles traveled reduction and emissions reduction

4. Subcommittee Reports

i. Water Subcommittee – There was no water subcommittee report.

ii. Leaf Blower Subcommittee, Commissioner McCreesh reported that a date has been scheduled. The study session will be held on February 27th at the City Hall large Conference room. The subcommittee has prepared a presentation and will answer questions from the public.

iii. Plastic Bag Subcommittee, Commissioner Castle has been working to secure a date for the study session. More to follow. Bagit! Will be shown at the Library next Tuesday and commissioner's plan to attend and give out reusable bags.

iv. Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee, Chair Klein

1. Bike Friendly City and Bike Friendly Business District conuslatant has been secured.

2. Bike Roundtable Meetings will be held on January 24, April 25th, July 25, October 24

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORTS – Commissioner's gave comments on upcoming events. No formal report.

G. REPORTS FROM STAFF LIAISONS

1. Upcoming Clinton Health Initiatives, Michele Mician provided an update on the events

and noted that the race is on April 20th .

- H. ADJOURNMENT:** A reminder was given to ensure adherence to the Brown Act. The next meeting is February 19 at 5 pm. A motion was made by Chair Klein and seconded by Commissioner Harris to adjourn the meeting of the Sustainability Commission at 7:26 p.m. to the next regular meeting in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Mician". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michele Mician, Manager
Office of Sustainability