

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



**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, July 16, 2013, Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Klein called the meeting to order at **5:01** p.m.

**FLAG SALUTE:** The flag salute was done by Commissioner McNeel.

**ROLL CALL:** A quorum was present for this Regular Meeting of the City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission. Three new Commissioners took their oaths after the meeting agenda was posted. The Commission welcomed new Commissioners Victor Yepello, Brielle McNeel, Mark Polischak and Travis Armstrong.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** The agenda was amended by Sustainability Manager Mician to move C1 to A1 agenda position. Commissioner Castle motioned to pass the agenda and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion to pass the agenda. There will be no meeting in August.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2011/2012 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2011/2012 Unexcused Absences</u>
Brett Klein, Chair	X	24		
Thom Bettinger	X	13		
Kate Castle	X	16	2	
Paul J. McCreesh	X	17	1	
Joe Jackson	X	6	1	
Grant Wilson	X	6		
Brielle McNeel	X	2		
Mark Polischak	X	2		
Victor Yepello	X	2		
Travis Armstrong	X	1		

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  
Jennifer Henning, Public Arts & Special Projects Coordinator  
Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This time has been set aside for members of the public to address the Sustainability Commission on Agenda items and items of general interest within the subject matter within jurisdiction of the City. Although the Sustainability Commission values your comments, pursuant to the Brown Act, it generally cannot take any action on items not listed on the posted Agenda. Three (3) minutes are assigned for each speaker.

- A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (5 MINUTES)**  
Commissioner Armstrong was introduced and gave information regarding his background and reasons for interest in the Sustainability Commission. Chair Klein mentioned to keep the Brown Act regulation in mind and thanked all commissioners for attending.
- B. PRESENTATIONS (30 MINUTES)**
  - 1. Estelle Foster, Transition to Organics, Urban Chicken and Bee Keeping Policies

**John Murphy, City Chicks, Urban Chicken Keeping Overview-** Mrs. Foster introduced herself and Mr. Murphy to the commission and their presentation on the Urban Chicken Keeping was presented. Mr. Murphy advised this would be for individual consumption, limit the number of hens per household, excluding roosters, there is no odor, education on how to raise chickens, it will generate revenue through the permit process, suggested a pilot program to educate children and the community through the garden program in place. There is no noise problem. Mrs. Foster and Mr. Murphy would like propose a chicken ordinance be established in the City of Palm Springs. Commissioner McNeal made it clear that education of the youth must be a high priority before any consideration is proposed. Mr. Armstrong suggest Mrs. Forster be invited back to speak on pesticides and Bee Keeping. This will go to the sub-committee level. Per Mr. Armstrong's recommendation Mrs. Foster will be place on the agenda further discussion.

2. **Julie Arthur, Facilities Director, PSUSD, Solar Array Briefing-** Hand outs & a presentation was given regarding the solar parking panels being installed at 11 district properties with PSUSD. SunEdison owns the equipment and all repairs are provided by them. PSUSD pays for energy at reduced rate. They have two (2) ground mounts in DHS. Mrs. Arthur will provide an overview once all panels have been installed. Chair Klein suggested scheduling a tour with Commissioner and other official staff for a later date.

3. **Mary Jo Ginther, Director of Tourism, Ecotourism Weekend** New promotions ideas have been discussed with Mician to attract tourist to our city. The proposed theme name for this year is the National Paradise Weekend. This will be held Veteran's Day weekend. The itinerary will include Palm Springs history, outdoor activities, educational information and it's available to local and valley wide residents, as well as out of town guest. There will by two (2) hotels participating in our first weekend. Local residence will be able to meet at the location and participate. The fee will be decided at a later time but it will be at a minimal cost. Based on the success of this first event will determine if more events are added to our city's calendar.

## **REPORTS FROM STAFF LIAISONS**

**(15 MINUTES)**

1. **Bike Rack Purchase & Artist Bike Rack RFP, Jennifer Henning, Special Project Coordinator-** Miss Henning provided an update on the bike racks which will be installed in the next 7-10 days. There are seven (7) locations and the racks are coming in three different colors Blue, Yellow and Orange per the committee. We have 59 RFP submissions being reviewed by the Art's Commission and Non-Motorized Transportation Sub-Committee. Once the winners are selected Miss Henning will contact them. A ribbon cutting ceremony was discussed perhaps at two (2) locations and the new bike maps will be available at the ceremony.

2. **E Waste/Sharps Programs and Waste Event Calendar Update, Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator-** Sharp containers are available to organization and individuals who use injectable. Mr. Calhoun asked all commissioners to provide their business suggestions to Miss Mician. All sharps containers need to be disposed of at HHW Site 1100 Vella Rd, Palm Springs, CA 92264. There is a limited supply and the only information needed is their name and address. This information is not shared but used for mapping purposes. The annual State of California recycling report is due August 1, 2013 and a copy will be provided to the Commission once the report its available.

3. **New Energy Star Appliance Rebate, Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager-** A revised sustainability program hand out was provided along with a new rebate from SCE. The energy star rebate can provided \$100.00 per household. It is a matching rebate to what Edison offers and it can be found on our website as well as on PSTV. Our appliance rebate program is becoming very popular.

4. **2014 Mayor's Healthy Planet, Healthy You Race Update, Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager-** The Mayor's race will be held on January 11, 2014. All race materials are available on our website at [www.yoursustainablecity.com](http://www.yoursustainablecity.com). You can register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), too. Mician provided a copy of the race brochure and advised the commission it was in their folders. Our next event is The National Dance Day which will be held on 7/27/13 at 9:00 AM under the Marilyn statue.

5. Grants Update:

i. **Way Finding Grant-** Collecting information and looking at cost at this time.

ii. **SCAG: Compass Blueprint Grants-** An update on our sustainability master plan and the updates were focus on the health and wellness aspect. A grant was received to assist in hiring a consultant to review the plan to ensure health and wellness is incorporated.. SCAG-Tree inventory and will check into the tree ordinance.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**(5 MINUTES)**

- 1. May 21, 2013, Regular Meeting- Commissioner Jackson motioned to approval May meetings minutes and seconded by Vice Chair Castle. The May Meeting Minutes Passed. .
- 2. June 25, 2013, Regular Meeting-Commissioner Bettinger requested a correction under approved agenda pertaining to "Michael Harris not renewing his turn". Correction to word turn will be made by Mician. Commissioner Wilson motioned to accepted June meeting minutes with correction and seconded by Commissioner Bettinger. The June Meeting Minutes Passed.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**(10 MINUTES)**

- 1. August Special Meeting Discussion, Chair Klein- No meeting in August.
- 2. Urban Chicken and Bee Keeping Policies, Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager-Mician address all commissioners to get their input on forming a sub-committee. After discussing this item it was moved to September's meeting. Commissioner Polischak did show an interest in heading the sub-committee to be discussed in September.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**(45 MINUTES)**

- 1. Sustainability Retreat Recap, Commissioner Jackson-Commissioner Jackson provided an overview on the retreat goals for new commissioners. Please submit your sub-committee interest as well as sub-committee schedule for August to Mician via email by 7/23/13. Please keep the Brown Act regulations in mind when signing up for a sub-committee.
- 2. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner Castle- Castle provide a brief overview and her summary will follow via email. She mentioned Main Street submitted a survey to partners to provide their ideas and concerns regarding this ordinance. The ordinance draft is being reviewed by staff.
  - i. Plastic Bag PSA Update- No update at this time.
- 3. Water Subcommittee, Commissioner Yepello- No report given but if interested, please contact him.
- 4. Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee, Chair Klein- No update at this time.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

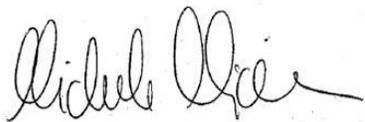
**(10 MINUTES)**

Mician welcomed the new commissioners and she will schedule a meeting with three of them soon. Commissioner Bettinger advised the Health & Wellness committee will have a booth at the Mizell Senior Life Style Expo which is being held on 10/11/13 from 10-2 PM. The cost for this event is \$275.00. If interested in participating or plan to attend please contact the Health & Wellness Chairman.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:01 pm. The first motion was by Commissioner Bettinger and a second from Commissioner Wilson. The meeting was closed. They will adjourn to the amended date for the Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 in the City Hall Council Chambers at City Hall. The Sustainability Commission's normal meeting schedule is at 5 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month except August unless otherwise noted or amended.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michele Mician, Manager  
Office of Sustainability