

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



MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2013, Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

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

FLAG SALUTE: The flag salute was done by Commissioner McCreesh

ROLL CALL: A quorum was present for this Regular Meeting of the City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission.

AGENDA APPROVAL: The agenda was presented by Sustainability Manager Mician. Commissioner _____ motioned and Commissioner _____ seconded the motion to pass the agenda.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2013/2014 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2013/2014 Unexcused Absences</u>
Brett Klein, Chair	X	26		
Thom Bettinger	X	15		
Kate Castle	X	16	2	
Paul J. McCreesh	X	19	1	
Joe Jackson	X	8	1	
Grant Wilson	X	9		
Brielle McNeel	X	3	1	
Mark Polischak	X	4		
Victor Yepello	X	4		
Travis Armstrong	X	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

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)

B. PRESENTATIONS (20 MINUTES)

1. **Friends of the Desert Mountains, John Purcell and Jacqueline Danos, Board Members**

2. **California State University, San Bernardino, Susan Knollenberg, Director of Major Gifts and Doris Wilson, Associate Dean**
3. **American Beverage Association, Dustan Batton, Government Relations Director Southern California**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5 MINUTES)

1. October 15, 2013 Regular Meeting
Commissioner _____ motioned for the approval of minutes.
Commissioner _____ seconded the motion.
All approved.

RECYCLING UPDATE, Gary Calhoun – Recycling Coordinator (5 MINUTES)

SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER REPORT (10 MINUTES)

1. City Employee Bike Sharing Program Purchase
2. 2014 Mayor's Healthy Planet, Healthy You Race Posters
3. Dero Bike Rack and Hitch Order
4. Chevron ESCO Performance Contract and Contracted Position
5.
 - The city was recognized with the Beacon Award which will be held on the 25th at the Westin.

G. NEW BUSINESS (5 MINUTES)

1. Sustainability Commission Recommendation on Fashion Plaza Tree Relocation
 - **RECOMMENDATION:** Motioned by Commissioner Bettinger and second by Commissioner Yepello to fund the project to relocate the trees in the amount of \$17,000.00. Vote passed with 6 yes, 2 no and abstain. Funds are to be taken from #138-1270-42691. Commissioner Polischak stated that trees are already here and already exist in the City. Commissioner Bettinger recommends that this can be an educational opportunity for school children, especially for Arbor Day. Michele stated the vote will be presented to the City Counsel, with their recommendation.
2. Sustainability Commission Position on Urban Chicken Keeping
 - **RECOMMENDATION:** Commissioner Jackson recommends that there be no action to be taken until November until a plan of action can be decided. Commissioner Jackson also stated there may not be enough time to create a plan of action by the November meeting, and consult community members and conduct a public hearing regarding their feelings on keeping chickens. Added, verifying with ordinances. There is also a proposal for bee keeping.

3. Funding for 1(one) Staff and 1(one) Commissioner to attend the California by Bike Summit November 7-10, 2013 in Oakland, CA
 - **RECOMMENDATION:** Commissioner Caste motioned for a vote to approve the proposal and Commissioner McCreesh. Motion approved by all Commissioners to fund attendance but not to exceed \$2500.00. A member from the Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee to decide which member will be sent.
4. Sustainability Commission Statement on Artificial Turf
 - **RECOMMENDATION:** To be adopted in November Meeting for further studies on pros and cons. Commissioner Klein advised that this proposal was not adopted 3 years ago but there exist new technologies.
 - Commissioner Yepello stated that more study should be done before making a decision by November, especially on the effects on landfills. Commissioner Bettinger stated that it is not a lot of time to prepare a study. Commissioner Bettinger also expressed his concern regarding the disposal of artificial grass and should there be a change with the current policy with the Lawn Buy Back program. He currently has no stance on that issue regarding a change with the program. Manager Mician stated that she has information already on the impact it on bio issues.
 - Commission Klein did advise the committee that the Murray Library wanted to change the desert landscape in the rear area and install artificial grass.
 - Commissioner Castle stated that the City of Indian Wells has been using artificial grass on their medians and maybe we can inquire with them.

OLD BUSINESS

(45 MINUTES)

1. January – April 2014 Sustainability Film Series Ideas. Commissioner Bettinger has no new information in regards to issue but he has been searching the internet for sustainability movies but Manager Michele had already shown them prior. Manager Mician stated that for \$2000.00 yearly sponsorship, the City is able to advertise and visibility at the Camelot Theatre and Farmers Market.
2. Education Subcommittee, no new information due to Commissioner McNeel absence
3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee. Commissioner Castle stated that a change should be made on the Green for Life application instead of “Name”, it should be changed to “Owner Name”, to avoid the use of the contractor’s name. Manager Macian stated the training with CVAG staff went well to mention applicants with the Green Building program. Manager Mician expressed her concern that there should be an automated way of tracking the information with CVAG.
4. Wellness Subcommittee. Commissioner Jackson stated there has been no recent meeting, but the Mizell event was well attended. Sustainability information, bike maps and sharp containers given.
5. Waste Reduction Subcommittee. Commissioner Castle stated that it has been a very busy month. On October 1st, she met with Merchants from the Street Fair and on October 7th, she spoke to all City Council candidate’s forum and reports that they all support the plastic bag initiative. Commissioner Castle also stated that Mayors of each city in the Coachella Valley will be meeting at the end of the month and will decide on a valley wide ordinance on the plastic bag initiative.
6. Water Subcommittee. Commissioner Yepello stated that they had their first meeting on October 2nd, and will meet monthly the 4th Wednesday of every month at City Hall. They have created a Mission Statement and have produced 8-9 different projects to help

- conserve. He also stated that March is Water Awareness Month.
7. Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee. Commissioner Klein stated there was no meeting on October 13th. He did state that they had a meeting with RSA contracting to up grade the city's bike and walking infrastructure. The city has 271 road ways that can be made more bike friendly, create more bike lanes, and be more "road diet", which creates less automobile traffic. The cost of planning and building would be from Measure J.

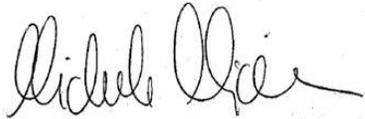
COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

(10 MINUTES)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:58 pm. The first motion was by Commissioner Jackson and a second from Commissioner Castle. They will adjourn to the Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 in the Large Conference Room 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,

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

Michele Mician, Manager
Office of Sustainability