

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



**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 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 Manager Mician.

**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 Jackson motioned and Commissioner Bettinger seconded the motion to pass the agenda. All Approved.

	<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	33		
Thom Bettinger	X	22		
Kate Castle, Vice Chair	X	25	2	
Joe Jackson	X	14	2	
Grant Wilson	X	16		
Brielle McNeel	X	8	3	
Mark Polischak	X	11		
Victor Yepello	X	10	1	
Travis Armstrong	X	10		

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  
 Arwel Bermudo, Clerical Assistant

**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**

**(40 MINUTES)**

1. Eric Corey Freed, Presentation on Grey Water
  - Mr. Freed, Representative for the City of Palm Desert – Office of Sustainability, provided a presentation regarding the importance of water conservation, especially in the Coachella Valley.
  - Mr. Freed would like to work closely with City of Palm Springs – Office of Sustainability to implement water conservation mandatory or incentivize practices. With the efforts of both Cities, it will emphasize the importance and changes to the cultural awareness of water conservation in the Coachella Valley.
  - Commissioner Yepello commented the presentation was very well done and expressed the Water Subcommittee’s willingness to work with the City of Palm Desert.
  - Vice Chair Castle requested a copy of the presentation, which Mr. Freed provided to Manager Mician.
  
2. Jenna LeComte-Hinely, Presentation of Health Chapter of the Sustainability Master Plan
  - Dr. LeComte-Hinely presented to the Commission a draft of the Health Chapter and how it relates to the other existing chapters of the Sustainability Master Plan.
  - Commissioner Armstrong requested a section be added regarding the activities Parks and Recreation Department and how those activities benefit the Community.
  - Commissioner Jackson requested for additional inputs before presenting a final draft for approval. Manager Mician requested the Commission to Table Section G.1.
  
3. Michele Mician, Presentation on Water Conservation Issues
  - Manager Mician presented to the Commission the water conservation presentation which she previously provided to the City Council.

## **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**(5 MINUTES)**

1. April 15, 2014, Regular Meeting
  - Vice Chair castle motioned for the approval of minutes.
  - Commissioner Polischak seconded the motion.
  - All approved.
    - Minutes approved without amendments.

## **D. RECYCLING UPDATE**

**(10 MINUTES)**

1. Clean Up Events
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported on the Bike Month Trail Event and expressed his gratitude for Chair Klein’s involvement.
  
2. PSDS Once A Week Collection Update
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported PSDS successfully implemented the “Once A Week Collection” Program without further complaints.
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported PSDS has over 3000 resident with green waste bins.
  
3. Plastic Bag Ordinance Outreach Update
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported started to contact local large businesses regarding the changes that will be implemented. He reported he is the process of completing information packets for both large and small businesses.

4. General Recycling Update
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported the prior month recycling event was a success and residents continue to use the e-waste drop off.

**E. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER'S REPORT (10 MINUTES)**

1. Bike Parking Program Update
  - Manager Mician presented the Commission the same presentation which she provided to City Council.
  - Manager Mician provided the locations and style of Bike Parking that will be instated at the three locations.
2. City Council Meeting Items Update
  - Manager Mician presented the Commission a brief overview of projects regarding and water conservation. All of which have the support of the City Council.
3. June 11, 2014, Joint Study Session on Water
  - Manager Mician reminded the Commission of the Joint Study Session on Water Conservation scheduled for June 11, 2014.
4. Urban Forestry and Tree Inventory Project Update
  - Manager Mician reported she has completed the SCAG Grant Application and plans to start tree inventory in the following fiscal year.
5. Grant Applications Update
  - Manager Mician reported she has completed a \$1 Million Grant through Caltran with collaboration the Engineering Department and Strategic Solutions for bike infrastructure.

**F. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (10 MINUTES)**

1. Water Subcommittee, Commissioner Yepello and Bettinger
  - Commissioner Bettinger reported DWA will be conducting a water conservation workshop for HOAs.
2. Education Subcommittee, Commissioner McNeel
  - Commissioner McNeel had no update.
3. Wellness Subcommittee, Commissioner Jackson
  - Commissioner Jackson reported the subcommittee has been meeting with HARC to finalize the Health and Wellness Chapter to the Sustainability Master Plan and requested if there in any inputs other Commissioner would like to add.
  - Commissioner Jackson reported the subcommittee will be conducting a Study Session for Urban Chicken and Bee Keeping.
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Vice Chair Castle
  - Vice Chair Castle reported the status of the Choose to Reuse PS Website. The website

was created to assist resident and local businesses to transition prior to the ordinance take effect.

- Vice Chair Castle reported SB270 has passed Committee and there is 106 cities and counties in the State of California which ban single use plastic bags.
5. Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee, Chair Klein
    - Chair Klein reported proposed projects funded by Measure J that will be undertaken in the following three fiscal years and would like City staff to proceed with current years plan, as it has been approved with funding allocated.
  6. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee - On Hold

#### **G. NEW BUSINESS**

**(15 MINUTES)**

1. Final Adoption of Health Chapter of Sustainability Master Plan

**RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT HEALTH CHAPTER AS PRESENTED TO BE INCLUDED IN FINAL MASTER PLAN.**

A motion to table was initiated by Commissioner Yepello  
Seconded by Vice Chair Castle.  
All approved.

- Commissioner Jackson invited Commissioners to provide any input prior to approval of the final draft of the Health and Wellness Chapter.

#### **H. OLD BUSINESS**

**(5 MINUTES)**

1. Sustainability Film Series Update, Commissioner Bettinger
  - Commissioner Bettinger reported the Camelot Theater would like to expand the Free Sustainability Film Series to eight months.
  - Commissioner Bettinger requested for any film suggestions from the Commission.
2. Report on Walking and Biking Conference and Walking Component of NMTP, Commissioner Wilson and Manager Mician
  - Commissioner Wilson reported the Alliance for Walking and Biking was focused on how organizations should plan for fund raising for walking and biking activities. He stated the Commission is at an advantage, as we have the funds to implement projects.
  - Commissioner Wilson would like to implement the Baristo Pilot Project, which would encourage walking. Some of the immediate challenges are the lack of shades through the course.

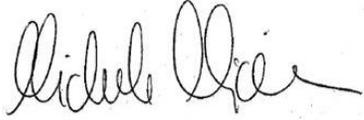
#### **I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**(10 MINUTES)**

- Commissioner Bettinger and Yepello provided an update on the 4th Annual Environmental and Sustainability Expo at CSU San Bernardino. Both stated it was very rewarding and the participants were very engaged.
- Manager Mician advised the Commission she will be working on an Early Registration Event for Healthy Planet, Healthy You Race and Wellness Festival for the month of June.

**J. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:55 P.M. The first motion was by Commissioner Yepello and a second Vice Chair Castle. They will adjourn to the Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 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 extending to the right.

Michele Mician, Manager  
Office of Sustainability