

Sustainability Commission
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA



MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Armstrong.

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. One presenter is absent and will be re-scheduled. A motion to approve by Vice-Chair Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Freedman and unanimously carried.

		Present	FY 2015/2016	FY 2015/2016
	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>to Date</u>	<u>Excused Absences</u>	<u>Unexcused Absences</u>
Thom Bettinger	X	37		
Joe Jackson	X	28		
Grant Wilson	X	31		
Mark Polischak	E	24	1	
Victor Yepello	X	23	2	
Travis Armstrong	X	24	1	
Tara Lazar	X	13	1	
Nate Otto	X	12	2	
David Freedman	X	3		
Nancy Ferguson	X	2		

X = Present E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)
L = Late U = did not notify of absence

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Michele Mician MS, Manager, Office of Sustainability
Dan DeGarmo, Clerical Assistant

CITY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

No reports this month.

Sustainability Manager Mician stated the City Council will discuss a plan for lawn over-seeding at City Parks at the September 16, 2015 City Council Meeting, Item 4.A.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: This time is 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. The Commission values your comments but, pursuant to the Brown Act, cannot take action on items not listed on the posted Agenda. Three (3) minutes for each speaker.

- No Public Comments
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A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(5 MINUTES)

1. New Officer Mission and Top Three Goals
 - Sustainability Manager Mician discussed having a Team Building Workshop for Commission members. Suggestions for topics to be sent to Manager Mician, Chair Jackson and Vice-Chair Wilson. Rami and Associates could be used as a facilitator.
 - Commissioner Bettinger requested copies of evaluation forms from the last Workshop be available for review along with information on the annual budget and how it works.
2. Fiscal Year Goal
 - Sustainability Manager Mician requested Commission to look at formulating goals for FY 2015-16.
 - Chair Jackson stated that ideas for new goals should emerge from the new Sustainability Master Plan with an eye on budget growth.
3. Resignation of Commissioner Birnberg
 - Sustainability Manager Mician announced the resignation of Commissioner Birnberg. One spot now available on the Commission.

B. PRESENTATIONS (40 MINUTES)

1. Assembly Bill 2188, Jim Zicaro, Building and Safety Department Director
 - Building and Safety Department Director Zicaro presented information regarding Assembly Bill 2188 and the effects it has on approving Solar Panel installations of 10 kw or under in the City. A City ordinance has been added to the City Building Code, Section 8.100.
 - Manager Mician and Commissioner Freedman suggested adding a link to AB 2188 on the Planning Department's website.
 - Commissioner Otto thanked Director Zicaro for his presentation and the efforts of the Building Department.
2. Healthy Planet, Healthy You Events Overview, Jeff Hocker
 - Mr. Hocker reported on the Bike Donation Drive.
 - Mr. Hocker presented an update on the 2016 Mayor's Race event. Registration has already begun.
 - Mr. Hocker stated that there is a Community Moves Me training event (group hike) this weekend.
3. New Desert Water Agency Public Information Officer, Ashley Hudgens
 - Ashley Hudgens not present at meeting. Item tabled to October 20, 2015 meeting.
4. Waterless Urinals Rebate Proposal, Jeff Olinger and Fredi Heimberg
 - Mr. Heimberg presented information on waterless urinals and requested that the City of Palm Springs consider offering a rebate on the installation of waterless urinals.
 - Chair Jackson asked if there are some installations in the desert.
 - Commissioner Bettinger asked if there is a home model available.
 - Commissioner Yepello asked if the City required the use of waterless urinals in new remodels and if not, why not?
 - Commissioners Freedman and Yepello requested if the City is considering rebates or grants.
 - Manager Mician suggested that the Green Building Subcommittee develop plans for requesting a rebate on waterless urinals.

C. MEETING MINUTES (5 MINUTES)

1. The minutes from the July 21, 2015 Meeting were presented by Sustainability Manager Mician. Motion to approve as amended by Commissioner Otto and seconded by Commissioner Bettinger. Unanimously carried. Abstained: Commissioner Armstrong.

D. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT, Cheryl Houck, Liaison & Commissioner Armstrong

- Ms. Houck reported on the over-seeding at Sunrise Park field.

- Ms. Houck reported on recycling containers at City parks and the need for more containers.
- Ms. Houck reported on Highland Park receiving a \$250,000.00 grant for a stage to be built on the site.
- Ms. Houck reported that the James O. Jesse Recreation Center is getting new weightlifting equipment.
- Ms. Houck reported on new playground structure at Sunrise Park and that will accommodate persons with disabilities.
- Commissioner Armstrong presented pictures of new recycling containers.
- Commissioner Armstrong stated that the City exceeded the State's water conservation guideline by reducing water usage by 43%.

E. RECYCLING REPORT, Gary Calhoun (10 MINUTES)

1. Mattress Recycling Project
 - Mr. Calhoun was absent and the report was tabled to the October 20, 2015 meeting.

F. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGERS REPORT, Michele Mician (15 MINUTES)

1. New Assistant Introduction, Dan DeGarmo
 - Manager Mician introduced Dan DeGarmo as the new Clerical Assistant for the Sustainability Department. Mr. DeGarmo introduced himself.
2. Sustainability Master Plan public workshop
 - Manager Mician stated that the "Walk and Roll" app is moving along well and has many features available.
 - Manager Mician stated Master Plan has been sent to the Education Subcommittee.
 - Chair Jackson inquired if a public workshop will be available.
3. Tahquitz Creek Invasive Removal Project
 - Manager Mician stated that she is working on grants to get rid of Fountain Grass. The rivers and parkways grant did not come through, but we have Proposition 1 grant money available.
 - Manager Mician is also working with the Desert Horticultural Society on ways to effectively get rid of Fountain Grass.
 - Commissioner Yepello asked if Fountain Grass could be banned from sale in Palm Springs. Manager Mician will follow up on the request.
4. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure including Remote Monitoring and Point of Use Charging
 - Manager Mician reported that she is looking into different grants for Electric Vehicle Recharging Stations. One source may be Hydra 5 (or 10) which will allow for a greater variety of special uses. Different vendors are available.
5. Urban Forestry Plan and Tree inventory
 - Manager Mician reported on tree inventory and explained that trees are dying due to incorrect pruning. The City of Palm Springs' Department of Parks and Recreation is hiring certified arborists to instruct on the correct procedures of pruning.

G. OLD BUSINESS (5 MINUTES)

1. Subcommittee organization and membership
 - Updated list of Subcommittee members is requested.
 - Chair Jackson stated that community members may be members of any subcommittee.
2. Film Series Update
 - Manager Mician presented the schedule of shows for FY 2015-16. Some viewing rights still need to be obtained
 - Manager Mician stated that the January through May shows will be at the Camelot Theater and the June through August schedule will be at the Recreation Center Pavilion.
3. Energy and Water Summit Booth

- Manager Mician stated that the City will host a booth at the show and that if any of the Commissioners wish to help man the booth they should let Dan DeGarmo know so that a schedule can be made up. The dates are September 30th through October 1st.
- Commissioners that will not be able to attend: Wilson, Lazar, Yepello. (Unknown if Commissioner Polischak will attend).
- Commissioner Freedman asked about the bus tour availability.

H. NEW BUSINESS (10 MINUTES)

1. U.S. Conference of Mayors, Zero Waste Resolution
 - Tabled to the October 20, 2015 meeting. Copy of resolution to be sent to all commissioners for further review.

I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (30 MINUTES)

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioners Armstrong and Freedman
 - Commissioner Armstrong is asking for more members as there are only 2 on the Subcommittee.
 - Commissioner Freedman reported on the Water Conservation Task Force and asked if someone from the City of Palm Springs' Planning Commission could join the October 20, 2015 meeting to provide further insight.
 - Commissioner Armstrong suggested that the Planning Commission subcommittee and the Sustainability Commission subcommittee work together on water conservation.
2. Outreach Subcommittee, Commissioner Lazar
 - Commissioner Lazar reported on the "Ready, Set, Swim" program for 3rd grade children and the "Rethink Your Drink" program.
 - New members are needed for this subcommittee.
3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Vice Chair Wilson and Commissioner Otto
 - Vice-Chair Wilson expanded on AB 2188 by stating that the aesthetic reference pertains to HOA's not being able to dictate placement of solar panels.
 - Commissioner Otto stated that the City is in the process of getting bids for solar panel installations on several City facilities, with the possibility of obtaining grants from CSI.
 - Commissioner Otto requested that an attempt be made to have Chief Engineer Fuller come to a meeting to present a detailed explanation on the architectural aspect of city facilities and of the "aesthetics" as it relates to AB 2188.
 - Manager Mician asked about the leaf blower issue. A request from ONE-PS, specifically Ms. Cobrun, would like to work on an ordinance to limit leaf blowers to electric only. A review will be made and discussion will be had on bringing the issue to the City Council.
 - Commissioner Otto stated that the "electric" stipulation does not solve the issue of excess dust in the air.
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner Polischak
 - No meeting was held, no report.
5. Wellness Subcommittee, Chair Jackson
 - No meeting was held, no report.
 - Commissioner Bettinger mentioned the Health/Wellness events that will be upcoming:
 - Health and Wellness Fair -
 - 3rd Annual Safety Fair – October 20, 2015
 - Senior Lifestyle Expo – October 23, 2015 – Mizell Senior Center
 - HARC Air Quality and Health – October 27 – UCR, Palm Desert
6. Active Transportation Subcommittee, Commissioner Yepello
 - Commissioner Yepello stated that overall, the new bicycle lanes are being well received by the citizens of Palm Springs.

- Commissioner Yepello stated that Cycledelic has been canceled for this October due to road construction in the area of the ride. No new dates have been set for the event.
- Commissioner Ferguson asked if the funds allocated to Jeff Hocker for Cycledelic can be used elsewhere, possibly for education. Manager Mician will follow up.
- Commissioner Bettinger stated that Councilmember Foat has requested if there are any YouTube videos available for bike lane education.
- Manager Mician stated that a video can be produced and will look into using grant funds to create the video.
- Commissioner Freedman stated that more education is needed on areas where the bike lanes go from dedicated to shared and back.
- Commissioner Yepello stated that Belardo Road from Ramon to Tahquitz Canyon Way now has a Class 3 bike lane.
- Commissioner Lazar asked if we can get education materials to the local DMV.
- Commissioner Armstrong stated that more education is needed for the residents of Palm Springs on the uses and signage of bike lanes.

J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

(5 MINUTES)

- Commissioner Freedman commented that he and Commissioner Bettinger are working on an ad-hoc subcommittee at ONE-PS for a candidate forum for the 3 candidates for the 2 open positions at the Desert Water Agency Director positions. A set of questions are being developed for the forum and that if anyone wishes to submit a question, they can do so via email at askwatercandidates2015@gmail.com through September 19, 2015.
- Commissioner Otto commented that Director Zicaro's comments on aesthetics were directed more at HOA's instead of the City's regulations.
- Manager Mician asked about next agenda, should a subcommittee bring a request for a waterless urinal rebate?

K. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:37 PM. Motion by Commissioner Otto, second by Commissioner Yepello. Unanimously approved. They adjourned to the next Regular Meeting, which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 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.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (760) 323-8204 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible. Please advise us at that time if you will need accommodations to attend or participate in meetings on a regular basis. If additional information is needed, please contact the Office of Sustainability at (760)323-8214.

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5(b) (2) the designated office for inspection of records in connection with the meeting is Office of Sustainability, City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way. Complete Agenda Packets are available for public inspection at: City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA.