

Sustainability Commission

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA



MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 20, 2015
Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at **5:02** p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun.

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. A motion to approve by Commissioner Bettinger and seconded by Commissioner Yepello 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	38		
Joe Jackson	X	29		
Grant Wilson	E	31	1	
Mark Polischak	X	25	1	
Victor Yepello	X	25		
Travis Armstrong	X	25	1	
Tara Lazar	X	14		
Nate Otto	X	13		
David Freedman	X	4		
Nancy Ferguson	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
Dan DeGarmo, Clerical Assistant
Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator

CITY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORTS: No reports this month.

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.

- Mark Spicak, Palm Springs, spoke on noise levels of leaf blowers and the particulate matter that is created in the air.
- Louis Horvath, Palm Springs, spoke on leaf blowers causing respiratory problems. He provided information on a possible option using a push sweeper.
- Dan Hughett, Palm Springs, spoke on the Desert Highland Gateway Health and Wellness Committee and the areas they are focusing on for the African American community.

- Commissioner Ferguson commented on the possibility of working with the Committee on Measure J Commission projects.
- Manager Mician added that input on the Sustainability Master Plan would also be useful from the Committee.

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - NONE

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. DWA Update, Desert Water Agency Public Information Officer, Ashley Hudgens
Ashley Hudgens, Public Information Officer for Desert Water Agency presented information on projects and issues that DWA is offering and/or working on:
 - Turf Buy Back Program
 - Free Smart controllers for irrigation timers
 - Toilet rebate of \$100.00 for low-flow toilets
 - Leaks and Infrastructure – water rates may go up
 - Water usage reduction percentages
 - The El Nino possibilities for this winter
 - Water Restrictions
 - Grant Funds
 - Community Events
 - Advertising

Commissioner questions and comments on the above were presented and discussed.

2. City Solar Installations & Landscape Conversion, Asst. City Manager/City Engineer Marcus Fuller
Asst. City Manager/City Engineer Marcus Fuller presented information on the City’s Landscape Conversion Project and Solar Installations:
 - Water saving percentages of 40% for July and 43% for August were presented using graphs (attached).
 - Ideas for options for uses for park areas where watering will be stopped to meet the 36% water savings required.
 - Status of Solar Project was presented. SunEdison and SolarCity have been selected to install solar systems at the Animal Shelter, Convention Center, Demuth Park, Downtown Parking Structure, Fire Station #1, Sunrise Plaza Complex. Waste Water Treatment Plant, and Unity Center (See attachment).
 - Several structures will be paid for through grants.

Commissioner questions and comments on the above were presented and discussed.

C. MEETING MINUTES

1. The minutes from the September 17, 2015 Meeting were presented by Sustainability Manager Mician. Motion to approve as amended by Commissioner Freedman and seconded by Commissioner Yepello. Unanimously carried. Abstained: None.

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

Commissioner Armstrong reported on bike rack installations.

- Would like to see more bike rack installations

E. RECYCLING REPORT, Gary Calhoun

1. Electronic Waste and Shredding Report.
 - i. 273 attendees at Shredding event , 5-6 tons of shredding

2. AB 1826 – Requires Businesses that produce 8 tons of organic waste must arrange for recycling services by April of 2016. Those that produce 4 tons will have to comply by April of 2017. Gary also presented possibilities for using the end product of organic waste and the need to notify businesses of the new law.

Commissioner questions and comments on the above were presented and discussed.

F. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGERS REPORT, Michele Mician

1. Sustainability Master Plan public workshop
 - Manager Mician presented status of the Master Plan
 - Manager Mician presented Master Plan Open House and Public Workshop information scheduled for December 5th.
 - Walk and Roll App will be unveiled at the Public Workshop
2. Tahquitz Creek Invasive Removal Project
 - Manager Mician presented status of the Tahquitz Creek Invasive Removal Project.
3. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure including Remote Monitoring and Point of Use Charging
 - Manager Mician presented status of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.
4. Urban Forestry Plan and Tree inventory
 - Manager Mician presented status of the Urban Forestry Plan and Tree Inventory
 - A Staff Report has been prepared to present the immediate need to prune and remove Priority 1 trees and will be presented at City Council on October 21, 2015. (Motion was unanimously passed by City Council).

Commissioner questions and comments on the above were presented and discussed.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. US Conference of Mayors, Zero Waste Resolution
 - Motion to refer the U.S. Zero Waste Resolution to City Council with the endorsement of the Sustainability Commission was made by Commissioner Polischak. (No need for second as motion comes from a sub-committee.)
 - Commissioners made comments and questions regarding the motion which were discussed.
 - Motion unanimously passed by commissioners.
2. Film Series Update
 - Manager Mician presented the status of the Film Series and the flyer for the films was presented.
3. Leaf Blower Discussion
 - On Agenda for the purpose of informing commissioners of the progress of the Ecology Sub-committee of ONE-PS. Recommendation from ONE-PS has not been finalized yet and will need to be presented to the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner questions and comments on the above were presented and discussed.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Waterless Urinal Program
 - Referred to the Water Conservation Sub-Committee to present to the Commission with their findings on incentives for a rebate.

I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioners Armstrong and Freedman
 - Commissioner Freedman presented information on the Water & Energy Summit and the need to monitor the Salon Sea restoration.
 - Commissioner Freedman also presented information on the Candidates Forum for DWA

- Commissioner Freedman presented information on Prop 218
 - 2. Outreach Subcommittee, Commissioner Lazar
 - No report
 - 3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Vice Chair Wilson and Commissioner Otto
 - Commissioner Freedman presented information on the issue of Solar charges from Utility companies.
 - 4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner Polischak
 - No report.
 - 5. Wellness Subcommittee, Chair Jackson
 - Chair Jackson reported on upcoming events in which the Commission will attend.
 - 6. Active Transportation Subcommittee, Commissioner Yepello
 - Commissioner Ferguson reported that the Sub-Committee would like to make a recommendation that the contract for Jeff Hocker be amended to participate in education programs.
 - Commissioner Yepello presented information on status of bike lanes in the City and a wish list for future projects including a multi-modal lane loop in the City.
 - Commissioner Yepello presented information on a walking path along the Baristo Channel from Indian to Caballeros.
 - Commissioner Yepello presented information on having a demonstration project on Baristo Road.
 - Commissioner Yepello presented information on preparing an educational piece on the bike lanes for public.
- Commissioner questions and comments on the above were presented and discussed.

J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Otto commented on the NCPA stating that the possibility for a National Monument for the San Jacinto to the Nevada border looks good.

K. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:15 PM. Motion by Commissioner Freedman, second by Commissioner Otto. Unanimously approved. They adjourned to the next Regular Meeting, which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 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.