

Sustainability Commission

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA



MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 16, 2016
Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Councilmember Kors

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 as amended by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Bettinger and unanimously carried.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2015/2016 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2015/2016 Unexcused Absences</u>
Thom Bettinger	X	42		
Joe Jackson	X	33		
Grant Wilson	X	35	1	
Mark Polischak	X	29	1	
Travis Armstrong	X	29	1	
Tara Lazar	E	16	2	
Nate Otto	L	17		
David Freedman	X	8		
Nancy Ferguson	X	7		

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
Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator

CITY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORT - None

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.

Cos Aiello – (Palm Springs) – Spoke on extending Bike path along Golf Club to 34th and Ramon Road.

George Gust – (Palm Springs) – Spoke on the Eagle Crest Project and asked the Sustainability Commission to prepare a resolution to the City Council for a full environmental impact statement for the Eagle Crest transmission line and to return the Joshua Tree National Park.

Dr. Lani Miller – (Palm Springs) – Spoke on creating a Southeast entry to Joshua Tree National Park and on the Eagle Crest Electric project.

A. PRESENTATIONS

1. Introduction and Welcome Council Member Kors

Chair Jackson introduced Council Member Kors as the liaison for the Sustainability Commission. Council Member Kors introduced himself and took questions from the Commissioners.

2. Mayor's Healthy Planet, Healthy You Race and Wellness Festival, Manager Mician and Jeff Hocker, Event Manager reported on the results of the 2016 Mayor's Race and Wellness Festival. 1220 Registrants for the Race. Questions and comments from Commissioners were discussed.
3. Parks Conservation Update. Seth Shteir reported on Joshua Tree National Park, and the threat that the Eagle Crest Pump Storage Project may have on the park. He also reported on the proposal to return the Eagle Mountain area back to Joshua Tree National Park. Mr. Shteir requested that the Commission send a resolution or letter to the City Council to not support the Eagle Crest project. Questions and comments from Commissioners were discussed. Chair Jackson requested that an ad hoc committee be created to put together information on these issues. Commissioners Otto and Ferguson will prepare information to present to the Commission and Commissioner Freedman will help with a review of the documentation.

B. MEETING MINUTES

1. January 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Motion by Commissioner Freedman and Seconded by Commissioner Otto to accept the Minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

C. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

Commissioner Armstrong reported that Liaison Cheryl Houck has resigned from the Parks and Recreation Commission. He also reported on the ad hoc committee for Pesticide Reduction and the Parks and Recreation Commission working with the Sustainability Commission. Commissioner Armstrong also reported on the turf reduction at City Hall and the Dog Park.

D. RECYCLING REPORT, Gary Calhoun

1. February 27, 2015 Shredding and Electronic Waste Event
Recycling Coordinator Calhoun reported that the next recycling event will be on February 27, 2016 and that there will be a free oil filter exchange on May 21, 2016. The Neighborhood Cleanup will be April 11th -16th
2. Update on Facility recycling
Recycling Coordinator Calhoun reported on Downtown recycling issues. Most bags pulled had trash included with the recycling items.
Questions and comments from Commissioners were discussed.
Chair Jackson requested that Manager Mician request that Village Fest Commission add Gary to their Agenda. Possibly providing the big blue recycling bins at Village Fest.

E. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGERS REPORT, Michele Mician

1. Sustainability Master Plan Public Draft Plan Review
 - i. Public Comment Period on Website – Manager Mician reported that there is a Public Comment Period notification on the City Website calendar.
2. Sustainability Commission Team Building Workshop, March 5, 2016, Desert Healthcare District
Manager Mician reported on the team building workshop on March 5, 2016.
3. Film Series Attendance Increase
Manager Mician reported that the attendance at the films is up over last year.
4. Urban Agriculture updates
Manager Mician reported on the Clinton Day of Action and community gardens and orchards.
5. Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget Overview
Manager Mician submitted an overview of the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget and changes to the budget that she would like to see implemented.
Questions and comments from Commissioners were discussed. Chair requested a grant status report for the March 5th meeting.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Priorities for Measure J Funding of Biking and Walking Projects:
Commissioner Ferguson reported that Measure J Committee has not met yet. No report

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. ONE PS Picnic, March 19, 2016
 - i. Staffing – Manager Mician reported that Sustainability will have a booth at the ONE PS picnic and that we will share the booth with some Alpacas.
 - ii. Giveaways – We will have some giveaways for the event
 - iii. Partners - Commissioners are encouraged to attend
2. World Water Day Educational Outreach
Manager Mician reported World Water Day is March 22 and that day is also “Fix a Leak Day”. She asked if the Commission would like to consider doing anything to promote water awareness.
3. Earth Hour
Manager Mician reported that on March 29, 2016 is Earth Hour and asked for any activity suggestions or promotions and/or public education.
Questions and comments from Commissioners were discussed.
4. Discuss expenditure to send representatives to the National Bike Summit, March 7-9, 2016.
Manager Mician asked if Chair Jackson would like to send anyone to the summit. Commissioners discussed and requested that we wait until next year for the Summit. No Motion was made.

RECOMMENDATION: Motion to allocate an amount not to exceed \$2800 to send two representatives to the National Bike Summit using funds available in Account # 138-1270-58039

H. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee,
Commissioner Freedman reported that the Water Reduction Mandate was reduced to 32%. He reported that DWA was seeking authority to issue fines on-the-spot for violation of the water rules. DWA is also looking at a rate re-set.
2. Outreach Subcommittee, Commissioner Lazar – No report
3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Vice Chair Wilson, Commissioners Otto and Freedman
Commissioner Freedman reported on the issue of green building standards for downtown as Councilmember Kors had previously stated. Also, developing city-wide green building standards. Manager Mician stated that the Building Department Staff be included in the discussions.
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee.
Commissioner Polischak reported that he met with FIND Food Bank and the use of the Waste No Food app. He also reported on a Mobile Food Truck to help those in need of food and if the City would be able to promote its use. Manager Mician stated that the Health Department would have to be involved also. Commissioner Polischak also asked if the City had available some recyclable bags to give to schools for food distribution. He also reported on the Pride Stewardship Council and the possibility of developing an ordinance to send to the City Council. He also stated that Walgreens will start offering an unused drug drop-off at their pharmacies.
5. Wellness Subcommittee, Chair Jackson – No Report
6. Active Transportation Subcommittee - No Report

I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Otto commented on the water issue at Eagle Creek.
Commissioner Ferguson commented on the lack of time to prepare a report.

Manager Mician asked that if any commissioners meet with a Council Member that Michele, Jennifer Nelson and Cindy Cairns be notified of the meeting and the agenda.

- J. ADJOURNMENT – 7:10 PM** - Motion by Commissioner Armstrong and Second by Commissioner Freedman to adjourn the meeting of the Sustainability Commission to the Regular Meeting, which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2015 in the Large Conference Room at City Hall. The

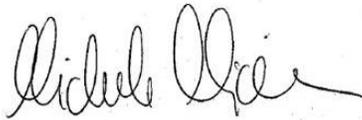
Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting Agenda

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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