

**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 19, 2016  
Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Commissioner Clark

**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 presented by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner McCann and unanimously carried.

	This Meeting	Present to Date	FY 2015/2016 Excused Absences	FY 2015/2016 Unexcused Absences
Joe Jackson	X	38		
Grant Wilson	X	40	1	
Roy Clark	X	1		
Nancy Ferguson	X	11	1	
David Freedman	X	13		
Jennifer Futterman	X	2		
Tara Lazar	E	18	4	Resigned on 7/18/2016
Robert McCann	X	5		
Nate Otto	X	20	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  
Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator

**CITY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORT – No report**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Roxann Ploss (Palm Springs) – Spoke on promoting a ban on leaf blowers.

**A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

1. Welcome New Commissioners:

Chair Jackson welcomed new Commissioners Roy Clark and Jennifer Futterman.

Commissioner Clark stated he is happy to be a member and is interested in Transportation and Water Conservation subcommittees.

Commissioner Futterman stated she is honored to be a member and is interested in Health and Wellness and Outreach subcommittees.

Welcome bags were given to new Commissioners and Chair Jackson asked if a badge or Commission shirt could be provided to all Commissioners.

2. Commission Chair and Vice-Chair Election

Chair Jackson requested nominations for Vice-Chair and Chair positions for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year.

Commissioner Ferguson nominated Vice-Chair Wilson for the Vice-Chair position. No further

nominations were presented. Vice-Chair Wilson nominated Chair Jackson for the Chair position. No further nominations were presented. Poll was unanimously passed by the Commissioners for both positions.

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Councilman Sub-Committee Report**

Councilmember Kors spoke on his interpretation of the direction from City Council on Leaf Blowers and Solar policies from the June 23, 2016 Joint Meeting with the City Council and the Sustainability Commission. Manager Mician noted that the official Minutes have not been received from the City Clerk's office and that no official direction has been received from the City Manager's office.

## **C. MEETING MINUTES**

1. June 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes Review – Minutes have not yet been received. No action taken at this time.
2. May 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes have not been presented to Commissioners. No action taken on these minutes.

Chair Jackson requested that the September meeting be moved to September 13, 2016 as both he and Vice-Chair Wilson will not be available. Discussion ensued and the revised date was accepted.

## **D. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

### **Parks and Recreation**

#### **1. Report on Organic Pesticide and Integrated Pest Management Subcommittee**

Manager Mician stated that the Subcommittee has been given examples of ordinances from other cities and that they are working on an ordinance.

Chair Jackson asked if Commissioner Ferguson is interested in working with the Subcommittee.

Commissioner Ferguson stated that yes, she is still interested.

## **E. RECYCLING REPORT, Gary Calhoun**

1. Update on Outreach Campaigns – Mr. Calhoun stated that the AB1826 Organic recycling bill has been sent to all businesses in the City of Palm Springs.
2. October 15, 2016 Shredding Event – Mr. Calhoun updated the Commissioners on the next shredding event to be held at City Hall.
3. Multi-family recycling and Condominium Recycling efforts – AB341 reminder letter has been sent to all affected entities.

Commissioner Otto asked if PSDS is meeting with the Multi-family entities. Mr. Calhoun stated that yes, PSDS is constantly meeting with them but the issue is the enforcement of the ordinance.

Commissioner Otto asked if PSDS can come to a meeting to educate the Commission on their services.

Manager Mician and Chair Jackson requested that Commissioner McCann meet with the Waste Subcommittee and PSDS.

4. Mr. Calhoun also stated that he is working on the annual report for recycling.

## **F. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGERS REPORT, Michele Mician**

### **1. Sustainability Master Plan Implementation**

Manager Mician stated that the Implementation Plan has been color coded as to Time Frame implementation and Subcommittee assignment. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

### **2. Leaf Blower Ordinance Study Session Assigned to Subcommittee**

Manager Mician stated that the Leaf Blower ordinance needs to be assigned to a subcommittee. Chair Jackson assigned this to the Outreach and Health and Wellness Subcommittees.

Manager Mician stated that a mailer will go out to affected entities for input at a Study Session.

Councilman Kors asked that we reach out to Health Organizations and Non-Profit organizations. He also stated that there are concerns from citizens who are against any ban on leaf blowers. He is available to meet with the subcommittees.

Comments and questions from commissioners on health and noise levels were presented and discussed.

3. Composting Programs Brochure

Manager Mician presented information on a composting rebate program.

4. New City Landscaping Firm Application of Tree Inventory and Arbor Pro programs  
Manager Mician stated that the new City landscaping firm will be utilizing the on line tree inventory. Landscapers from the firm will have the inventory on their tablets and will keep maintenance records on the trees. She also mentioned that Earth Watch Institute is doing an Urban Resiliency Program and they noticed our tree inventory and they want to speak with the Commission on how to educate the public to become Urban Scientists.
5. Dunn Road Property Proposition 1 Funding  
Manager Mician stated that the City received \$69,000.00 from CVMC to begin phase 1 of the property to determine the cost of cleaning up the site. CalRecycle will also help out with the costs. A field trip for the Commission will be arranged.

## G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Solar Ordinance and City Council comments  
Manager Mician stated that the City Manager is suggesting more town hall meetings. More fact finding is needed.  
Councilmember Kors stated that he and the Mayor are in support of the ordinance and more focus is needed on the cost of the ordinance. He also brought up that discussion on the possibility of adding the additional cost into the mortgage for the home.  
Commissioner Freedman stated that the subcommittee is into the information gathering process.  
Manager Mician stated that Dale Cook from Community and Economic Development and Jim Zicaro from Building and Safety should also be consulted prior to making a decision.  
Comments and questions from commissioners were presented and discussed.
2. Green for Life Program Outreach Discussion  
Manager Mician stated that the program needs to be updated and matched to the Cal Green Code. She also requested that information for the Green for Life program be sent out to all building permit requestors. Contact with the Building Department needs to be addressed.  
Councilmember Kors added that discussion on specific needs should be addressed in the subcommittee.  
Commissioner Freedman gave information on updating the Building Codes.  
Comments and questions from commissioners were presented and discussed.
3. Six Goals and Policy Recommendations to Present for Council Adoption for 2016-2020  
Manager Mician stated that this item is here to keep the Commission focused on the goals. She briefly updated what is occurring for these goals. Commissioner Ferguson volunteered to be liaison to the Parks and Rec Commission.
  - i. Multi Family Recycling - in progress with goal for end of 2016
  - ii. Product Stewardship - First for meds in Early 2017 and more products to 2020 adoption
  - iii. Pesticide Policy - 2017 adoption
  - iv. No Idling Policy - 2018 for City fleet and extend to commercial through 2020 by sector
  - v. Tree Protection Ordinance -2017 City facilities replacement/removal policy. All trees 2019
  - vi. Mandatory Green Building Practices –2016-17 adoption

## H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Backyard Composting Rebate – Introduce new rebate program FY 2016-17 backyard composting.  
Manager Mician requested feedback from the Commissioners on the rebate program as presented. Comments and questions from commissioners were presented and discussed including offering an income qualifying program to the rebate program.  
Vice Chair Wilson motioned to create a backyard composting rebate as presented and also with an income qualifying program, second by Commissioner Ferguson. Discussion followed and the motion was unanimously passed.
2. Review of Sub-Committee membership  
Chair Jackson reviewed the status of the commissioner roster and also requested volunteers for the subcommittees. The subcommittee roster was updated per commissioner requests.

**I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioner Freedman  
Commissioner Freedman reported on the actions from the DWA meeting. He also reported on the City Council actions regarding additional water being allowed into the sewage system for recycling. Commissioner Freedman reported on a company who is offering new water meters. He will set up a meeting with them to review their product.  
Comments and questions from commissioners were presented and discussed.
2. Outreach Subcommittee, Commissioners Futterman and Clark – No Report
3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Commissioners Otto and Freedman  
Commissioner Freedman reported that a cost effectiveness study is needed for anything submitted to the Energy Commission.
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner McCann – No Report
5. Wellness Subcommittee, Chair Jackson – No report
6. Active Transportation Subcommittee, Commissioner Ferguson  
Commissioner Ferguson reported that since the funding for bike lanes has stopped, the future of the subcommittee is in question. She also reported that it may be possible to do some public outreach programs such as walkability and way finding signage.  
Manager Mician stated that there is also a possibility of putting bike racks at the trailheads.

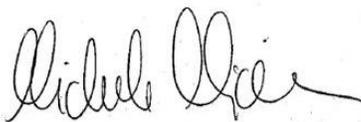
Commissioner Ferguson reported on the meeting with City Council and a follow up meeting on the most important streets to be completed for bike lanes.  
Comments and questions from commissioners were presented and discussed.

**J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Wilson also welcomed the new Commissioners.

**K. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:08 P.M. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Freedman and seconded by Commissioner Otto. Unanimously approved. They adjourned to the Revised Standard Meeting which will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 in the Council Chambers 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,



Michele Mician, Manager  
Office of Sustainability