

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



**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 13, 2016  
Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at **6:05** p.m.

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

**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 Chair Jackson. He asked if item G.1. should be removed and the information be a part of the Green Building/Solar subcommittee report. Commissioner Freedman stated that he will present the information at G.1. and have no subcommittee report. A motion to approve as presented by Commissioner Freedman and seconded by Commissioner Otto and unanimously carried.

|                    | This Meeting | Present to Date | FY 2015/2016 Excused Absences | FY 2015/2016 Unexcused Absences |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Joe Jackson        | X            | 39              |                               |                                 |
| Grant Wilson       | X            | 41              | 1                             |                                 |
| Roy Clark          | X            | 2               |                               |                                 |
| Nancy Ferguson     | X            | 12              | 1                             |                                 |
| David Freedman     | X            | 14              |                               |                                 |
| Jennifer Futterman | X            | 3               |                               |                                 |
| Robert McCann      | E            | 5               | 1                             |                                 |
| Nate Otto          | X            | 21              | 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~~ - Resigned as of 09/01/2016  
Dan DeGarmo, Clerical Assistant  
Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator

**Additional City Staff Present:** David Ready, City Manager  
Marcus Fuller, Assistant City Manager/City Engineer  
Staci Schafer, Director of Maintenance and Facilities  
Jim Zicarro, Director of Building and Safety

**CITY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORT –**

City Manager Ready reported that the City is in a transitional period as Manager Mician has resigned. He also stated that the City is in the process of recruiting for a new Sustainability Manager. He would like to get a sense of what issues are important to commission, focusing on the budget to get resources for programs that are important. The City is going forward with recruitment of a Sustainability Manager. Also, as the Commission speaks through its votes, it is important to be clear on what is in master plan, and what priorities to move to the Council Agenda. Marcus Fuller is to be the contact until we get new leadership in a management position. Michele Mician is interested in a consultant basis in the interim. Directors Schafer and Zicarro can also be a resource. Ready also mentioned that the Leaf blower issue is important to council and asked that the recommendations be sent back to council as soon as possible. Chair Jackson stated that the take away from this is that a new sustainability manager will be hired. Ready stated that it is a possibility, the dynamics being that the appropriate leadership be obtained as they

relate to the budget. Dynamics have changed, sharing responsibilities with other departments. There is a need for an individual in this capacity but may share budget with other departments

David Ready stated that it may be possible that Recycling funds may be used and is working with the City Attorney to see how or if the funds can be used. He requested that he come back at the next meeting with a discussion on the budget.

#### **Public Comments:**

Paul Hendrickson, Palm Springs, spoke on supporting a smoking ban in the business areas of town and the effects of second hand smoke.

Robert Heinbaugh, Palm Springs, spoke on supporting a smoking ban and the development of a clean air ordinance.

#### **A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

1. Introduction of Linden Conrad, Student representative from Palm Springs High School – Chair Jackson introduced Linden Conrad, a senior at Palm Springs High School.
  - i. Milkweed Meadow Project with Neighborhoods – Linden reported on the Milkweed Meadow Project intended to help on the migration of the Monarch Butterfly.

Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

Chair Jackson introduced ONE-PS Chair Lisa Middleton and Lisa Cobrin, Chair of Ecology Committee so that Linden could contact them for help in working with this project.

#### **B. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Chris Cunningham, from PSDS presented on California AB341 multi-family recycling requirements and the efforts and difficulties PSDS has with educating HOA's on the ordinance. Palm Springs is about 85% compliant with mostly the smaller HOA and condominiums being non-compliant. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.
2. Ellie Perry, LA Programs Executive with Earth Watch Institute, presented on the Urban Resiliency program and our urban forest. Providing information on being a citizen scientist through the Urban Resiliency Program by looking at the science of the issue, being able to affect local policy, and engagement of community. Ms Perry asked that the Commission help spread the word of this program. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.
3. Megan Goehring, Manager of the Certified Farmer's Market presented a request for funding for the Farmer's Market, Cultural Center Sustainable Film Series focusing on two Recycling films. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed. Discussion also ensued on whether or not films should continue at the Pavilion and that the consensus was that the films only be shown at the Camelot from December through April.

#### **C. MEETING MINUTES**

1. May 17, 2016 Minutes – Motion to approve by Commissioner Freedman, second by Vice-Chair Wilson, approved by majority vote with Commissioners Ferguson, Clark, and Futterman abstaining.
2. June 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes – City Council Minutes, no approval required.
3. July 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve by Commissioner Clark and second by Commissioner Otto, unanimously approved.

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

Parks and Recreation Liaison

1. Report on meeting of Organic Pesticide and Integrated Pest Management Subcommittee  
Commissioner Ferguson stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission has not yet met, so there is no new information to report.

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

1. Gary Calhoun reported on the October 15, 2016 Shredding Event at City Hall and the City Wide Clean-up.

2. Gary Calhoun reported on Multi-family recycling and Condominium Recycling efforts and the costs involved in contaminated debris that is thrown into the bins. He also requested a show of hands on who would be interested in touring the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) with possible dates for a tour.
3. Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance background information was presented by Gary with comments on what is new and ideas on moving forward for the City with recommendations for the City Council. Director Zicarro expounded on what is currently on the Building code and what to expect if change are made to the code. Assistant City Manager stated that even though building permits have increased, the hauling fees have not, indicating that builders are either self-hauling or using haulers that are not approved/franchised by the City.  
Comments and questions on the above from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

#### **F. SUSTAINABILITY REPORT,**

1. Moving the Office to Demuth Park Community Center and New Center for Sustainability  
Assistant City Manager Fuller reported on the move to Demuth stating that with the resignation of Manager Mician the City Manager's Office is re-evaluating what the next steps will be and that at this time the Sustainability administrative functions will be handled by Daniel DeGarmo who is now located in the Facilities Department with Director of Facilities and Maintenance Staci Schafer.
2. Discuss Leaf Blower Ordinance Study Session Dates  
Chair Jackson reported on the status of the Leaf Blower Study Session with possible dates in October 2016. City staff will create a draft ordinance for review and approval.
3. Composting Programs Update  
Recycling Coordinator Calhoun and Assistant City Manager Fuller stated that the program is being updated for internal processing and finalization.  
Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

#### **G. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Review of Solar Ordinance and City Council comments  
Commissioner Freedman reported on the incentive programs available in California and the need for a study session to be held with the Planning Commission on the cost effectiveness of solar mandates and a possible solar ordinance for the City of Palm Springs.  
Planning Commissioner Middleton stated that she hopes that the Planning Commission will endorse a joint study session that will produce a proposal that will be endorsed by both the Planning Commission and the Sustainability Commission to be presented to the City Council.  
Director Zicarro stated that the Building Department will be going to Council in November for the adoption of the 2016 Building Code changes that are mandated by the State.
2. Six Goals and Policy Recommendations  
Chair Jackson reported that City Manager Ready has requested that the Commission come up with a list of priorities that the Commission would like to send to the City Council.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion of Film Series Funding using recycling funds  
Chair Jackson requested staff if there is enough funds in the Recycling account for a \$700.00 donation to the Farmers Market Film Series. Assistant City Manager Fuller assured him that there was. Chair Jackson passed the Chair to Vice Chair Wilson and then motioned that the Commission sponsor two sustainability films for the Farmers Market Film Series at a cost of \$700.00 to the Palm Springs Cultural Center. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion.  
Commissioner Otto asked if there was a way to tie in the film series with a marketing effort on the recycling bins.  
Comments and questions on the above from the commissioners were presented and discussed.  
Commissioner Otto requested to amend the motion to include the recycling bin with the film series. Commissioner Jackson declined to amend the motion wanting to keep the issues separate. He suggested that a substitute motion be made instead.  
Commissioner Ferguson asked if the Commission could give more money to the Film Series. Megan Goehring gave more information on the funding of films for the Film Series.  
Vice Chair Wilson recommended that the Outreach Subcommittee work on a marketing effort for the Film Series.

Comments and questions on the above from the commissioners were presented and discussed. Original motion carried unanimously.

2. Discuss adoption timeline and impact of Construction and Demolition Ordinance  
Assistant City Manager Fuller stated that this topic is on the agenda so that the Commission can start to evaluate if this is a priority and that a subcommittee be formed on the topic. Chair Jackson stated that the topic could fit in the Waste subcommittee.
3. Assign a Subcommittee on Affordable Housing  
Commissioner Ferguson to look at the topic and submit a report next month.

#### **I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioner Freedman  
Commissioner Freedman reported on DWA policy on over-seeding, water conservation and violations and Turf Rebate program. Also DWA is in the process of implementing a new rate program.
2. Outreach Subcommittee, Commissioner Futterman  
Commissioner Clark reported that the committee will be speaking with Megan Goehring on the film festival.
3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Commissioners Otto and Freedman – No Report
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner McCann – No Report
5. Wellness Subcommittee, Chair Jackson – No Report
6. Active Transportation Subcommittee, Commissioner Ferguson reported Brett Klein and Vic Yepello have resigned from the subcommittee. She also reported the subcommittee discussed priorities and that a focus on education and awareness be available to the community. The “Vision Palm Springs” event has been tabled due to lack of interest from the Tribe.  
Commissioner Ferguson also stated that a meeting with the City Manager and City Engineer was held and that the outcome was that the Commission prepare a priority list of a few specific goals that can be achieved over the next year or two.

#### **J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Chair Jackson requested information on who to email. Assistant City Manager Fuller stated that emails can be sent to him but if it is time sensitive to call him. He also requested that the Commissioners submit a list of priorities for the Council to consider.

Commissioner Freedman reported that a study session on a smoking ban will be held on Monday October 10<sup>th</sup> at City Hall, 11-1.

Vice Chair Wilson asked about the six goals on the poster. Chair Jackson stated that the poster was only as a reminder and that the list is not set in stone, What goes to council is what the Commission votes on.

- K. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 8:12 PM by a motion from Vice Chair Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Freedman. Unanimously approved. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 in the City Hall Large Conference Room. The Sustainability Commission’s regular meeting schedule is at 5 p.m. the third Tuesday each month except August unless otherwise noted or amended.

Respectfully Submitted,

Office of Sustainability