



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 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 Spry

**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. A motion to approve as posted by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Gauthier and unanimously carried.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2017/2018 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2017/2018 Unexcused Absences</u>
Joe Jackson	X	55		
Roy Clark	X	19		
Grant Wilson	X	56		
David Freedman	X	30		
Jennifer Futterman	X	19	1	
Greg Gauthier	X	10	2	
John Goins	X	11	2	
Robert McCann	X	18	4	
T Santora	E	1	1	
Carl Baker	E	0	1	
Jessica Spry	X	1		
Dara Shay – Student Rep	E	2	1	

X = Present

E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)

L = Late

U = did not notify of absence

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** Jay Virata, Director of Community & Economic Development, Daniel DeGarmo, Clerical Assistant, and Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator.

**CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMENTS** – No Reports

**COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS** - No reports.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Georgia Seivright, US Department of Energy, Clean Cities Coachella Valley Region spoke on alternative fuel vehicles. She would like to come and speak to the Commission on ways to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions. She will be added to the February 20, 2018 meeting.

### A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Jackson introduced Commissioner Jessica Spry. Commissioner Spry gave a brief statement about her background and interest in the Sustainability Commission.

### B. MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Gauthier to approve as presented, second by Commissioner Freedman and approved by an open vote. Abstention by Commissioners Spry and Futterman.

**C. RECYCLING REPORT,** Gary Calhoun reported on the “Guide to Recycling Construction and Demolition Debris” pamphlet that is available to all builders/contractors at the Building and Safety counter. The brochure details the state approved recycling locations. Mr. Calhoun stated that in light of the developing C& D ordinance that this pamphlet would need updating. Mr. Calhoun also commented on the Beverage

Container Grant for this year has opened and ideas are welcome on what to purchase with the money. Ideas on how to spend the money will be discussed at the next Commission meeting in February. Next, Mr. Calhoun stated that tours are available for the Desert Regional, Desert Arc and SA Recycling facilities. Dates will be discussed on possible times to do the tours. Also, the next E-waste and Shredding Recycling event will be Saturday, February 17, 2018.

Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

#### **D. OLD BUSINESS**

1. "Mayor's Pledge" regarding Milkweeds for Monarchs. Vice Chair Clark reported on the status of the pledge stating that a draft letter to the Mayor has been prepared and that a meeting with Councilperson Holstege has been set to discuss the program. Christine Hammond stated that she met with Councilperson Middleton who was in favor of the project. A motion will be made at the next Commission meeting.
2. Plans for Remembrances for Michele Mician. Chair Jackson summarized several events being planned as a remembrance for Michele Mician, former Manager of the Office of Sustainability.
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Film Festival Programs – Commissioner Futterman reported that Inland Area Water Keeper is producing the same festival in Riverside and that she will go and check it out.
4. Plans for Sustainability Booth at the Farmer's Market - Commissioner Futterman stated that the first Saturday of the month will be the time that the Commission will host a booth at the Farmer's Market. A schedule will be sent out for volunteers.
5. Continuing Discussion on Sustainability Priorities, Budget, and Activity Plans for FY 2017-18 and beyond.
  - a. Green Jobs – Commissioner Goins reported on GPro and Green Apple programs for High School students. A meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018.
  - b. Eco Travel – Commissioner Futterman reported on the Leave No Trace program on Eco Tours.
  - c. Water Priorities – Commissioner Freedman – with his report on Water
  - d. Product Stewardship – Commissioners McCann and Vice Chair Clark – No Report
  - e. Leaf Blower Training – Vice Chair Clark and Chair Jackson reported on the status of the Leaf Blower brochure for Landscape/Gardener businesses.
6. Sustainability Brochure Update – Mr. DeGarmo reported that the final version has been completed and that he is looking for a designer to put it together.

Comments and questions on the above from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Possible Study Session with Council Liaisons – Chair Jackson reported that Council has postponed appointment of Liaisons to the January 24, 2018 meeting. He stated that a study session would be requested with the liaison for sometime this coming Spring to get feedback from the Council.

#### **F. COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

1. Standing Committee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioners Freedman and Goins – Commissioner Goins reported on the Modernism Week Zero Net Energy event and that he will announce the event at the City Council Meeting on January 24, 2018.  
Commissioner Freedman reported that a possible Valley Voice article is being considered promoting the Modernism Week event. Commissioner Freedman also reported on the Solar proposal before the City Council and that the City Council passed a resolution stating that the Planning Department shall give preference to builders with solar on the plans. He will also contact the National League of Cities regarding being designated as a Sol-Smart City. Commissioner Freedman also reported on the Desert Community Energy Community Choice Aggregation program and the film "An Inconvenient Sequel" and that possible ways of becoming a 100% renewable energy City.
2. Standing Committee on Waste Reduction - Commissioner McCann and Vice Chair Clark – Commissioner McCann reported on the status of the C&D Ordinance. Director Virata stated that the ordinance will go to the City Council on February 7, 2018. Commissioner McCann also reported on the Dunn Road site visit by some of the Commissioners on January 4, 2018. All who attended were amazed by the amount of debris dumped at the site. A request was made by Vice Chair Clark to have Director of Engineering Services Tom Garcia speak with the Commission at the February 20, 2018

meeting on the status of the cleanup bids which will be received on January 18, 2018. Commissioner McCann also spoke on the Energy, Water, and Green Living event that was attended by some of the Commissioners. He stated that he spoke with Mark Bragg of US Biogas who is planning an Anaerobic Digestion System recycling plant in the Coachella Valley. He requested that we possibly have Mr. Bragg come and speak to the Commission on his facility.

Vice Chair Clark reported on his efforts concerning battery recycling and companies that he has contacted.

3. Standing Committee on Active Transportation - Commissioner Wilson reported on the Safe Routes to School and pedestrian planning SCAG grants with Director of Engineering Tom Garcia who stated that at this time, no action is being taken on the grants but to check back with him on a monthly basis to see if any action has taken place. Commissioner Gauthier reported that they are researching the Tahquitz Canyon and the Section 14 Complete Streets programs.
4. Wellness - Commissioner Futterman requested status on the Health Run and Fitness Expo. Mr. DeGarmo stated that some Commissioners have volunteered to man the booth at the Fitness Expo.
5. Water - Commissioner Freedman reported that the City is moving forward with plans to construct a biogas to energy plant at the Waste Water Treatment plant that would capture methane gas that is produced as part of the water treatment process and put it through the Cogen plant to produce electricity. The currently flared methane represents one half of the City's GHG. The project will result in a net positive revenue of \$80,000,000.00. Commissioner Freedman also reported on stormwater capture and the possibility of obtaining grant money for a project in the City. He also reported on the DWA meeting and that the water conservation amount in December was 7%. The cumulative reduction is at 18%.
6. Outreach - Commissioner Futterman reported that one way to educate is to get a master gardener and master composter out to give classes. The Community Garden would be a good place to hold the classes. She also stated that World Environment Day will be June 3, 2018 that sponsors are needed for the event. She would like to discuss advertising for the event at the next meeting.

Comments and questions from the commissioners on the above reports were presented and discussed.

#### **G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -**

Chair Jackson reported that he biked 2 ½ miles of the CV Link and that it was a great ride. He also reported on the "Rails to Trails" program in Minnesota. He stated that the CV Link will be a fabulous tourist attraction.

Vice Chair Clark reported that he attempted to get a meeting with Councilperson JR Roberts regarding the ban on polystyrene containers but was unable to set up a meeting with him. He also reported on the ONE-PS picnic that will be held on March 24, 2018 and that the Commission should have a booth there.

Commissioner Futterman asked if we can get our logo on the pop up tents that we have.

- #### **H. ADJOURNMENT -**
- The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:15 PM by a motion from Commissioner McCann and seconded by Vice Chair Clark and approved by a unanimous vote. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 in the Large Conference Room at the Palm Springs City Hall. 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,

Jay Virata, Director of Community and Economic Development, For the Office of Sustainability