

**Sustainability Commission
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**MINUTES
Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, April 16, 2013, Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

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

FLAG SLAUTE: The flag salute was done by Mr. Ready.

ROLL CALL: A quorum was present for the April 16, 2013 Regular Meeting of the City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission. All commissioners in attendance were present.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present To Date</u>	<u>FY 2011/2012 Ex Absences</u>	<u>FY 2011/2012 Unex Absences</u>
Brett Klein, Chair	x	21		
Thom Bettinger	x	10		
Kate Castle	x	13	2	
Michael Harris	x	16	5	
Paul J. McCreesh	x	15		
Joe Jackson	x	4		
Grant Wilson	x	4		
Staci Schafer, Vice-Chair	x	17	4	

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
Jennifer Henning, Special Projects
Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

ACTION: Sustainability Commission Agenda for Regular Meeting of Tuesday, April 16, 2013. Vice Chair Schafer made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Commissioner McCreesh. No changes were made to the agenda and it was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mark Paulshak introduced himself to the commission and wanted to sit in on a commission meeting as he had recently applied to the sustainability commission. Chair Klein closed public comments after no further comments.

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Char Klein welcomed Mr. Ready

B. PRESENTATIONS (20 MINUTES)

1. Budget Planning Fiscal 2013-14, David Ready, City Manager- Mr. Ready discussed the budget and his recommendations being submitted to City Council for approval on or before June 6, 2013.

1. The budget summary accounts shown as Program Expenses \$424,000.00 and Unallocated Funds \$468,000.00. The unallocated amount may be used in its entirety or rolled over year to year. 2. Personnel expenses to be shared between both the Sustainability (125) and Recycling (138) departments. 3. Requesting a new allocated clerical position due to department growth. This will be a full-time position and temporary staffing can be utilized as needed. Gary Calhoun will remain under recycling and Jennifer Henning will move back to the Arts Fund. 4. Loan Claw Back (1.1 Million) - In 2014 we hope to request payment once our finding of completion has been completed. Then we can approach the RDA and request the Redevelopment Department to make the Sustainability account whole with installment payments of \$100,000.00 per year, as agreed. This would increase revenue coming into the Sustainability department.

Additional information provided to the group. The PSD audit has been finalized and could increase revenue in the amount of \$60,000.00 and/or \$70,000.00. Commission Jackson asked about the Chevron installment payment. Mician advised this should take place after the retrofit which will not occur until 2015 budget year. The Chevron payment is \$130,000.00 for five years and will be paid out of program funds. Chair Klein would like all commissioners to submit program request to Mician by May 1, 2013. Chair Klein, Vice Chair Schaffer, and Mician will meet to discuss the programs for the upcoming year. Mr. Ready would like feedback from the Bicycle Advisory Committee regarding the bid proposal questions requested by City Council. Mr. Ready will contact Chair Klein to schedule a date and time with the advisory committee for discussion.

2. Green for Life Program, Katie Barrows, CVAG- Mrs. Barrows is the Environmental Resources Director for CVAG provided an overview regarding the Green for Life Program for any new commissioners. CVAG was funded by Southern California Edison to implement a strategic energy plan which involved a whole lot of different elements. **1. Volunteer Green Building Program** - It was adopted last summer and staff was trained. They are coming back to the commission along with other hardware store in the city such as Home Depots, Lowes to see what incentive programs they may be willing to offer to assist with lowering our emissions. And perhaps training to tie into what they are currently doing. Community participation is needed to obtain further data to help with an incentive program. **2. City Hall Energy Efficiency-** We are in the final stages before implementing the Utility Manager System so the City can monitor their energy usage. The Gas Company and SCE has allowed Los Angeles County to feed their utility bills into the system and the same system can be utilized by the entire Coachella Valley, if they would like. This will be an on-line system that can be utilized by the Building and Facility staff to track the utility use here at City Hall. This will provide information to highlight areas that are not functioning appropriate. Then special attention can be designated to the problem area(s). The Cities who have implemented this system have found a saving of 5% to 10 % due to close monitoring. This system can be integrated with the Chevron project too. **3. Energy Climate Action Plans/Green House Inventory - There is a City Council meeting scheduled for June.** Barrows will provide an update on the plan and their suggestion provide after the meeting. They have utilized the Green House inventory results for their suggestions. It looks

at two areas such as the municipal emission in relations to the green house gas and community emissions. The major areas are electricity, natural gas and transportation. Palm Springs has a carbon dioxide equivalent of 9.7 tons per cap Ida basis. Indian Wells has the highest rating of 11 or 12 tons per capita in the Coachella Valley. The average is around 7 or 8 tons per capita according to CVAG. ICLEI uses a system which allows us to determine the usage within each city. The national average is higher then 12 tons per cap Ida per year. We need to identify base line usage and set goals under the Climate Action Plan to meet our requirements. For example, the saving a ton program was geared towards one ton per citizen per year. This program provide information on how to save a ton and continue to do so each year which will lowers our overall emission. The City of Palm Springs requirement goal is 75 tons of carbon dioxide and we are relatively close in meeting that goal. This reduction needs to be accomplished by 2020 which is a 1% reduction but we can do more. That figure is the minimum needed to reach our targeted goal. CVAG is in the process of getting an approval at the end-of-the-month to make this a regional approach. They would like to take this to City Council in June and the Sustainability Commission may want to make some recommendation, as well. SCE is looking into funding opportunities to help with some of the cost involved. There are 78 measures being submitted to City Council for approval. Chair Klein requested a memorandum be prepared for City Council and brought to our May meeting for approval. Commissioner Grant wanted to know how to make changes to the existing Green Building act and Mrs. Barrows advised to submit any request to Michele Mician and she would forward them to her.

3. Southern California Edison, SONGS Program, Nena McCullough, SCE Representative-
This item may be addressed later if Nena arrives, or moved to our next meeting in May.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5 MINUTES)

1. March 19, 2013, Regular Meeting- Chair Klein requested this item be moved to May's meeting for approval then.

D. REPORTS FROM STAFF LIAISONS (15 MINUTES)

1. **Bike Rack Purchase & Artist Bike Rack RFP, Jennifer Henning, Special Project Coordinator-** Chair Klein spoke on Ms. Henning behalf and the city has purchase 7 bike racks. There will be 2 bicycle racks and 1 will be burnt orange and the other will be bright blue to go alone with the desert theme and city colors. We are purchasing 5 hitch bicycle racks that have the Palm Springs City Seal on them. The colors for hitch racks are 2 orange, 1 bright blue, and 2 yellow. We will have a total of 9 bicycle racks with the two we already have. We hope to have two installed before Bike Month. Chair Klein outlined the Bike Month activities as well as requested Mician to prepare the bike proclamation to the City Manager agenda for City Council for their meeting on May 1, 2013. He would also like to have photo session with the Bike Committee and City Council on that day as well. The bike RFP will be submitted by the end of April.

2. **Bike Month Activities, Chair Klein and Jennifer Henning, Special Projects Coordinator-**
Bike month activities are as follows: All events will be geared toward educating our community.

- **5/4/13** - Bike Month Kick Off- Play/Dine/Shop located at Palm Spring Cyclery from 8 AM - 12 PM
- **5/8/13** - Bike to School Day – Dulmuth Park at 7:00 AM with bike safety, bike helmets and more.
- **5/13-5/17/13** –Bike to Work Week
- **5/13/13** - Engine Desert Ride
- **5/16/13**- Bike to Work Day

- **5/23/13**- Bike Month Last Day-Village Fest
Other Events in Palm Springs
- **4/16/13-4/23/13** - Inspiration Wasteland art is still available to see at the Palm Springs Library which ends on 4/23/13.
- **4/24/13** - Bike Friendly Business District Meeting located at CVPE. At 4:30- 6:30 for Q & A discussion.

3. Tap It! Program Update, Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager- Mician acknowledge all commissioners who attend the PSNIC and we passed out 250 Tap It bottles and collected a water surgery from all who attended. We now have 7 locations within the city to re-fill your Tap It bottle. PSNIC Ecology sub-committee is taking on the Tap It program to go and asking businesses to get involved.

4. Electric Vehicle Charging and Parking Designation, Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager- We had our electric vehicle ribbon cutting ceremony two weeks ago and the map displayed shows all ten locations. Mician mentioned she is in the process of submitting a grant application for 14 new EV stations which will be installed throughout Palm Springs. Commissioner Bettinger has been assisting Mician in selecting a wish list and asked for input from all commissioners on additional EV locations to be considered. Mician advised she will approach AQMD to see if current grant funding can be used to purchase a Fleet vehicle and there are significant rebates at this time. Clean Cities is doing a film shoot and wants our city to be featured in it. Commissioner Grant wanted to know the result from the EV survey given by CVAG. Mrs. Barrows stated the survey was completed on March 16, 2013 with 287 responses. She will send Mician a brief summary which can be supplied to the commissioners with result findings. A few findings were people in the Coachella Valley do not travel great distance and are concerned about EV charging stations. The data is being compiled and the final report will follow.

5. Mayor's HPHY Event Update, Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager

I. Race Event and Wellness Festival- Race Summary is as follows: We have 230 online registrations and we anticipate the total race to be around 1000 to 1200 in attendance on that day. We have 75 volunteers and 60 vendors as well as the Sustainability booth.

II. Film showing on 4/22 at Camelot "SUPERCHARGE ME"- The movie will be shown at the Camelot Theater at 7:30 PM. There will be give a ways as well as a Q & A session done by the speaker.

6. Shredding Event 4/27 - Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator- Free Ewaste and shredding event at Lowe's on Ramon Rd from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM. A mailer was sent out in the PSDS monthly newsletter.

E. NEW BUSINESS (10 MINUTES)

1. 2012-13 Annual Report Planning, Chair Klein- Chair Klein asked when the annual report will be generated, as there are new commissioners on the committee. Mician advised last years was done at the beginning of the fiscal year. Acton: Send last year's annual report to all commissioners before the meeting on May 21, 2013. This way everyone can become familiarized with the format and get the process started. Mician requested any data or chats to be included in the annual report be sent to her. This is a comment to staff regarding the north end open trench property to see if we can put a community garden there once the trench has been sealed. Chair Klein advised staff to research and present their finds at the next meeting.

F. OLD BUSINESS (60 MINUTES)

1. **Leaf Blower Next Steps, Commissioner McCreesh-** The sub-committee recommendation is not to move forward with the ordinance.

2. **Plastic Bag Roundtable Recap and Next Steps, Commissioner Castle-** The sub committee notified various retail stores with the community and on-line. The committee personally invited local business to attend the study session held on March 28, 2013. Social media was used to contact the community and the majority in attendance were in favor of the plastic bag band. The highlights of the session was paper bag usage remains the same, expect for the first 10-14 days. The community felt that the e-coli was not an issue as long as the bags were washed. The transition period is from 3- 6 months to liquidate current plastic bag inventory on hand. Shoplifting was not an issue and did not increase with an ordinance in place. The grocers association advised that a state wide initiative could go into effect by 2015. Senate bill 405 is being reviewed by the Environmental division on April 17, 2013 and the Grocers Association is in favor of the bill. The grocers stated we need to include the ten charges on paper bag in the ordinance in order to ensure the success of the plastic bag band. The ten charges would not go back to the city but it will help to off-set the cost for the retailer/grocer. There is a higher success rate when the ordinance included surrounding communities and the statewide band. They did state if surrounding cities could not participate then the Grocer's Association would support the City of Palm Springs with the process. Currently we are collaborating with the City of Palm Desert and Cathedral City to obtain their input and Commissioner Castle hopes to have some information to present to the committee next month.

3. **Wellness Sub-Committee, Commissioner Jackson-** The wellness sub-committee will meet on April 23, 2013 at 4:30 in the Economics Conference Room. The first meeting will discuss goals and set up an additional meeting to invite various staff for their input. Chair Klein asked to be emailed if any commissioner will be in attendance to ensure the Brown Act requirement are kept.

4. **Commission Retreat Recap and Next Steps, Chair Klein and Commissioner Jackson-** Chair Klein requested this item be moved to May 21, 2013 meeting to discuss their course of action going forward. Commissioner Jackson advised the committee to utilize the notes as a way to prioritize our goals and actions. If any corrections are needed please email Michele Mician. Jackson & Chair Kline both enjoyed the presentation of the speaker and the event was very successful.

5. **2013-14 Budget Discussion, Chair Klein-** This item has been moved to the May 21, 2013 meeting per Chair Klein.

6. **Non-Motorized Transportation, Chair Klein-** This item was addressed earlier with Ms. Henning's update.

i. **BFBF Roundtable Wednesday, April 24 at CVEP-** We have a variety of business and community coming to this roundtable so far.

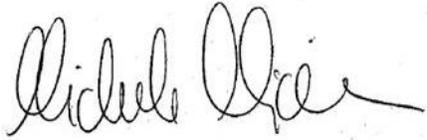
G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (10 MINUTES) - Chair Klein stated The Coachella Valley Water Free Tour will be held on May 3, 2013 at their facility and will only be for a half day. There is an all -day tour in which they view the dam and other areas so this is something else to consider. Commissioner Jackson brought up the Desert Escape Rebate program. There were six residents who participated in our rebate program and one resident stated his water bill

decreased from \$200.00 to \$25.00 a month. Commissioner Jackson state we need to promote the savings as well as our Desert Escape program going forward.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Schafer motioned to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Bettinger. The meeting of the Sustainability Commission will adjourn to a Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 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.

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