

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



**MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 21, 2015, Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

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

**FLAG SALUTE:** The flag salute was done by Commissioner Birnberg.

**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 the agenda, with amendment on Section B, was initiated by Chair Klein and Commissioner Lazar seconded the motion. All Approved.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2014/2015 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2014/2015 Unexcused Absences</u>
Brett Klein, Chair	X	44		
Thom Bettinger	X	33		
Joe Jackson	X	24		
Grant Wilson	X	27		
Mark Polischak	X	22		
Victor Yepello	X	19	2	
Travis Armstrong	X	21		
Michael Birnberg	X	10		
Tara Lazar	X	10		
Nate Otto	X	9	1	

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  
 Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator  
 Arwel Bermudo, Clerical Assistant

**CITY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

- Assistant City Manager Fuller reported contacts have been executed to start with the bike routes project and will be underway during the summer. City Council approved the CEQA analysis for bike lanes.
- Commissioner Armstrong inquired if the City will be more aggressive with turf conversation, especially due to new restrictions. Assistant City Manager stated presently there are no additional funds to pay for more conversions.

- Commissioner Yepello recommended the City to post signs to the reason why grass on City property are brown.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This time has been set aside 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. Although the Sustainability Commission values your comments, pursuant to the Brown Act, it generally cannot take any action on items not listed on the posted Agenda. Three (3) minutes are assigned for each speaker.

- Mr. Seth Shteir is seeking the support of the City Council in regards to the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act. It has been presented to the U.S. Senate.
- Ms. Mary Brent Whorly, representing the Desert Horticulture Society, stated they will be working with TDK and Associates to redo the landscape at the Mental Health Department at 333 South Farrell. She thanked the Commission for the \$5000.00 rebate being provided to help with the cost of the project. The new landscape will have a demonstration garden to encourage the use of native plants.
- Mr. Paul Ortega, prior president of the Desert Horticulture Society, provided the Commission conception design of the proposed garden.

**A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (5 MINUTES)**

- No Welcomes and Introductions

**B. PRESENTATIONS (40 MINUTES)**

1. Cycledelic Event Update April 30, 2015 at 6 PM, Jeff Hocker
  - Mr. Hocker provided the Commission copies of the media releases, list of vendors, and names of entertainers. He also provided the schedule of the event.
2. New State Water Resources Control Board Restrictions, Katie Ruark, Desert Water Agency Sustainability – Resolution 1108
  - Ms. Katie Roark advised Desert Water Agency had their public hearing this morning in regards to the new water conservation regulations. Ms. Roark provided a summary of the new restrictions.
  - Chair Klein inquired when these new restrictions will be in effect. Ms. Roark advised they are effective immediately.
3. Sustainability Master Plan Update, Eric Yurkovich, Raimi and Associates
  - Mr. Yurkovich provided an updated on their progress with updating the Master Plan and first outreach in getting community opinions during the PSNIC Picnic. He also provided a time line for the project.
  - Mr. Yurkovich posted some questions to the Commission on what priorities they would like to focus on with the update.
  - Manager Mician stated it would be best to have a Study Session to prioritize the Commission's focus.
  - Commissioner Lazar requested a copy of the scope of work that Raimi and Associated will perform, to avoid doubling the effort of the Education Subcommittee.

**C. MEETING MINUTES (5 MINUTES)**

1. The minutes from March 17, 2015 was presented by the Sustainability Manager Mician. A motion to approve the minutes, with amendment to Film Series, was initiated by Commissioner Bettinger and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. All approved.

**D. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT - Cheryl Houck, Liaison, and Commissioner Armstrong**

- Commissioner Armstrong advised the Commission did not have a meeting.

**E. RECYCLING REPORT, Gary Calhoun (10 MINUTES)**

1. Shredding and E Waste event Report April 18, 2015
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported the event was well attended. Two loads of E-waste was collected and sent to Desert ARC.
2. Update on May 3, 2015 Deadline for Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance for Small Shops
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported he finished all small businesses in Palm Springs
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported is working with Chris Cunningham, PSDS, in recycling mattresses rather than being placed in landfills.

**F. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER'S REPORT (10 MINUTES)**

1. Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Proposition 1 Grant Potential Project
  - Manager Mician reported she has been assigned by Assistant City Manager Fuller to visit the dump site on Dunn Road. She will be seeking grants to pay for the clean-up.
  - Manager Mician will also be working with CVAG and Tahquitz Yacht Club to find grants for invasive removal.
2. Discussion on 2015 California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act
  - Manager Mician advised the Commission the City Council is seeking support and endorsement of the Act.
3. Local Food Productions: Orchard Project on Arbor Day April 14, 2015 at 4 PM at the Boys and Girls Club
  - Manager Mician reported the Commission has planted a third orchard at the Palm Springs Boys and Girls Club on Arbor Day. The Commission also gave away small desert willows to attendees, which were donated by Southern California Edison.
  - SCE also donated five hundred 15 gallon trees. Two hundred of which will be planted in City Parks. The remainder will be given for an adoption program for residence and homeowner associations.

**G. OLD BUSINESS (5 MINUTES)**

1. Sustainability Film Series Update, Commissioner Bettinger
  - Commissioner Bettinger provided the Commission a list of potential movies.
  - He will be finalizing the list in the upcoming months.
2. Discuss Resolution for 2015 California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act
  - Chair Klein proposed the Commission to support the Resolution to be brought to City Council for the 2015 California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act.
    - A motion to vote was initiated by Chair Klein.
    - Commissioner Yepello seconded the motion.
    - All approved.

**H. NEW BUSINESS (10 MINUTES)**

1. H2otel Program Participation Outreach, Sustainability Manager Mician
  - Manager Mician reported the EPA approached the City of Palm Springs for the efforts with water conservation.
2. Bike Month Bike Donation Program, Chair Klein
  - Chair Klein reported the Commission will be working with Sunline to collect new and used bicycles to be donated to the Palm Springs Boys and Girls Club and the Mecca Boys and Girls Club.

3. Subcommittee Reporting  
RECOMMENDATION: MOTION THAT SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS SHALL SUBMIT WRITTEN REPORTS MONTHLY BY NOON THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE REGULAR SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING IN AN EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE EFFICIENCY WITH OTHER COMMISSIONERS AND PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION OF MEETING FOR CITY STAFF.

A motion to vote was initiated by Chair Klein.  
Vice Chair Jackson seconded the motion.  
All approved.

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

**(20 MINUTES)**

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioner Armstrong
  - Commissioner Armstrong reported Commissioner Gotay had reached out to Desert Water Agency regarding water conservation issues.
  - Commissioner Armstrong reported the City Water Task Force will start meet again.
2. Education Subcommittee, Commissioner Birnberg and Lazar
  - Commissioner Lazar reported she has contacted a company to help with the Sustainability Master Plan update.
  - Commissioner Lazar is working to create a Sustainability Pamphlet similar to the one the Palm Springs Library has.
3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Commissioner Wilson and Otto
  - Commissioner Birnberg reported he is working on the Climate Ride. Unfortunately the planner was not able to provide a presentation during the Meeting.
  - Commissioner Wilson reported the Planning Department is asking for some clarification regarding the Solar Ordinance before it goes to Council.
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner Polischak
  - Commissioner Polischak reported he is working with Waste No Food and FindFood. The application site needs an update before they fully implement the program.
5. Wellness Subcommittee, Vice Chair Jackson
  - Vice Chair Jackson reported he is continues to work on creating a pedestrian plan for the City.
  - Vice Chair wants to work with Charlotte Whitney, grant writer, to find grants.
6. Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee, Chair Klein and Commissioner Yepello
  - Chair Klein reported Southern California Association of Governments will be introducing a proposal for active transportation programs. SCAG will choose six cities to help fund those programs and activities.

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

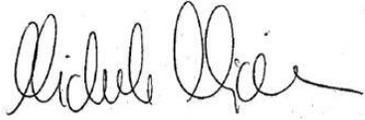
**(5 MINUTES)**

- Commissioner Yepello commented they will be having weekly bikes rides.
- Commissioner Otto commented involving Mecca Boys and Girls Club is a great idea, which may lead to potentially other cities getting involved.

**K. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7: 17 P.M. Chair Klein motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Birnberg seconded. All approved. They will adjourn to the Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 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 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 extending to the right.

Michele Mician, Manager  
Office of Sustainability