

Sustainability Commission
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA



MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 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 Manager Mician.

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. Chair Klein proposed an amendment to the Agenda to include an update from City Manager Ready. A motion to approve the agenda with the amendment by Commissioner Otto and Commissioner Gotay 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	35		
Thom Bettinger	X	24		
Joe Jackson	E	15	1	
Grant Wilson	X	18		
Mark Polischak	X	13		
Victor Yepello	X	12		
Travis Armstrong	X	12		
Michael Birnberg	X	1		
Orlando Gotay	X	1		
Tara Lazar	X	1		
Nate Otto	X	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 REPORT:

City Manager Ready reported to the Commission Measure J Bike Lanes Project will be a multi-year project with an estimated cost of \$3 million dollars. The First Phase will begin this fiscal year.

City Manager Ready reported the Water Task Force will be forming subcommittees to focus on the creation of a new landscape ordinance, identifying city facilities that can be converted to xeriscape landscaping, incentives focusing of the large water users and educational outreach. He would like to present to the City Council a viable landscape ordinance no later than October.

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.

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (5 MINUTES)

1. New Commissioner Introductions
 - Chair Klein welcomed the four new Commissioners: Michael Birnberg, Orlando Gotay, Tara Lazar, and Nate Otto.

B. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS

- Commissioner Yepello nominated Chair Klein for the Commission Chair for Fiscal Year 14-15, which was seconded by Commissioner Bettinger. All approved.
- Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Jackson for Commission Vice Chair, which seconded by Commissioner Yepello. All approved.

C. PRESENTATIONS (30 MINUTES)

1. Seth Shteir, California Desert Senior Field Representative and National Parks Conservation Association
Update on National Park Education Program
 - Mr. Shteir presented the goal of their organization to establish an outdoor laboratory for youths at Joshua National Park. He provided the benefits youth will receive by participating.
 - Mr. Shteir will provide the Commission a proposal in September to obtain the support of the Sustainability Commission and the City of Palm Springs.
2. Megan Goehring, Palm Springs Cultural Center and Certified Farmers Market
Presentation on Film Series Proposal
 - Ms. Goehring is requesting from the Commission for financial support of \$2000.00 to fund the Sustainability Film Series and to extend the Series from four months to eight months.
 - Ms. Goehring reported the Film Series are well attended, especially when showing newer films.
3. Nena McCullough, Regional Manager for Local Public Affairs, Southern California Edison
Utility Repairs and Maintenance Impacts on Non-Motorized Transportation
 - Ms. McCullough presented to the Commission the processes SCE has in place when making repairs that involve digging in City streets. She explained SCE does have to

comply with deadlines the City imposes prior to repair and the street restored to its original condition.

- Commissioner Yepello concern is the condition of the street while repairs are being conducted. As a cyclist, the uneven street can pose a hazard to cyclist. He request SCE to post signs so cyclist are aware of the uneven surface.
- Commissioner Yepello's other concern are the planned power outages during the hot summer months.
- Ms. McCullough explained SCE is regulated by law to inspect equipment and if they discover a repair is required, they will notify effected residents prior to the planned repair. Ms. McCullough stated SCE would prefer to repair equipment rather than wait until the equipment fail, which would cause a longer time residents will be without power.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(5 MINUTES)

1. June 17, 2014, Regular Meeting
Commissioner Wilson motioned for the approval of minutes.
Commissioner Bettinger seconded the motion.
All approved.
 - Minutes approved with amendments to Adjournment

E. RECYCLING UPDATE

(10 MINUTES)

1. Clean Up Events for October 11, 2014
 - Coordinator Calhoun reported to the Commission the next eWaste/Shredding Event will be on October 11th. He reported Palm Springs Disposal Services will also be having their Free Bulk Pick-up between October 13th and 18th. Residents are required to contact PSDS to request for the pick-up.
2. Household Hazardous Waste Facility Vandalism, Upgrades and Security
 - Coordinator Calhoun reported there have been several vandalisms at the HHW Facility. A security system is being installed to prevent future vandalism.
3. Plastic Bag Ordinance Outreach Update
 - Coordinator Calhoun reported 34 large businesses have been contacted to assist with the transitioning away from the use of "single use plastic bags". He will now focus on contacting small businesses.
4. General Recycling Update
 - Coordinator Calhoun reported PSDS has had an increase of 25 percent for Green Waste Tonnage.
5. Annual Report
 - Coordinator Calhoun reported Annual Recycling Report he needs to submit to the State is 75 percent complete and is not due until August 1st.

F. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(10 MINUTES)

1. Bike Parking Update

- Manager Mician reported bike corrals will be installed in the downtown area once delivered. She reported bike racks will start being installed before the end of July.
2. Water Task Force
 - Manager Mician reported the Water Task Force will be leading the creation of a new Water Conservation Ordinance but the Sustainability Department will continue with the education outreach by creating a website similar to the one created for the Bag Ordinance.
 3. Urban Forestry Plan Update
 - Manager Mician reported Southern California Association of Government Urban Forestry Grant is complete and inventorying City trees will start in autumn.

G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

(10 MINUTES)

1. Discussion on Open Positions for Subcommittee Chair(s) and New Commissioner Interests
 - Manager Mician requested new Commissioners to start contemplation which Subcommittee they will like to participate.
2. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioner Yepello
 - Commissioner Yepello reported The Chevron system is complete and will assist with regulating watering at City facilities. This system will reduce 28 percent of the water usage. Commissioner Yepello reported the City Airport will reduce 50 percent of their grass.
3. Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee, Chair Klein
 - Chair Klein reported four of the five Art Bike Racks have been installed.
4. Wellness Subcommittee, Commissioner Jackson
 - Commissioner Polischak reported the Subcommittee will be meeting on August 5th to plan the Study Session for Urban Chicken and Bee Keeping.
5. Waste Reduction Subcommittee
 - No Update
6. Education Subcommittee, On Hold
7. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, On Hold

H. NEW BUSINESS

(15 MINUTES)

1. Discussion of Summer Meeting Schedule and August Special Session
 - Manager Mician inquired with the Commission if they will like to have a Special Meeting in the month of August or would they prefer to wait until September for their next meeting.
 - Commissioner Bettinger recommended the Commission should have a Special Meeting. Not full agenda meeting but rather a meeting focused on single topic of issue.

It could be a meeting focused on new Commissioners deciding on the Subcommittees they would like to participate.

- Commissioner Yepello agreed that a Special Meeting supported Commissioner Bettinger's recommendation.

2. Funding of Initial Study for Walking Component of the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan:

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00 FOR INITIATION OF A WALKING COMPONENT OF THE NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN FROM ACCOUNT # 138-1270-58033.

A motion was initiated by Commissioner Yepello.
Seconded by Commissioner Bettinger
Seven approved.
Three abstained (Wilson, Lazar and Otto) .

3. Funding of Sustainability Film Series:

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000.00 FOR FUNDING OF ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY FILM SERIES FROM ACCOUNT # 138-1270-58018.

A motion was initiated by Chair Klein
No second necessary.
All approved.

I. OLD BUSINESS

(5 MINUTES)

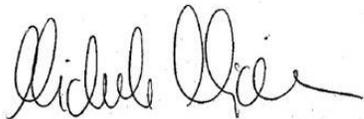
J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

(10 MINUTES)

- Commissioner Birnberg commented regarding an article in the Desert Sun regarding bottled water.

K. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:50 P.M. The first motion was by Commissioner Bettinger and a seconded by Commissioner Wilson. They will adjourn to the Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12 2014 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,



Michele Mician, Manager
Office of Sustainability