

Sustainability Commission
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA



MINUTES

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

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

FLAG SALUTE: The flag salute was done by Commissioner Freedman.

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 was initiated by Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Polischak 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>
Thom Bettinger	X	36		
Joe Jackson	X	27		
Grant Wilson	X	30		
Mark Polischak	X	24		
Victor Yepello	X	22	2	
Travis Armstrong	E	23	1	
Michael Birnberg	X	12	1	
Tara Lazar	L	12	1	
Nate Otto	X	11	2	
David Freedman	X	2		
Nancy Ferguson	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
 Arwel Bermudo, Clerical Assistant

CITY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- Assistant City Manager Fuller had no report and stated he looks forward to working with the new Commissioners.

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.

- No Public Comments

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (5 MINUTES)

1. Welcome New Commissioner
 - Vice Chair Jackson welcomed new Commissioner Nancy Ferguson
2. Commission Chair and Vice Chair Elections
 - Commissioner Wilson nominated Vice Chair Jackson for Sustainability Commission Chair and was seconded by Commissioner Bettinger.
 - Commissioner Polischak nominated Commissioner Wilson for Sustainability Vice Chair and was seconded by Commissioner Yepello.
 - Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner Wilson accepted the nomination.
 - Commissioner Bettinger motioned for a vote and was seconded by Commissioner Freedman. All approved.

B. PRESENTATIONS (40 MINUTES)

1. Energy and Water Summit, Josh Zipperman, Burke Rix Associates
 - Mr. Zipperman provided an overview of the event. He states this year they have partnered with the Desert Sun and will be held at the Convention Center.
 - The City will be provided two booth spaces at the Expo and he welcomes the Commission for ideas to have activities that would engage attendees.
2. Certified Farmer's Market Film Series, Megan Goehring, Manager
 - Ms. Goehring discussed restructuring the film series due to budget constraint and to increase attendance.
 - Ms. Goehring reported the Camelot Theater is willing to reduce the rental fee, as they view this as a public service. She discussed the option of reducing the film series from eight showings down to five.
 - The Cultural center has also approached the City of Palm Desert to co-sponsor the Film Series, as the movies can be shown during the Wednesday Evening Farmer's Market in Palm Desert. There is also the possibility of obtaining community sponsors.
 - Commissioner Otto stated he believes obtaining community sponsors will help increase attendance.
3. Climate Ride, Blake Holiday
 - Mr. Holiday presented the goal of their organization where they support sustainable and active transportation organizations through bike ride fundraising events.
 - Climate Ride is in the process of distributing \$1 million in the form of grants.
 - Mr. Holiday would like to work with the City and Commission to hold a single day bike event in Palm Springs. It can either be a stand-alone event or joined with another existing event, such as Earth Day.
4. PS International Health and Wellness Festival, Marlo Productions
 - Ms. Diana Marlo stated the PS International Health and Wellness Festival is an offshoot of the Desert Women Show. The event will be held at the Palm Springs Air Museum and both hangars and tarmac will be used. The event will showcase wellness, bike safety and organic food and wine.

- Marlo Productions would like to partner with the Sustainability Commission through sponsorship and lending of the archway and bike racks. Ms. Marlo is seeking a total donation from the Sustainability Commission in the amount of \$5000 with \$2500 in cash and \$2500 in-kind donations.

C. MEETING MINUTES (5 MINUTES)

1. The minutes from June 16, 2015 was presented by the Sustainability Manager Mician. A motion to approve the minutes, with minor corrections, was initiated by Commissioner Freedman and Commissioner Birnberg seconded the motion. All approved.

D. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT - Cheryl

Houck, Liaison, and Commissioner Armstrong

- No report
- Manager Mician advised the recycling bins will installed in the parks soon.

E. RECYCLING REPORT, Michele Mician (10 MINUTES)

1. Mattress Recycling Project
 - Manager Mician reported Coordinator Calhoun has been working with Palm Springs Disposal Service to establish a drop off site for used mattresses.
2. Palm Springs Recycling Rates
 - Manager Mician advised the Commission she has been receiving inquiries from the Desert Sun and other media regarding the City's effort to increase the volume of trash being recycled. She reported the City recycles between 78% - 79% and will increase once food waste recycling is mandatory.

F. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER'S REPORT (10 MINUTES)

1. U.S. Conference of Mayors, Zero Waste Resolution
 - Manager Mician reported the resolution was created due to the sustainability movement. She provided the Commission information on the event and resolution in their Commission Packet.
 - Manager Mician proposed the Commission to support the Zero Waste Resolution with a resolution of their own and brought to City Council for adoption.
2. Community Gardens Update and Bench Dedication
 - Manager Mician dedicated a new park bench in the Community Garden to Master Gardener Margi Jacobson for her effort to revitalize the garden.
 - Ms. Jacobson stated "it has been a positive experience". She shared some of her experience with other gardeners and shared some of their challenges with pest.
 - Manager Mician reported there will be lecture in the Community Garden on November 11th and will be working with the Farmer's Market and PS Cyclery. There will be a bike ride from the Farmer's Market to the Community Garden.
3. California Energy Commission Zero Emissions Electric Vehicle Grant
 - Manager Mician reported the City received a \$63,500.00 grant from the State for way finding signage and for thermo plastic where there are parking issues.
 - Manager Mician reported the grant can be used to purchase an EV Management Software which will monitor usage and availability.
3. Tree Inventory and Urban Forestry Plan
 - Manager Mician reported Councilman Mills has asked staff to review the City trees that have been deemed hazardous or health concerns. She will work with the Assistant City Manager and Facilities Director to create a plan to address those issues and present

to City Council.

4. Proposition 1 Grant Project Update

- Manager Mician reported she is working on two projects. The first is the property off Highway 74, in which she will apply for grants through Calrecycle and Proposition 1 to fund the cost of clean-up. The second is Tahquitz Creek, in which she will apply for a grant through Proposition 1 for funds to cover the cost of removing evasive plants and restoring native habitat.

G. OLD BUSINESS

(5 MINUTES)

H. NEW BUSINESS

(10 MINUTES)

1. PS International Health and Wellness Festival In-Kind Sponsorship and Support

- Manager Mician requested the Commission if they would like to sponsor and support the event. She advised the Commission budget does not have funds for sponsorship but can be taken from the Outreach or Health and Wellness accounts.
- Commissioner Bettinger is in favor of sponsoring the event as it provides the Commission opportunities to reach out to the community the programs the Commission are working on.
- Commissioner Bettinger motioned for the Commission to sponsor the event with \$2500.00 in cash and \$2500.00 in-kind donation. Commissioner Yepello seconded the motion. All yeas with one nay from Vice Chair Wilson. Commissioner Armstrong was not in attendance.

2. Subcommittee Organization and Membership

- Chair Jackson requested the Commission to review previous Subcommittee roster and requested for updates. Commission voiced their changes to the roster.

I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

(20 MINUTES)

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioners Armstrong and Freedman

- No report

2. Education Subcommittee, Commissioners Birnberg and Lazar

- Commissioner Birnberg had no verbal report but did submit a written report included in the Commission packet.

3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Vice Chair Wilson and Commissioner Otto

- Commissioner Otto had no verbal report but did submit a written report included in the Commission packet. He did state the concern with solar panel glare is not unique to just solar panels but will look into ways minimize the concern.

4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner Polischak

- Commissioner Polischak reported Savory Catering has successfully donated food to Find Food Bank using the Waste No Food application and will continue to make donations in the future.

5. Wellness Subcommittee, Chair Jackson

- Chair Jackson reported the Subcommittee is working on strategies and policy directions to implement ideas from Lets Move.
- Commissioner Bettinger reported the Commission will have a booth at the Senior Living event at the Mizell in October. The Commission has donated \$275.00 for the event, which is the same amount donated last year.

6. Active Transportation Subcommittee, Commissioner Yepello

- Commissioner Yepello reported Measure J Phase I projects are under construction and Phase II projects are in discussion but no decisions have been made.

- Commissioner Yepello reported the members of the Commission and Subcommittee will be at the Boys and Girls Club in Mecca tomorrow to distribute the bikes donated from the Bike Drive.

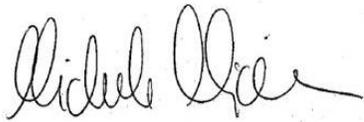
J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

(5 MINUTES)

- Commissioner Bettinger commented ONEPS will have a presentation this Thursday with the theme “drought is an opportunity”. ONEPS will hold a forum in October for candidates for Desert Water Agency board of directors.
- Commissioner Otto commented is ready to agendize the leaf blower concern and would like it on the September meeting. He also commented that less paper be used and given out during the Commission meetings.
- Chair Jackson commented that only agendas will be provided and not complete Commission packets.

K. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:25 P.M. Commissioner Otto motioned to adjourn. Vice Chair Wilson seconded. All approved. They will adjourn to the Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 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