

**Sustainability Commission**

**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 16, 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 Otto.

**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 Birnberg and Commissioner Jackson 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	46		
Thom Bettinger	X	35		
Joe Jackson	X	26		
Grant Wilson	X	29		
Mark Polischak	X	23		
Victor Yepello	X	21	2	
Travis Armstrong	X	23		
Michael Birnberg	X	11	1	
Tara Lazar	E	11	1	
Nate Otto	X	10	2	
David Freedman	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 AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

- Assistant City Manager Fuller expressed thanks to Chair Klein for his years of participation in the Commission.
- Commissioner Armstrong mention there was mention of turf conversion during the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and inquired if the City had funds for projects. Assistant City Manager Fuller said turf conversion are a significant expense

and presently the City does not have funds allocated for the projects. The City will do some retrofit to keep some areas in the parks green.

- Commissioner Yepello stated Desert Water Agency will allow fountain to be turned on but he would like the City Airport Fountain not be turned back on.

**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. Ponce inquired if the Commission is pursuing any restrictions on the use of leaf blowers. He provided the Commission a handout listing the harmful effects of leaf blowers.

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

- Commissioner Appointments – Chair Klein announced Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner Birnberg reappointment and the appointment of two new Commissioners, Nancy Ferguson and David Freeman.

**B. PRESENTATIONS (40 MINUTES)**

1. Cycledelic Event Update Recap - Jeff Hocker, Contractor
  - Mr. Hocker provided a presentation of the events for Bike Month. He reported Cycledelic was the start of the month long of activities. He stated it was well attended and included the participation of vendors and live entertainment.
  - The commission with the help of PS Cyclery had the Bike to School Day at Demuth Park. Students of Cielo Vista Elementary School participated in the event.
  - To continue with Bike Month, the Commission is having a Bike Donation Drive with the assistance from PS Cyclery, Hot Purple Energy and Sunline. The drive is to benefit the Boys and Girls Club in Palm Springs and Mecca.
2. World Environment Day Report - Jennifer Futterman, Event Organizer
  - Ms. Futterman reported the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Environment Day was successful and had an increase participation of between 250 – 300 attendees. She was able to obtain free radio advertising and increase number of vendors.
3. SCE Rate/Tier Changes – Nena McCullough, Account Executive
  - Ms. McCullough was not present but she was able to provide handouts of SCE proposed changes on tier rating from 4 to 2. She also left information for the CARE Program for low income customers.
  - Vice Chair Jackson proposed to the Commission to take an official stance encouraging SCE to take a more equitable tier pricing.
  - Commissioner Freeman support Vice Chair Jackson's recommendation to the Commission. The Commission agreed they would like to agenda discussion on July's Meeting.

**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 amendments, was initiated by Commissioner Birnberg and Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. All approved.

**D. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT - Cheryl**

Houck, Liaison, and Commissioner Armstrong

- Commissioner Armstrong provided the Commission the conception drawing from the Engineering Department and which was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for turf conversion in the parks.
- Manager Mician advised she does not believe these proposed projects are being funded through Measure J and the City will seek grants or the State.

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

1. Used Oil Events Update
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported there has been no special recycling event but has two loads of e-waste to DesertARC.
2. Single Use Plastic Bag Ordinance Update
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported he is continuing compliance of the Bag Ordinance.
  - Coordinator Calhoun reported two annual reporting have opened and will start to input the activities of the City's effort on recycling.

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

1. Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Proposition 1 Grant Project Update
  - Manager Mician reported there is a privately owned abandoned orchard that has been used for illegal dumping. The City would like to acquire the property to clean the site. The City would apply for the grant to fund the clean-up.
2. California Energy Commission Zero Emissions Electric Vehicle Grant
  - Manager Mician reported the City received a \$63,000.00 grant for EV Changing Station outreach and to install remote monitoring.
3. Review of Budget for FY 15-16
  - Manager Mician provided the Commission and overview of Fiscal Year 15-16 Budget.
  - There was much discussion regarding the Water Efficiency Program and the changes for upcoming year.

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

1. Update on Resolution for 2015 California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act
  - Manager Mician reported the Resolution will be going to Council tomorrow night.

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

1. Chair and Vice Chair Elections for 2015-16 Fiscal Year
  - Manager Mician provide the process in nominating and voting for the Vice Chair and Chair position which will be held in July's Meeting. She did request to be informed who would be interested in the positions.

**I. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (20 MINUTES)**

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioner Armstrong
  - Commissioner Yepello reported he is very pleased with the changes with Desert Water Agency on how they are addressing the drought emergency and water conservation.
2. Education Subcommittee, Commissioner Birnberg and Lazar
  - Commissioner Birnberg reported he will be having a presenter in July's Meeting regarding the Climate Ride.
  - Manager Mician request subcommittee to work with Raimi and Associates with the Sustainability Master Plan Update especially for the Fall Session.

3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Commissioner Wilson and Otto
  - Commissioner Wilson the subcommittee did not have a formal meeting but they have received the comments from the Planning Department regarding solar ordinance.
  - Manager Mician requested subcommittee to work with her with the Green for Life Program through CVAG.
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner Polischak
  - Commissioner Polischak reported Waste No Food has updated their app so Find Food is within the distance for donations. Savory, cater for the Palm Springs Convention, at their next major function will use the app to donate should they have excess.
  - Commissioner Polischak reported Wellness in the Desert could also benefit from waste No Food.
5. Wellness Subcommittee, Vice Chair Jackson
  - Vice Chair Jackson reported during their last meeting they discussed the “Let’s Move” Initiative and how those initiatives could benefit the City.
6. Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee, Chair Klein and Commissioner Yepello
  - Chair Klein reported the specifics of the Bike Donation Drive.
  - Commissioner Yepello reported he met with Assistant City Manager Fuller last night and was provided a list of the Bike Project the City anticipates will be completed by the Fall. At that point, the City will ask for any additional project the subcommittee would like to see accomplished.

**J. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**(5 MINUTES)**

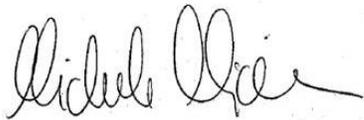
- No Commissioner Comments

**K. SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CHAIR BRETT KLEIN**

- Vice Chair Jackson and Manager Mician wanted to thank Chair Klein for six year of service and supporting the City’s sustainability efforts.

**L. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7: 06 P.M. Commissioner Bettinger motioned to adjourn. Vice Chair Jackson seconded. All approved. They will adjourn to the Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 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,



Michele Mician, Manager  
Office of Sustainability