

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



MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 2013, Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

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

FLAG SALUTE: The flag salute was done by Bettie Heil.

ROLL CALL: A quorum was present for the May 20, 2013 Regular Meeting of the City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Chair Klein moved D1 item to Old Business under F 3.4 and he will discuss this issue then on behalf of Jennifer Henning. Vice Chair Schafer motions to accept the agenda as stated above seconded by Commissioner Wilson and the agenda passed.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present To Date</u>	<u>FY 2011/2012 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2011/2012 Unexcused Absences</u>
Brett Klein, Chair	x	22		
Thom Bettinger	x	11		
Kate Castle	x	14	2	
Michael Harris	x	17	5	
Paul J. McCreesh	x	16		
Joe Jackson	x	5		
Grant Wilson	x	5		
Staci Schafer, Vice-Chair	x	18	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

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Tim Sigel, Palm Springs, president of The Movie Colony East Neighborhood for the PSNIC organization. He asked that we seriously take a chance to pass a ban on plastic bags. As I drive all over the desert I constantly see plastic bags stuck in the trees and bushes. Sounds like the Mayor is waiting on the commission to submit a proposal and step forward with a demand. San Francisco passed one and it didn't fall into the sea. LA passed one and he thinks Palm Springs can do it as well. Mr. Sigel states that we should take the lead as we take on such a task. Due to no further comments Chair Klein closed public comments.

B. PRESENTATIONS (20 MINUTES)

1. **Introduction of New City Management Staff**

- i. Jim Zicaro, MCP, Director of Building & Code Enforcement- Michele introduced our new buildings director and he shared with the commission that since March there are no changes at this time. Code enforcement, PSNIC are working with California to adopt the newest California code this next year and brought to City Council in November.
- ii. Margo Wheeler, Director of Planning – She comes from San Bernardino and Las Vegas Sustainability programs. She started off by adopting key protocols and their Mayor's was on the National Sustainability Councils and obtain lots of awards for some of our programs such as the "Urban Forestry what the City is talking about at doing. Obtaining good canopy inventory and establishing heat island standards is an important task to work on. We worked on funding, layouts for solar projects, car ports for city buildings, by making the buildings next zero and contribute to the grid, and the weather which is compatible to here. Leeds Development insensitive programs were added to their code standards. The next area was trails for urban use and they used grant funding for sidewalk improvement and shade trees to make the trails useable. Community planning is very important in working with the neighborhood associations which are established here. Creating a walk able community plan and sustainable principals are key. Landscaping standards and landscaping advisor committee will provide information to the commission or council. They are working on providing a landscaping list to developments and local communities in the area.

2. **Southern California Edison, SONGS Program, Nena McCullough, and SCE Representative-** Is here to present an update on what they will be proposing to the planning commission this year. As most of you know and have seen on the news that our SONGS nuclear plant is off-line for a second summer. Right now SCE is asking for community support and getting information to our customers on how to conserve. Conserving on an individual basis is very crucial to get us through the summer. If they are unsuccessful in re-starting the unit #2 which is on hold until the middle of June for the NRC to make their nomination or request to approve. San Onofre is our largest source of electricity for Southern California Edison and is 24% of their energy portfolio. Due to SONGS being off line the energy is being re-routed by other sources which are not longer time solutions. This leaves a minimal margin of power. It is important for our grid liability and to be able to re-start engine #2 and we are not sure that is going to happen. So going forward SCE must make sure our communities are educated on how to conserve and where to find educational material. SCE is starting campaign working with our senior centers, educations and outreach programs list everything that is available, and for businesses there are several programs through our express solutions for energy conservations through office equipment, refrigeration, HVAC and lighting systems. The reason San Onofre is off line was due to a small leak they found in unit #3. Unit #2 was taken down for normal re-fueling process done every single year. However due to the fact of the problem in unit #3 they have not allow them to re-start unit #2. There are 700 safety checks that are done before they can re-start unit #2 and the NRC is holding up that process. The NRC wants to make sure all safety checks have been done before they re-started. It has been in operation for 40 years and unit #1 as decommissioned 2 years ago. Another reason for the delay is that both units received new generators. And because of that additional safety measures were needed. They are working on educating the commercial sector as well. A few programs are recycling refrigerators as well as energy savings for low-income families and installation on window for seniors. The HOA community may benefit under the business rebate programs for community buildings on the HOA property. The time frame for conserving is from 2PM -6PM. Flex

alert is a state program and if SCE reserve gets below 3% all cities are notified and every entity are notified and now it becomes a statewide issue.

3. **City of Palm Springs Water Rebates and Incentives, Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager-** Lawn buy back program rebate of \$500.00 - \$2500.00 to convert from grass to desert landscape. Compost recycling containers and the rebate is \$500.00 for converting. \$500.00 for schools who convert to edible landscape gardens. Edible landscape rebate for shade and fruit trees gets a rebate of up to \$500.00. We have had 22 applications for planting trees. Water rebates for medium to moderate income which includes \$100.00 rebate for low flow toilets when you save your receipts and mail them in. The other incentive is through Economic Development for low income families where they receive a free low flow toilet at no cost and the installation is included. . There have been 22 applications and \$4,000.00 issued due to this program. Commissioner Castle and PSNIC have worked along side the Tap It program getting the word out to our community. PSNIC has reached out to the Ecology sub-committee to assist with getting the word out and there is an increased businesses involvement. Any bottle can be used but we can not be responsible if any business turns away service. We encourage any reusable bottle.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5 MINUTES)

1. April 16, 2013, Regular Meeting-Commissioner Castle motioned to approve March and April regular meeting minutes as amended and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. The meeting minutes have be approved.

D. REPORTS FROM STAFF LIAISONS (15 MINUTES)

1. **Bike Rack Purchase & Artist Bike Rack RFP, Jennifer Henning, Special Project Coordinator** – Chair Klein moved this item to F-old business, 3.4 which he will discuss on behalf of Jennifer Henning in her absence. .
2. **April Shredding Event, Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator-** Both trucks were filled and it was a great success. E-waste recycle event which bring in revenue was a success as well. Our next e-waste event will be November 16, 2013. We have them three times a year. Mician asked the commission there is interest in increasing the number of shredding events Chair Klein and Commissioner Schafer would like four perhaps on a quarter basis. And perhaps one additional in the summer. Chair Klein asked Mician to check with Gary Calhoun to find out how many we many we need? Mician stated in the summer sometimes the truck may fail due to the heat. And that was the only concern Gary had about adding one in the summer. We currently have January, April, and November for our shredding events.
3. **Sustainability Manager Report, Michele Mician**
 - i. **Additional Electric Vehicle Charging and Parking Designation-** We have added 10 and just received approval notification from Reconnect California which is the state grant program funding at least 19 more charging stations. We have submitted applications on behalf of the Desert Aid Foundation, Convention Center, Visitor Center, Village Green, Camelot Theater, James O Jesse Center, Swim Center, and more the Airport. The new stations will be fitted with a key pad and for short period of time we will try to incentivize electrical vehicle use by having the free charging and then that particular station can be changed. This is simply done by changing a wire and signage rate up of our choosing to have some revenue coming in. The consumer would have to sign up with a national service provider and provide a pin of their own. We did pass a resolution on April 17, 2013 thorough City Council to limit the charging to 2 hours only and for electric vehicles parking only. The

signage is being produced by our own sign shop and should be ready soon. The signs will be placed at all 10 stations when they are ready. We are being looked at as a model and a lot of other cities are asking how to do this and what you are doing. We are letting them know about the state grants and we are lucky that California has the type of funding available. The monitoring will be a municipal code and parking enforcement will handle any problems. Two hours charging is an existing code. The first stations were not fitted to collect but the new ones will. Mician advise as we move forward she will indicate which stations are free or a fee on the cities website. We can retro-fit our existing stations but it will be at a cost. We will have to see how much that is.

- ii. **Mayor's Healthy Planet, Healthy You Data and Recap-** You have the race report which has been provided, so please review.
- iii. **New Clerical Position Announcement Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager** –are accepting applications and reviewing candidate for the clerical position
- iv. **Green Region and Compass Blueprint Grant Applications-**A letter has been provided that we are in support. This explains the two grant programs we are applying for. One is through SAGS and Compass Blue print which is for tree inventory and an update to our sustainability plan to have a framework for health and wellness. So going forward our Health & Wellness committee will have a plan in order to move forward and a consultant in place to help work on that with the committee if we should get that grant.
- v. **Current City Offered Rebates-** These are not our City rebates but in case you get questions we had that presentation CCEC and there are more federal rebates so keep an eye on that. We are promotion refrigerators through out website and television station as Nena stated earlier.
- vi. **June 5, 2013 City Council Meeting Items**
 - a. CVAG PACE Program – This is a regional program which seems to be more effective. CVAG has a letter to support the climate action plan and they wanted to get your support on the regional PACE program to bring that to council. The city can have as many PACE programs as it wishes. The regional program is a bigger market and there are more applicants and you can get a better bond usually. Mician recommend to staff to draft a letter of support for the regional PACE program and it can be added to the Council Staff Report if you so desire. Commissioner Schafer motion for a letter of support and seconded by Commissioner Castle. Mician will prepare the letter and Chair Klein can sign it.
 - b. Evergreen Recycling Contract – Gary Calhoun contact is renewed every year and we are submitting a new contract for two years to council. There will be no increase it will remain the same at 50,000.00 annually.

E. NEW BUSINESS

(10 MINUTES)

1. 2012-13 Annual Report Planning, Chair Klein-Mician printed out our Sustainability report for 2010-2011 and we will agenda this for June. Please look at format we have and if you have any questions please submit them to Mician.
2. Incorporating Wellness Into Sustainability Master Plan, Commissioner Jackson- The Wellness Sub-Committee has met twice since the last Sustainability Commission meeting in April. Our approach to Wellness will be multi-dimensional, more than just physical wellness, and certainly emphasizing community health objectives and measures. While one perspective is that wellness permeates all the efforts of sustainable living, a separate chapter on wellness will give emphasis on this area. We are examining the Clinton Foundation “Healthy Matters initiative” as well as the City’s original draft of Chapter 9 “Healthy City” for direction. The City already has relationships with at least two wellness programs: HEAL Cities- Healthy Eating Active Living. Healthy Communities for Healthy Future: let’s Move! Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC). Thom and Michele have updated our status on the site to document the progress already made by the City. Top cities on this site have achieved gold medal status in each of 5

categories. Finally, Michele is applying for a SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments) grant to rewrite our Healthy City chapter. Grant award recipients will be notified in July 2013 to get a consultant.

3. Revisit Sustainability Master Plan, Chair Klein- Chair Klein briefly touched on this that because we are incorporating wellness in the previous Mayor's sustainability plan which was Chapter 9 and it was never completed. And it was never included in the master plan and when we began to talk about wellness thought wellness you be under the umbrella and then down from there each sub-committee could look at their individual area such as energy for work and so on. And find out how wellness factors into that and expand the areas as necessary. Chair Klein stated it has been 5 years and Michele advised it is a good idea to update the plan every 5 years. If we get this grant it would be great because each sub-committee could meet with the consultant. Commissioner Schafer and Chair Klein will work on this and there will be new appointees and Chair Klein would like to table this to our next meeting in June, for further discussing.

4. Water Subcommittee Discussion

RECOMMENDATION: MOTION TO FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER CONSERVATION. Commissioner Schafer motion for a sub-committee on water conservation and she will be the Chair of the sub-committee and Chair Klein second the motion as well as support Chair Schafer. Michele will provide a sub-committee list prior to our next meeting as recorded. And both templates will be provided to the commission.

F. OLD BUSINESS

(60 MINUTES)

1. Plastic Bag Next Steps, Commissioner Castle- Commissioner Castle thanked Thom and Michael for working with her on this project. The cost for the PSA would have cost over \$10,000.00 if we had to pay for it. The PSA was all done Free by award winning director, video crew and professional actors who believe in and support this issue. This will be the first time the video will be shown to the commission and public. We hope this will be available on city websites but public forums, such as television, and U-tube.

RECOMMENDATION: 1. Commissioner castle motion to have this service announcement approved and distributed for use by the commission and our city. Commissioner Scafer seconds the motion and it was approved. Chair Klein asked Michelle whatever the process is to get this on city channels and city websites. Michele stated she had submitted this to city manager and communications director. She is awaiting approval and she will let them know of the commission's unanimous vote.

RECOMMENDATION: COMMISSIONER CASTLE MOTION TO HAVE THE WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE DRAFT AN ORDINANCE IN SUPPORT OF ELIMINATING SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS. COMMISSIONER MCCREESH SECONDED AND IT WAS APPROVED.

RECOMMENDATION: COMMISSIONER CASTLE MOTION TO HAVE THE COMMISSION ASKS COUNCIL TO PASS A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A VALLEY WIDE ORIDIANCE TO BE PRESENT TO CVAG. THIS WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BETTINGER. This motion was approved. Chair Klein advised going forward all wording and/or language being submitted to Council be submitted at the time of the motion. So the commission know what they are reading and agree on the language they want. Michele recommended to staff the resolution wording be presented for review by the commission at June meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: COMMISSIONER CASTLE MADE A MOTION

WITH THE UNDERSTANDING STAFF IS TO PROVIDE THE WORDING. HOWEVER TO GO FORWARD TO HAVE THE COMMISSION ASK THE COUNCIL TO PASS A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR STATE SENATE BILL 405 IN ELIMINATING PLASTIC BAGS STATEWIDE. THIS WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SCAFER AND IT WAS APPROVED. Chair Klein suggested going forward would like all motions or subject matter be sent to Michele 10 day before meeting going forward.

1. 2013-14 Budget Approval, Chair Klein

RECOMMENDATION: MOTION TO APPROVE BUDGET AS PRESENTED BY CITY MANAGER READY AT APRIL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING.

Chair Klein motion to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Schafer sustains and the motion is approved.

2. Non-Motorized Transportation, Chair Klein

i. BFBD Roundtable Next Steps- This took place in April with April Economides from Long Beach and it was well attended. We had 28 individuals there representations all aspects of the community, from businesses, merchants, and city officials. The sub-committee has asked staff to work closely with Ms. Economides in regards to a follow up proposal. Chair Klein requested a scope of work from Michele to be submitted to June meeting for the commission to discuss. Chair Klein requested we agenda BFBD so all commissioners know and there is a funding request and he wants it transparent so they know where the money is being spent. Chair Klein requested an explanation on what the BFBD is all about.

ii. Bike Month recap and May 23rd table top at Village Fest-We have a lot of activities starting off the proclamation on May 1, 2013 with City Council and sub-committee and committee members there to meet the Mayor. On May 8, 2013 we had Bike to School Day which was a great event in that we shouldn't start so early. The kids will only show up 5 minutes before school starts. We had a mad rush and parent pulling up with bikes. Palm Springs Cyler had their managers from the Palm Desert and Palm Springs locations come out on their day off they physically checked bikes, safety inspections and they adjusted and tightened bikes so the kids could ride safe. We gave away kids helmets, bike lights, and back pack lights to some kids who were walking. The teachers, commissioners, the AIDS Life Cycle, Contingent was there you a training run and Regina O'Donnell who is the PTA mom who really helped to organize all that.

There was a question about where they parked their bikes at school. They do have some bike racks and storage and next year we need to do some on-site school program to get more bikers and walkers involved to understand. There were several kids on scooters and skateboards and we want to get them to know more about bikes. A week later we were at Sun City Cyler that was set up by Jennifer and Michele to have a Bike Day there. You could test a bike, get a safety check, we gave out kid helmets, lights, and all of those fun things. On the 23rd we have a table top at Village Fest and Chair Klein will be there and Commissioner Wilson and a couple of community citizens will be there to work the table. We have a reprint copy of the old bike map and the new bike map is not ready yet. It has not been determined where they will be on the boulevard. Chair Klein was not sure if the City has standard location but Ms. Henning was discussing that with them today. Palm Springs Cyler has offered A-frame bike racks when need them. Chair Klein advised once he knows he will email everyone

iii. Measure J Funding Proposals- Mician with the Office of Sustainability along with Mr. Barakian from Public Works and Engineering presented to Measure J in a special session

along with Tahquitz Creek with Vicki Olsten relating to the mater plan funding on how to bond the issue or bond a funding request up to 12 million dollars. To fund the majority of the Non-Motorized Transportation plan which would be all elements we have isolated and/or targeted on city streets, signage, lighting, Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, and striping. They are looking at our plan in order to figure out what the cost will be. It rolls up to less than 2 million dollars which is less that what CVAG originally thinking because we can only fund things with in the city's jurisdiction. For example Gene Audrey is HWY 111 is Cal-Trans and there are different components that CVAG did not roll down into to find out who was responsible for those roadways. The other component is community outreach and awareness.

RECOMMENDATION: CHAIR KLIEN MOTION TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO MEASURE J COMMITTEE FOR FUNDING OF THE PALM SPRINGS NON- MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN IN THE ANOUNT UP TO \$3,000,000 PER YEAR OVER A THREE YEAR BOND TERM. PROJECTS TO BE ITEMIZED PRIORITY I, 2 & 3 BY ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS. IT WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR SCHAFER. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED. CHAIR KLEIN ADVISED MICIAN TO ADD TO STAFF REPORT TO MEASURE J.

- vi. Bike Rack Purchase & Artist Bike Rack RFP, Jennifer Henning, Special Project Coordinator-This was not discussed but moved to June meeting.

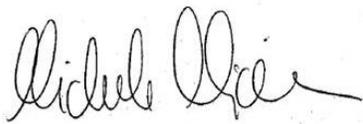
G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commission Wilson advised he discuss with Katie Barrows regarding the Green Building Voluntary Program and in his review it include shade and some changes due to errors within the plan. Commissioner Wilson stated instead of "engineering to overcome nature we should design with nature". Mician advised the committee to get information to her in advance and the next meeting was changed to June 25, 2013.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:01 pm. They will adjourn to the amended date for the Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 in the City Hall Council Chambers 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