

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



**MINUTES**

Tuesday, November 18, 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 conducted by Commissioner Polischak.
- 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. An amendment was recommended by Commissioner Wilson to include Minutes Approval to be conducted after the Agenda Approval. A motion to approve the agenda was initiated by Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Gotay seconded the motion, with the amendment. All Approved.
- MINUTES APPROVAL:** The minutes were presented by the Sustainability Manager Mician. An amendment was recommended by Commissioner Gotay to remove the “Late” status reflecting on his attendance and Commissioner Bettinger recommended Coordinator Calhoun changed as not being present during the last meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was initiated by Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Gotay seconded the motion, with the amendments. 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	39		
Thom Bettinger	X	28		
Joe Jackson	X	19		
Grant Wilson	X	22		
Mark Polischak	X	17		
Victor Yepello	X	15	1	
Travis Armstrong	X	16		
Michael Birnberg	X	5		
Orlando Gotay	X	5		
Tara Lazar	L	5		
Nate Otto	L	5		

- 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’S REPORT:**

- City Manager Ready was not present and no report to be presented.

**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.

- Realtor Jim Larkin requested the Commission to provide outreach to better educate property owners regarding financing issues that may arise when selling their property that use the PACE Program. He states there have been concerns with sellers due to the lien that is placed on the property.
- Mr. Kurt Watts, a representative of the Sunrise Park Neighborhood, wanted to express the neighborhoods concern of the elimination of parking spaces on Farrell Drive due to the installation of Sharrows. He stated those parking spaces are used by the residents and by commercial vehicles that work in the neighborhood.
- Mr. Jake Kasal, representative for CoolTerra, presented to the Commission a natural fertilizer which uses fifty percent water. He stated the fertilizer would be ideal especially due to the drought.

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

- No introductions.

### **B. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT (5 MINUTES)**

- Commissioner Houck reported the Parks and Recreation Commission support the City’s Water Conservation efforts.
- Commissioner Houck reported the Commission is in process of converting one of the courts at Demuth Park for Pickle Ball. They are also working to establish two “off leash” areas for dogs.

### **C. PRESENTATIONS (20 MINUTES)**

1. Climate and Energy Action Plan and Green For Life Programs  
Katie Barrows, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Director of Environmental Resources
  - Director Barrows provided the Commission an overview of the Climate and Energy Action Plan which CVAG has been working with all the Cities in the Coachella Valley. She also provided information on the activities for the Green for Life Programs and Title 24 Constructions.
  - Director Barrows presented to the City of Palm Springs a kiosk designed to help residents and contractors on how to save energy and money.
2. Jeff Hocker, Event Producer, Mayor’s Healthy Planet, Healthy You Race and Wellness Festival Update
  - Producer Hocker provided the Commission updates on the 2015 Mayor’s Race and Wellness Festival. He reported the creation of the new website, [www.healthyplanethealthyyoups.com](http://www.healthyplanethealthyyoups.com), dedicated not only for the Race and Wellness Festival but also future activities related to the Mayor’s Healthy Planet, Healthy You Programs and Activities. He reported there will be a

Tennis Clinic after the Wellness Festival.

- Manager Mician stated the website is a City owned and independent website but is linked to the City's Official Website.

#### **D. SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**(20 MINUTES)**

1. Grant Updates
  - I. MSRC Grant Funds for Bicycle Programs
    - Manager Mician advised grant funds have been spent and will submit the receipts to MSRC for reimbursement.
  - II. Tree Inventory Project – SCAG Grant
    - Manager Mician reported the tree inventory should be complete by mid-December and presentation of the completed product in January 2015.
  - III. Sustainability Master Plan with App and Website – SCAG Grant
    - Manager Mician provided the time line and budget for the Sustainability Master Plan Update. Work will begin by February 2015.
2. Bicycle Parking Update
  - Manager Mician reported the third bicycle corral will soon be installed by the Hacienda and the fourth will be at Wellwood Murray Memorial Library.
3. Water Task Force
  - Manager Mician reported she will be providing a presentation to the Council tomorrow evening with an update of the Water Conservation Programs. She also stated she will be having the task force reconvene to discuss future activities.
4. Healthy Planet, Healthy You Program Update
  - I. New website – [www.healthyplanethealthyyoups.com](http://www.healthyplanethealthyyoups.com)
    - Manager Mician reported the new website was created by Brighthaus Marketing and was designed to provide information for all Healthy Planet, Healthy You Programs and Activities.
  - II. Squats for Tots, December 6<sup>th</sup>
    - Manager Mician reported the Squats for Tots will be a pre-registration and toy drive event working with Desert AIDS Project and the Barbara Sinatra Children Foundation.
  - III. Triple Crown Events
    - Manager Mician reported the City will partner with other Race Events, Santa Paws and Red Carpet Run, to help promote the Mayor's Race and Wellness Festival. Participants of the Triple Crown will have separate awards.
  - IV. Mayor's Race on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015
    - Manager Mician reported she expects a large participation number for the race.
  - V. Clinton Day of Action on January 25, 2015
    - Manager Mician reported the event will be held at Desert Highland and will involve installation of Sharrows, Bike Corral and Racks and the planting of an Orchard. She also stated the Spaghetti Dinner will be on January 16<sup>th</sup> at Nicolino's.

#### **E. RECYCLING REPORT**

**(5 MINUTES)**

1. AB 1826 Update, Mandatory Organic Recycling
  - Manager Mician provided the Commission reported AB 1826 will not take effect until January 2016, and there is time to work with the waste Subcommittee to create an outreach program.
2. E Waste and Shredding Event, December 13, 2014 – Will be held at City Hall

## **F. OLD BUSINESS**

## **G. NEW BUSINESS**

**(30 MINUTES)**

1. Discuss additions of third City of Palm Springs Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE)

RECOMMENDATION: A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE ADDITION OF A THIRD PACE PROGRAM IN THE FORM OF THE HERO PROGRAM

No action taken due to lack of material and understanding.

## **H. SUBCOMMITTEE WORKING SESSION AND REPORTING (10 MINUTES)**

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioner Gotay
  - Commissioner Gotay reported he had a “turn over” meeting with Commissioner Yepello regarding the issues of water conservation and how the Water Ordinance is the main driver to the City’s conservation efforts.
2. Non-Motorized Transportation Subcommittee, Chair Klein
  - Chair Klein reported the Subcommittee will have a formal presentation on the Conference he attended in San Diego. Phases I and II of the bike ability of the City is in progress and will address concerns from the Community.
3. Wellness Subcommittee, Vice Chair Jackson
  - Vice Chair Jackson provided Urban Chicken Keeping Study Session overview but will wait until the December Meeting for a formal presentation. About 30 individual attended with equal numbers of “for” and “against” opinions.
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner Polischak
  - Commissioner Polischak reported the Subcommittee met regarding the managing and increasing compostables and bio-recycling. But after Manager Mician spoke to Chris Cunningham, PSDS, the Subcommittee will hold off. Mr. Cunningham stated PSDS cannot, at present, increase handling more compostables and the County of Riverside is reviewing the issue of bio-recycling.
5. Education Subcommittee, Commissioner Birnberg and Lazar
  - Commissioner Birnberg reported the Subcommittee met with Brighthaus Marketing to discuss branding and consistency. They also are reviewing the current marketing consultant to determine if they are the best option for future projects or should the Subcommittee consider other consultants.
  - Commissioner Lazar reported she will be working Desert Health Foundation starting June 2015 to teach children from the Boys and Girls Club regarding nutrition.
6. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Commissioner Otto
  - Commissioner Otto reported the Subcommittee is working on solar permitting and “set backs”.

## **I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**(10 MINUTES)**

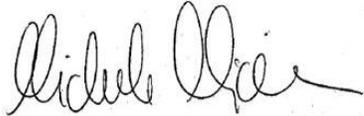
- Commissioner Bettinger commented on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Camelot will be hosting the Free Sustainability Film Series.
- Commissioner Wilson wanted to thank Director Fagg, Planning Department, for

attending the Commission Meeting.

- Chair Klein commented the Commission will hold off on the Dust Blower issue until January and will not rush into a position or ordinance.
- Chair Klein commented the December Meeting will full and will have an emphasis on NMTP.
- Commissioner Yepello commented the bag ordinance rollout was fairly successful.
- Commissioner Armstrong commented the Aqua Caliente Museum will be opening the Section 14 Exhibit which shows Palm Springs during the 1950's and 60's.

**J. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:03 P.M. The first motion was by Commissioner Gotay and a seconded by Commissioner Lazar. They will adjourn to the Regular Meeting which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Mician". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michele Mician, Manager  
Office of Sustainability