



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, May 15, 2018 Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Vice Chair Clark

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 Chair Jackson. A motion to approve as posted by Commissioner Gauthier and seconded by Commissioner Santora and unanimously carried.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2017/2018 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2017/2018 Unexcused Absences</u>
Joe Jackson	X	59		
Roy Clark	X	23		
Grant Wilson	L	60		
David Freedman	X	34		
Jennifer Futterman	X	22	2	
Greg Gauthier	X	14	2	
John Goins	X	13	4	
Robert McCann	X	22	4	
T Santora	X	3	3	
Carl Baker	L	4		
Jessica Spry	X	5		
Dara Shay – Student Rep	E	5	2	

X = Present E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)
 L = Late U = did not notify of absence

CITY STAFF PRESENT: David Ready, City Manager, Jay Virata, Director of Community & Economic Development, Daniel DeGarmo, Clerical Assistant, and Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator.

CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMENTS – City Manager David Ready reported on the FY 2018-19 budget and staffing for the Office of Sustainability. He suggested that the Commission pass the budget as is and then suggest ways in which to allocate the money for programs. City Manager Ready also spoke on the CVAG cooperative energy discussion coming to the City Council on June 6, 2018 and to provide the Council with as much information as necessary. Dr. Ready also requested that an Action Item report be made to the Council after every meeting. A bike rack was also requested for Sherman’s Deli.

Dan DeGarmo, Office of Sustainability informed the Commissioners that the City Manager would like to move forward with naming the Community Gardens after former Office of Sustainability Manager Michele Mician. He suggested that maybe a naming contest be created to get some ideas on how to name the Gardens.

COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Lani Miller, Palm Springs, spoke on recycling items and the discrepancy on local websites as to what is and what is not recyclable.

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - None

B. MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Santora to approve as amended, second by Commissioner Spry and approved unanimously by an open vote.

April 23, 2018 Study Session Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Baker to approve as

presented, second by Commissioner Santora and approved unanimously by an open vote with one abstention from Commissioner Wilson.

C. RECYCLING REPORT, Gary Calhoun reported that the E-waste and Shredding Recycling event was held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 and was very successful. Mr. Calhoun also commented that the CalRecycle Beverage Grant was approved for FY 2018-19. He also reported on SB1383 (2022 effective date) which replaces both AB 341 and AB 1826 which govern commercial recycling and organic waste. The purpose is to reduce methane gas to a specific level. This bill will now have an enforcement mechanism to the bill. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs – Commissioner Gauthier reported that he and Commissioner Futterman attended the Wild and Scenic Film Festival at UCR Palm Desert and that it was a very good presentation. Plans are still in the works for a December 2018 festival in Palm Springs
2. Continuing discussion on a proposed ordinance regarding Clean Air, Smoking, and Tobacco Use in the City of Palm Springs- Commissioner Baker had no further report. Commissioner Goins asked if the smoking ban would criminalize houseless persons. Commissioner Baker stated that this aspect has not been addressed. Chair Jackson asked for direction on whether or not to continue with the smoking ordinance or not. He asked for a show of hands for support of the ordinance based on areas of the ordinance. The results for the areas of support for the ban are:

Parks/Pool/Public Gathering Places/Sidewalks: 7 Ayes

Bar Patios: 5 Ayes

Multi-Family Dwellings: 1 Aye

This item will be on the July 17, 2018 agenda for further action.

3. Report on Milkweeds for Monarchs Project – Vice Chair Clark reported that the Mayor's Pledge has been signed and sent in to the National Wildlife Federation. Vice Chair Clark and Christine Hammond have moved about 200 plants to interested persons for a \$10.00 donation. Also, some plants have been donated to the City to be planted on City properties.

Comments and questions on the above reports from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Motion:** Approve FY 2018-19 Recycling Fund 125 and Sustainability Fund 138 Budget as presented. by Commissioner Santora and seconded by Commissioner Spry. Discussion ensued and the budget for fund 125 and fund 138 was passed unanimously. Mr. DeGarmo reported that the FY 2018-19 budget will be the last year for the inter-fund transfer for the cogeneration plant. Commissioners were directed to send their ideas for potential programs to Dan DeGarmo by June 11, 2018 and he will compile a list. Staffing requests should also be sent to Dan by the same date. Discussion will follow at the June 19, 2018 meeting on how to allocate funds for projects. An Ad Hoc Committee with Vice Chair Clark and Commissioners Goins and Futterman was formed with an ending date of June 30, 2018.
2. **Motion:** The Sustainability Commission supports the City of Palm Springs choosing the Desert Community Energy carbon-free option for the City's electricity consumption. Motion by Commissioner Freedman and seconded by Commissioner Santora. Discussion ensued with a report from Commissioner Freedman explaining the 100% Carbon-Free product for the City's electricity consumption. An Informational report to be sent to the City Council before the June 6, 2018 City Council meeting. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed. Motion passed unanimously on an open vote.
3. Discussion on a Recommendation to City Council regarding EV Charging Stations in the Downtown Redevelopment Area. The City Council is working with Tesla to provide from 6 to 24 Tesla only chargers in the Downtown Redevelopment Area. Commissioner Freedman reported that having Tesla chargers would bring more people into the Downtown area who would also shop in the City. Other manufacturer EV chargers could also be installed in the garage. A question arose as to who is responsible for the electricity charges for the EV Chargers. Staff to confirm. **Motion:** The Sustainability Commission supports the City Council recommendation to install Tesla electric vehicle chargers in the Downtown Redevelopment Area garage subject to periodic review. Motion by Commissioner Freedman and seconded by Commissioner Spry. Motion passed by an open vote, 8 Ayes, 1 No, and 2

Abstentions. There was concern that Tesla be responsible for all electricity charges with no cost born by the City.

4. Discussion on requiring payments at the city owned EV charging stations. Chair Jackson presented information on the current state of the City-owned EV Chargers and whether or not the City should begin a monetary charge for using the Chargers. **Motion:** The Sustainability Commission develops an EV charging system throughout the City to be determined later on the actual costs and time limits. Motion by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Freedman. Motion passes unanimously on an open vote. Staff to research rates and programs to be brought back to the Commission at the July 17, 2018 meeting.
5. Appointment of a Commissioner liaison (with Kors and Virata) regarding Bike Rental Company businesses. Chair Jackson volunteered to be on the committee to research the aspects of a bike rental company. Director Virata stated that we should also get right of way information from the Engineering Department.
6. Discussion on Appointment of an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Bicycle Routes. Chair Jackson stated that Councilmember Kors had asked for information on the future of bicycle routes. Chair Jackson tabled this item until July 2018 for further discussion.
7. Formalizing procedures to communicate Sustainability Commission resolutions to the City Council. Chair Jackson stated that a list of "Action Items" list has been developed by Staff that will go to the City Council and City Manager after each Sustainability Commission meeting.
8. Additional Follow-up to April 23 Study Session. Commissioner Santora requested that a discussion on Economic Sustainability be a part of a future agenda and to get more information from Staff.

F. COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Committee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioners Freedman and Goins – Commissioner Freedman reported on the actions being done to get Palm Springs designated as a Sol Smart City. The Solar Statement has been signed and sent in to SolSmart for the Gold designation. Commissioner Freedman also reported that the State Energy Commission approved the 2019 Energy Code requiring all new residential construction to include solar installation beginning January 1, 2020. Next steps will be to get solar on certain retro-fit construction projects.
2. Standing Committee on Waste Reduction - Commissioners McCann, Spry and Vice Chair Clark. Commissioner McCann reported on the status of the Battery Recycling grant to CalRecycle. A couple of items had to be removed from the grant request as they were not a qualified use of the funds. Commissioner Spry reported that the committee is working with the Hospitality Association on the polystyrene and plastic straw ban and that a survey has been created to send out to the City restaurant and food service businesses. Commissioner McCann reported on the tour of SA Recycling and that they only take self-haul green waste. He also reported that research is being done on wet organic waste and possibly using the waste water treatment plant as an organics extrusion press site to separate the wet waste from the dry waste. Commissioner McCann also reported on the status of obtaining recycle bins for some of the City Parks using CalRecycle beverage container grant funds. He also stated that a standard container should also be used inside commercial establishments.
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Walkability and Pedestrian Planning - Commissioner Wilson stated no report this month.
4. Wellness - Commissioner Baker reported that he is working with the County of Riverside to see what wellness activities are planned for the summer.
5. Water - Commissioner Freedman reported on the tour of the Hoover Dam with DWA. The DWA board meeting stated that the water conservation amount in April was 20% from the 2013 baseline. He will be meeting with DWA to discuss what further conservation measures the City can take to reduce water usage. He also reported that DWA would like to see the recycled water pipeline be extended to Sunrise Park.
6. Outreach - Commissioner Futterman stated that the billboards for World Environment Day event are up on Interstate 10 and on Gene Autry Bl. Vice Chair Clark reported that he received a call from the producer of CBS Local 2 program "Eye on the Desert" will have a segment on the World Environment Day event on the May 28, 2018 show.

Comments and questions from the commissioners on the above reports were presented and discussed.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -

Vice Chair Clark asked if there was any feedback from City Staff on the Leaf Blower brochure. Director

Virata stated that some minor changes were requested and that the brochure has been sent back to the City Manager.

Commissioner Freedman reported that all commissioners will be receiving City email addresses in the near future.

- H. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:10 PM by a motion from Commissioner Santora and seconded by Commissioner Freedman and approved by a unanimous vote. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, in the Large Conference Room at the Palm Springs City Hall. The Sustainability Commission's regular meeting schedule is at 5 p.m. the third Tuesday each month except August unless otherwise noted or amended.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Virata, Director of Community and Economic Development, For the Office of Sustainability