



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
 Tuesday, July 17, 2018 Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at **5:00** p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led 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 Chair Jackson. A motion to approve as amended removing item B. Election of Chair and Vice Chair from the agenda by Commissioner Freedman and seconded by Commissioner Santora and unanimously carried.

	This Meeting	Present to Date	FY 2017/2018 Excused Absences	FY 2017/2018 Unexcused Absences
Joe Jackson	X	61		
Roy Clark	X	25		
Grant Wilson	X	62		
David Freedman	X	36		
Jennifer Futterman	X	23	3	
Greg Gauthier	X	16	2	
John Goins	E	14	5	
Robert McCann	X	23	5	
T Santora	X	5	3	
Carl Baker	X	5	1	
Jessica Spry	E	6	1	

X = Present  
 L = Late

E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)  
 U = did not notify of absence

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** David Ready, City Manager, Marcus Fuller, Assistant City Manager, Daniel DeGarmo, Program Coordinator, Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator and Amy Blaisdell, Director of Communications.

**CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMENTS –** City Manager David Ready reported that the Manager of Sustainability position has been posted and that there are currently 8 applications received. The position will remain posted for about another two weeks. Mr. Ready asked that he would like a Sustainability subcommittee to join him in reviewing the applications. Mr. Ready also stated that he would like to help get some of the projects that the Sustainability Commission is working on a lift with other City resources. Additionally, Mr. Ready is looking into other administrative resources to help with items on the agenda. He also pledged to be more engaged in the Commission. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

**COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS –** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –** None

**A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS –** Chair Jackson recognized Director of Communications, Amy Blaisdell

**B. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR –** Tabled until January 2019 due to the term extensions to be given by City Council.

**C. PRESENTATIONS:** Lauren Bruggemans - "Sumba Hospitality Foundation: Educating and Empowering for Sustainable Futures". Ms. Bruggemans presented a program on the hospitality school she is associated

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with on the island of Sumba in Indonesia. Sustainable Tourism and Sustainable Economy are two of the objectives of the school. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

### D. MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Santora to approve as presented, second by Commissioner Gauthier and approved unanimously by an open vote. Abstentions by Commissioners Baker and Futterman.

E. **RECYCLING REPORT**, Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun commented that he is working on the Annual Report due by August 1, 2018.

### F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Status of the Leaf Blower Brochure and AQMD Exchange Program: Production and Distribution. Communications Director Amy Blaisdell explained that the City is working with the City's communications firm on a professional campaign for the Leaf Blower ordinance. The firm has developed some core concepts for the campaign and that a mailer is being developed to send out to landscapers and gardeners, partnering with CVAG to be sure as many landscapers and gardeners are reached. Also, a workshop is being developed for late September 2018 which will be presented in the Spanish language by a Diversity Consultant. Flyers will also be produced along with a media campaign. A consensus of which concept the commissioners like was requested. Target date for launching the campaign is late August, first week in September.
2. Continuing Discussion on a Proposed Ordinance regarding Clean Air, Smoking and Tobacco Use in the City of Palm Springs – Commissioner Baker stated that the Riverside County Tobacco Retailing Permit will be presented to City Council on the September 5, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Baker invited Paul Hinrichsen and Bob Heinbaugh to answer concerns regarding the proposed ban on smoking in public areas for the City of Palm Springs. Concerns on banning smoking in multi-unit housing and the Private Right of Action clause were discussed. Further discussion and action will be taken later this year.
3. Continuing Discussion on FY 2018-19 Budget: Recycling Fund 125 and Sustainability Fund 138 Program and Staff Expenses. Vice Chair Clark proposed that the Commission accept all of the items on the Budget Requests as submitted to the Commission at the June 19, 2018 meeting with the understanding that the actual dollar amounts are subject to change. Commissioner McCann presented the following motion for vote:  
**Motion:** That the Sustainability Commission Program Budget as presented at the June 19, 2018 meeting be used as our Budget Template for the Fiscal Year 2018-19. Seconded by Commissioner Baker. Vote passed unanimously.

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

### G. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Motion:** To authorize a Feasibility Study not to exceed \$30,000 regarding an Organic Waste Disposal System (OREX) tied to the Waste Water Treatment Plant –Vice Chair Clark requested that discussion on this item be deferred to the Waste Reduction report. Chair Jackson tabled this item.
2. Appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling. Chair Jackson requested that an Ad Hoc Committee on bicycling and bike routes be established. He reported that Jim Flanagan, a Palm Springs resident would like to be on the committee. Chair Jackson will ask for volunteers at the September 24, 2018 Special Meeting.
3. Re-authorize the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs and the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning. Chair Jackson re-authorized the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs (Commissioners Futterman and Gauthier) and the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning (Commissioners Wilson, Gauthier, Futterman) through June 30, 2019.
4. Consideration of changing meeting time or date for the October 16, 2018 Sustainability Commission meeting due to a conflict with a City Council public hearing regarding creation of a City Council District-Based Electoral System. Mr. DeGarmo suggested that due to the availability of the Conference Room that Monday, October 22, 2018 would be the best date to hold the meeting. This date was accepted.

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

## H. COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Committee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioners Freedman and Goins – Commissioner Freedman reported that the City received designation as a SolSmart Gold City and that the National League of Cities is providing information on preparing the City for the new building codes becoming effective in 2020. He also stated that he met with Councilmember Middleton on a solar policy for the City. CVAG will be presenting information on the Desert Community Energy program at a ONE-PS brown bag lunch on Thursday, July 19, 2018. Homes with Solar panels will not be enrolled in DCE until January 2019. Mr. Freedman attended an Energy Code conference in San Francisco.
2. Standing Committee on Waste Reduction - Commissioners McCann, Spry and Vice Chair Clark. Commissioner McCann reported that Councilmember Holstege will attend the subcommittee meeting on Monday, July 23, 2018 to discuss the polystyrene and plastic straw ordinance. He also reported on a meeting with City staff on placement of the new recycling containers that were received. Commissioner McCann gave a report on the organic waste disposal and the meeting that was held with Anaergia, PSDS, Veolia and City staff. There is a strong possibility that the Anaergia facility (OREX) could be added to the Waste Water Treatment plant. Commissioner McCann will come back to the Commission in September with a recommendation. Grant money is also available for the development of the program. Vice Chair Clark requested information on the battery recycling proposal he submitted for approval. Mr. DeGarmo reported that the grant awards will be made public at a meeting on or about July 22, 2018. Mr. DeGarmo will follow up and inform the Commission on the status.
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Walkability and Pedestrian Planning - Commissioner Wilson stated no report this month. Commissioner Wilson reported that the subcommittee met with Engineer Don Uyeno regarding the Safe Routes to School grant. He also reported that the City is currently working on a sidewalk gap closure project as well. Commissioner Wilson asked that support from the Commission be given for the project by sending the minutes to Mr. Uyeno. Mr. DeGarmo will send the minutes to him.
4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs – Commissioner Gauthier reported that some follow up conversations were held with the Rivers and Lands Conservancy who sponsored a film festival earlier this year regarding the Sustainability Commission joining with them in March 2019 for a Wild and Scenic Film Festival.
5. Wellness – Commissioner Baker stated no further report.
6. Water - Commissioner Freedman reported on DWA workshop on 2018-19 rebate programs. Commissioner Freedman met with Parks Maintenance Supervisor Kenny Kershaw regarding turf to desert landscape at Victoria Park which would be eligible for a \$3.00/square foot rebate up to \$40,000 from DWA. The application would have to be submitted by the end of next month to be reserved for funds. Mr. DeGarmo was asked to follow up with Facilities Maintenance Director Staci Schafer to get the application in to DWA. Water conservation numbers for June was 19.5% from the 2013 baseline with a cumulative savings of 13.3% for the past 12 months. A presentation on the new State water conservation laws was presented at the DWA meeting also. The DWA water quality report has been posted on the DWA website. Commissioner Freedman would like to work with the new Sustainability Manager on a turf to desert landscape rebate program.
7. Outreach – Commissioner Futterman reported on the World Environment Day event. A presentation of the exhibitors and attendance at the event was given showing the positive and negative issues of the event. The animal encounters were a big hit and attendance was up from last year. Statistics were presented on where attendees saw the information on the event. Recommendations for a better flow of the event in the future were also presented.

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

## I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -

Commissioner Freedman stated that the City will be applying for a grant from AQMD for more electric vehicle charging stations. Chair Jackson stated that Vice Chair Clark will represent the Commission at the Library's Summer Reading Program bicycle giveaway. Commissioner McCann reported that the City is starting a grant program for the exterior of businesses to improve them. He asked if the grants could be used for interior recycling bins. The grant is only for exterior upgrades. Mr. DeGarmo reported that the Dunn Road project is 95% complete, only some smaller glass particles are left to be picked up.

**J. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:08 PM by a motion from Commissioner Gauthier and seconded by Commissioner McCann and approved by a unanimous vote. They adjourned to the Special Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 24, 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