



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 24, 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 Baker. Chair Jackson asked if the Pledge of Allegiance was a requirement of Commission meetings. Director Virata stated that it was not. Chair Jackson asked through a show of hands if the Commission would like to agendize this item on a future meeting date. This will be placed on a future agenda.

ROLL CALL: A quorum was present for this Regular Meeting of the City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission. Chair Jackson acknowledged the resignation of Commissioner Spry and thanked her for her time on the Commission.

AGENDA APPROVAL: The agenda was presented by Chair Jackson. A motion to approve as amended moving E.1 to Staff Comments by Commissioner Santora and seconded by Commissioner Goins 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	62		
Roy Clark	X	26		
Grant Wilson	X	63		
David Freedman	X	37		
Jennifer Futterman	E	23	4	
Greg Gauthier	X	17	2	
John Goins	X	15	5	
Robert McCann	X	24	5	
T Santora	X	6	3	
Carl Baker	X	6	1	

X = Present

E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)

L = Late

U = did not notify of absence

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Jay Virata, Director of Community & Economic Development, Daniel DeGarmo, Program Coordinator, Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator and Amy Blaisdell, Director of Communications.

CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMENTS – Communications Director Amy Blaisdell updated the status of the gas powered leaf blower ordinance. A City-wide mailer will be going out after we receive information from AQMD on an exchange program. A workshop will be held in late October or November on how to properly use a leaf blower and options available. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed. Commissioner Santora motioned to table the E.1. **Motion:** To approve expenditure of Sustainability Funds for additional radio and media exposure. Unanimously passed.

COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS – None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Paul Hinrichsen – Palm Springs, spoke on a City-wide no smoking ordinance.

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Chair Jackson welcomed Janice Lopez from the Parks and Recreation Department.

B. PRESENTATIONS: Alejandro Espinoza, Desert Healthcare District – “Health Info Place”. Mr Espinoza. Commissioner Baker referenced the CVHip.com. Chair Jackson stated that the Sustainability Commission

raised \$50,000.00 towards getting this website going. Mr. Espinoza reviewed the CVHip website and gave instruction on how to use the website for health services available in the Coachella Valley. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

C. MEETING MINUTES

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

D. RECYCLING REPORT, Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun reported that the Annual Report and the Beverage Container Expenditure reports have been submitted. He stated that an on-site visit from Andrew Smyth of CalRecycle was held and that the State is very pleased with the City's efforts on recycling. Mr. Calhoun also stated that the next recycling event will be held on October 20, 2108. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Status of the Leaf Blower Brochure and Informational Campaign – Director Virata, Director Blaisdell
This item was moved to Staff Comments.
- 2 Report on status of hiring a manager for the Office of Sustainability – Commissioner Goins and Vice Chair Clark. Vice Chair Clark reported that he and Commissioner Goins met with City Manager David Ready and Human Resources Director Perry Madison and several applications were given to them to review for possible interviews. Director Virata stated the interviews will be held next week (first week of October).
Comments and questions on the above reports from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report from the Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction. **Motion:** Recommend that the City Council adopt an ordinance implementing a “request only policy” for single use plastic straws for all beverage-supplying venues. Commissioner Baker asked if this request would be moot since the State has passed a law effective January 1, 2019 restricting the use of plastic straws. Chair Jackson stated that the State law only applies to full service restaurants only. Commissioner McCann stated that a subcommittee meeting with Councilmember Holstege in August before the State law was passed. The Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction will be looking at this ordinance further to include all restaurants and for the ordinance to be “request only” and to include a ban on Styrofoam containers. Commissioner Santora moved to table the motion to a future date. Unanimously passed on an open vote.
2. 2019 Sustainable Film Series – Megan Goehring, Market Manager, Palm Springs Cultural Center. Ms Goehring reported on the 2019 Sustainable Film Series at the Cultural Center and some changes to the schedule and adding a food and wine tasting event before the film being shown. Ms Goehring stated that the Sustainability Commission has provided funding for the films before and asked if the Commission would consider funding for the 2019 season. Chair Jackson stated that the 2018-19 budget includes funding for the film series.
3. Report on the Neighborhoods USA Conference (NUSA), May 15-18, 2019, in Palm Springs. **Motion:** The Sustainability Commission co-sponsor workshops/tours at the Conference at no cost to the Commission. Chair Jackson stated that a request from the Office of Neighborhoods for the Commission to co-sponsor a Sustainability tour and/or a Water tour during the NUSA conference. Director Virata gave further information on the tours. Commissioner Freedman stated as a point of information that there is a possibility of sponsoring a workshop with the assistance of the Waste Reduction subcommittee. Commissioner Santora made the motion with a second from Commissioner Baker. Motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Freedman recusing himself from the vote because of his involvement in the NUSA Conference on behalf of ONE-PS. Chair Jackson appointed Commissioner McCann as liaison to Commissioner Freedman for a possible workshop at the NUSA Conference.
4. Consideration Discussion regarding naming the Community Gardens in memory of Michele Mician. Update on status of garden - Director Virata stated that the City Manager has requested that the Commission support a re-naming of the Community Garden in honor of former Sustainability Manager

Michele Mician. Parks and Recreation Department representative Janice Lopez reported that a walk in the park event at Demuth Park be held in conjunction with the re-naming. Chair Jackson asked if a date had been determined and if a name has been decided on so that signage could be ready. Discussion on a name for the Garden from the Commissioners ensued with a consensus on the name "Michele Mician Community Gardens". **Motion:** To re-name the Community Gardens to the "Michele Mician Community Garden". Motion by Commissioner Gauthier and seconded by Commissioner Santora. Motion passes unanimously on an open vote.

5. Battery Recycling Grant award. Status of other grant requests. Status included in the Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction report.
 6. Discussion on an upcoming presentation from Anaergia regarding the OREX system for organic waste disposal. Item included in the Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction report.
- Comments and questions on the above reports from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

G. COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioners Freedman and Goins – Commissioner Freedman reported that the program and speakers have been confirmed for the Energy Code Training on October 29, 2018. Preparations for the event are moving forward. Commissioner Freedman reported he has been working on updating a draft for a solar ordinance for the City. Commissioner Freedman is also working on a proposal to move carbon neutrality up to 2030 and he has been working with Councilmember Middleton on ways to accomplish this. He also stated that Desert Community Energy has delayed its launch to sometime next year. Commissioner Goins reported that a sustainability and modernism workshop will be held on February 23, 2019 in conjunction with Modernism Week. The workshop will be similar to the workshop held in February 2018.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction - Commissioner McCann and Vice Chair Clark. Commissioner McCann reported that the Construction and Demolition Waste ordinance is still with the City Council subcommittee. Director Virata stated that Staff was directed to find more information from comparable cities and that the research is being conducted. Commissioner McCann reported that the new recycle containers have been installed in City Parks. He also reported on organic waste diversion and the Anaergia company's OREX system. The subcommittee briefed Councilmember Holstege on the system and she had a positive assessment of the system. Commissioner McCann gave a brief explanation of the system and the possibility of getting tipping fees from other valley cities to offset the cost of running the system. Commissioner McCann also stated that the City has been awarded a CalRecycle grant for battery recycling in the amount of \$35,450.00. Mr. DeGarmo stated that the contract is in the process of being signed and that once that occurs we can begin the project. Vice Chair Clark reported that some background activities have been done regarding product use and drop off points for recycling containers. Only City-owned properties will be used as drop off points.
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Walkability and Pedestrian Planning - Commissioner Gauthier stated no report.
4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs – Commissioner Gauthier stated no report this month.
5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Jim Flanagan was introduced to the Commissioners. He commented that he was happy with the Laverne bicycle lanes which were recently installed and reported on scooters that are being used around Portland Oregon and the problems associated with them.
6. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported on that the Tobacco Retailing Permit ordinance has been sent to City Council and will be on an agenda for October 2018. Commissioner Baker also explained the talking points handout for a City no-smoking ordinance he provided the Commissioners. He stated that the status of the proposed ordinance is still in a discussion stage now. Chair Jackson led a discussion on the information contained in the proposed ordinance and that the subcommittee come back in October or November with a report on how the ordinance should be presented to the Commission.
7. Water - Commissioner Freedman reported that DWA is offering a rebate for turf conversion and he asked staff to follow up on the status of the turf conversion at Victoria Park. He also reported a 16.5% reduction in July and 17% reduction in August for a cumulative savings of 14.1% over the last 12 months. Cumulative savings since June 2016 is 17.3%. Commissioner Freedman also reported that ONE-PS is hosting a forum for DWA board candidates on October 11, 2018 in the City Council Chamber. Vice Chair Clark reported on the state water project tour he attended earlier this month. He provided a written report on this tour.

8. Outreach – No report.

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

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -

Commissioner Freedman reported that City Council approved the Tesla contract for electric vehicle chargers at the new downtown parking garage.

Commissioner Santora reported that the Palm Springs Art Museum will be presenting an exhibit called “SCRAPS” consisting of artwork made from the fashion industry waste. Commissioner Santora will be leading tours at the museum for this exhibit.

Commissioner Clark reported on Library events coming up including a lecture on October 17, 2018 on the migration of Monarch Butterflies and on October 12, 2018 the 4th Climate Change Assessment Symposium will be held at UCR Palm Desert.

Chair Jackson asked Staff to request a presentation from Engineering Staff on the Indian Canyon two-way conversion project for the October meeting.

Chair Jackson also reminded the Commissioners to get any agenda items to Staff 12 to 15 days before the meeting so that the agenda can be created in a timely manner. Also, subcommittee reports should be sent to Staff in time for them to be included with the agenda packet. He also reminded the Commissioners that the October meeting is also off schedule and will be held on October 22, 2018.

- I. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:07 PM by a motion from Commissioner Santora 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, October 22, 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