



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

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

**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 Baker and seconded by Commissioner McCann and unanimously carried.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2018/2019 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2018/2019 Unexcused Absences</u>
Joe Jackson	X	64		
Roy Clark	X	28		
Grant Wilson	X	65		
David Freedman	X	38	1	
Jennifer Futterman	X	25	1	
Greg Gauthier	X	19		
John Goins	E	16	2	
Robert McCann	X	26		
T Santora	X	8		
Carl Baker	X	8		

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.

**CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMENTS** – Mr. DeGarmo attempted to show a portion of the City Council meeting of November 14, 2018 showing the presentation from Desert Learning Academy regarding the damage plastic straws can make on the environment. The video did not have audio, so the clip was not shown. Director Virata reported on Senate Bill 946 Safe Sidewalk Vending Act and the City’s action on this law. Per the City Attorney, the City is reviewing the act but no action has been taken as to the direction the City will take. Director Virata also reported on the re-naming of the Community Garden in honor of former Sustainability Manager Michele Mician stating that the Parks and Recreation Commission has formed an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to discuss policy on criteria for re-naming City parks.

**COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS** – None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Jackson welcomed all in attendance.

**B. MEETING MINUTES**

October 22, 2018 Special Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Santora to approve as presented, second by Commissioner Baker and approved unanimously by an open vote with Commissioner Freedman abstaining.

**C. RECYCLING REPORT,** Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun reported that he met with Nima Pauline of Eco Manufacturing. She will be starting a block chaining process to take towels and sheets from Hotels for the process. Mr. Calhoun also stated that Palm Springs Disposal will participate in some manner with the January 12, 2019 shredding event. Details to come. Lastly, Mr. Calhoun attended the Desert Arc Recycling Facility in Indio. He commented on how well run the facility is. Comments and questions from the

commissioners were presented and discussed.

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Status of the Leaf Blower Brochure and Informational Campaign – Director Virata reported that until we know more from AQMD, the flyer is on hold. The new program is being developed for Economic Justice area. At this time we do not know if Palm Springs is in an Economic Justice area.
2. Report on status of hiring a manager for the Office of Sustainability – Director Virata reported that an offer was made and accepted by Mr. Patrick Tallarico. He is coming from Virginia and will be starting on January 14, 2019.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consideration of a Commissioner liaison in the area of Climate Change. Chair Jackson stated that Climate Change has been presented to the Commission in the past and asked if anyone would like to be a liaison to climate change. Commissioner Freedman stated that the Standing Subcommittee on Green Building and Solar is following a number of climate change issues in connection with the adoption of the 2019 Energy Code.
2. **Motion:** *The Sustainability Commission endorses the ten points listed in the Oct 22, 2018 Wellness Report regarding a Clean Air and Regulation of Smoking and Tobacco Product Use Ordinance.* Made by Commissioner Baker. Chair Jackson described the process by which the Commission will discuss the above motion. He stated if the Commission accepts the document as written with all ten points then the Commission would proceed with the motion. If there is not a majority for accepting the document as presented, then a discussion of each of the ten points (Attachment A) individually will proceed. A second was made by Commissioner Santora. Commissioner Baker presented background information on the motion. Chair Jackson asked for a show of hands for those who supported the document as written. The result was 2 Aye and 6 No. Chair Jackson then proceeded to request a vote for each point 1 - 10. Discussion on point 1 regarding the exclusion of cannabis as included in the State Business and Professions Code Section 22950.5 definition of tobacco led to Commissioner Santora rescinding his second on the stated motion. Chair Jackson requested if someone else would like to make a second. Vice Chair Clark made the second. Chair Jackson then requested a show of hands for or against each of the 10 points. Discussion on several of the points was presented. The results of the voting are as follows:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>
1	2	6
2	1	7
3	3	5
4	4	3
5	3	4
6	6	1
7	5	2
8	4	1
9	6	0
10	1	6

Chair Jackson stated that points 4,6,7,8 and 9 are narrowly supported and points 2 and 10 are not supported by the widest margin. Commissioner Santora requested more information on what the City can and cannot change without changing existing state laws. Commissioner Baker stated that the proposed ordinance is based on what other California cities are already doing. Comments and questions followed. Chair Jackson then called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion failed by a vote of 1 Aye to 7 Noes. Commissioner Freedman encouraged Commissioner Baker to come back to the Commission with an updated proposal.

3. Discussion on providing a rebate to Palm Springs residents for exchanging a gas-powered leaf blower for an electric leaf blower. Director Virata explained that Palm Springs residents have contacted the City asking if the City would be providing any incentives to residents for purchasing an electric leaf blower due to the upcoming ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. A possible exchange program was

presented and discussed using the AQMD model that was presented to the Commission. Processes and rebate amounts were discussed along with a possible budget for the program. Chair Jackson asked if anyone would like to make a motion. No motion was made at this time but the Commission would like to have the issue brought back at a later time.

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

## **F. COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

1. Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioners Freedman and Goins – Commissioner Freedman stated that the Sustainability Workshop for the NUSA conference in May 2019 has been accepted. A video produced by the City on Solar installations was also shown to the Commissioners. The video will also be shown at the NUSA Desert Renewable Energy Tour. Commissioner Freedman also stated that the Energy Code Training was successful and that there was no cost to the Commission. Plans for another energy event next year are in the works, but we will outsource the planning of the event to those who actually do the training. Also, plans are being made to bring the Energy Code Coach program to the Coachella Valley. A voluntary Reach Code process is also being discussed. Commissioner Freedman also updated the Commission on progress of the Solar ordinance and the Modernism Week presentation.
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 is finishing up with surveying other cities on their C&D policies. Commissioner McCann also reported on the polystyrene and plastic straw ban that is ongoing with research being made on what bans are in place in other California cities. Commissioner McCann also reported on the Anaergia project for diverting organic waste. A more comprehensive proposal was requested and received on November 13, 2018. The report was forwarded to stakeholders and City Council and he is waiting on replies. A motion will be forthcoming to approve up to \$67,000 for a comprehensive proposal to install the OREX system. Also reported was that the grant paperwork for the battery recycling grant was not received by CalRecycle and that a replacement package was sent to CalRecycle.
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Walkability and Pedestrian Planning - Commissioner Wilson stated that he met with Measure J Commission liaison Christine Hammond and discussed additional Complete Streets planning options beyond the current SCAG grant currently under implementation. Commissioner Wilson also met with Lyndon Calerdine about possible liaison with the planning commission where Commissioner Calerdine presented his ideas about streetscape improvements for Indian Canyon Drive. All subcommittee members gathered for a pedestrian survey of Indian Canyon Drive between Alejo and Camino Parocela in response to the City project's emphasis on street improvement over sidewalk design. The subcommittee in particular noted a lack of adequate lighting and will provide more information in a written report for next month's meeting. Commissioners Futterman and Wilson also participated in SCAG webinars on smart growth and pedestrian planning—each provided brief oral descriptions.
4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs – Commissioner Futterman stated they met with Tim Rains and Megan Goehring of the Palm Springs Cultural Center and they are interested in partnering with the Commission on the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. A suggested date is October 4-5, 2019 to coordinate with the opening of the Farmers Market at the Cultural Center. An opening night with an evening reception and a film is being considered. Also, possibly having a pop-up art exhibit at the reception.
5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Jim Flanagan reported that he met with former Commissioners and others to come up with a list of goals for the Subcommittee to consider for action items. He is requesting feedback from the Commissioners on how to proceed. Mr. Flanagan also reported that he has been in contact with the Engineering Department regarding the goals and that he will be meeting with them soon.
6. Wellness – No further report.
7. Water - Commissioner Freedman requested Staff to have Facilities Department check the sprinklers at the Mizell Center as they are spraying over the sidewalks. He also requested status on the Victoria Park turf conversion project with DWA. Current numbers for water conservation are at 5% in September and 12% in October with a cumulative savings of 16%.
8. Outreach – Commissioner Futterman stated that an application has been submitted to the Parks and

Recreation Department for use of the Pavilion on June 2, 2019 for World Environment Day. An agenda item is requested for the December meeting for the Commission to determine the amount of participation for the World Environment Day event. Commissioner Futterman also mentioned that outreach for the event can be held at the Sustainability Film series.

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

**G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -**

Chair Jackson mentioned that there will be two vacancies on the Commission in January. Discussion was held on whether to hold elections in December or January. Consensus was to hold elections in December.

**H. ADJOURNMENT -** The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:41 PM by a motion from Commissioner Santora and seconded by Vice Chair Clark 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, December 18, 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