



## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Clark 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 Vice Chair Clark. A motion to approve as posted by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner McCann and unanimously carried.

	This Meeting	Present to Date	FY 2018/2019 Excused Absences	FY 2018/2019 Unexcused Absences
Roy Clark, Chair	X	30		
Robert McCann, Vice Chair	X	28		
Grant Wilson	X	67		
David Freedman	X	40	1	
Jennifer Futterman	X	27	1	
Greg Gauthier	X	21		
John Goins	X	18	2	
T Santora	X	10		
Carl Baker	X	10		

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; Patrick Tallarico, Manager, Office of Sustainability; Daniel DeGarmo, Program Coordinator; Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator.

**CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMENTS** – Director Virata introduced Patrick Tallarico, Manager, Office of Sustainability. Manager Tallarico commented on the College of the Desert Construction and Demolition plans. The project plans to reclaim and reuse the concrete onsite and establish separate waste streams for other recyclable materials.

**COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS** – None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

Kim Floyd, Palm Desert, welcomed Patrick Tallarico to the City.

**A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Vice Chair Clark welcomed Patrick Tallarico. Manager Tallarico introduced himself and stated that he would like to focus on where we are and where we are going.

### **B. MEETING MINUTES**

December 18, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Santora to approve as presented, second by Commissioner Baker and approved unanimously by an open vote.

**C. RECYCLING REPORT,** Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun was absent and in his stead, Mr. DeGarmo reported that the Ewaste and Recycling event held on January 12, 2019 was a huge success.

### **D. OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Status of the Leaf Blower Brochure and Informational Campaign – Director Virata reported that we are still waiting on AQMD to release the details of their program, which is expected soon.

2. Sustainability Film Series Program, Palm Springs Cultural Center. Mr. DeGarmo gave an update on the status of the Sustainability Film Series at the Cultural Center. The films will begin in February. The group reviewed the poster for the series and did not have any comments.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Mr. DeGarmo will follow up with the organizers to discuss opportunities for the Commission to provide some level of sponsorship as in previous years.
3. **MOTION:** “The Sustainability Commission recommends that there be consistency in design and color to conform to the norms of recycling and trash containers, blue for recycling and brown for trash.” Commissioner McCann (Original vote in October 2018). Per the request of City Manager Ready, Commissioner McCann re-stated the above motion, seconded by Commissioner Santora. Commissioner Santora asked why this item was brought back. Director Virata stated that the City Council requested that this motion be re-stated. Commissioner McCann stated that the City Council has previously discussed other options for trash and recycle containers downtown and that the issue is being brought back to the Council for review. Motion passed 9-0 in an open vote.
4. **MOTION:** “The Sustainability Commission endorses the Clean Indoor Air and Health Protection Resolution of January 2019.” – The motion was made by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Freedman (for purposes of discussion). Commissioner Freedman stated that he has concerns with the way the resolution is presented and would like further clarification. Discussion continued on how the resolution has been presented and Commissioners requested to see the Clean Indoor Air and Health Protection draft ordinance passed by the Human Rights Commission on the same subject. Motion failed on an open vote, 2-7. Vice Chair Clark asked if this could be brought back in February with changes as requested.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Commissioners were asked to provide changes to Commissioner Baker and the City staff so that a revised version could be reviewed at the next meeting.

#### E. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. **Election of Commission Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.** Mr. DeGarmo asked if the Commission wanted to have elections for a six month period or for a year and a half. A six month election was decided upon.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Commissioner Baker nominated Commissioner Clark for Chair. There were no other nominations for Chair. Commissioner Clark was elected on a unanimous vote. Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner McCann for Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner McCann was elected on a unanimous vote.
2. **Formation of an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to produce the World Environment Day event, Sunday, June 2, 2019.** Chair Clark reported to the Commission on the request to form an Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the World Environment Day event. Commissioner Futterman gave further information on the event and welcomed any Commissioner who would like to be a part of the Ad Hoc Committee.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Chair Clark asked for participation on the Committee and Commissioners Santora and Gauthier volunteered to be on the Committee.
3. **MOTION:** “The Sustainability Commission approves expenditures for World Environment Day, Sunday, June 2, not to exceed \$5000.” Commissioner Futterman shared the details of the Commission’s past sponsorship of the event and put forward the motion for similar funding for 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Santora. There was some brief discussion of advertising for the event, including an article in the Desert Sun. The motion passed 9-0 on an open vote.

#### F. COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioners Freedman and Goins – Commissioner Freedman reported on efforts of bringing the Energy Code Coach training program to the City Building Department with the assistance of CVAG. He also reported on steps being taken to update the City’s solar zoning ordinance. Commissioner Freedman also reported on the NUSA tours being offered in May that he will be leading. Commissioners Freedman and McCann are also working on a workshop during the NUSA conference. Commissioner Goins reported on status of the February 23, 2019 Modernism Week event.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction - Commissioner McCann and Vice Chair Clark. Vice Chair

McCann reported on the status of a plastic straw and Styrofoam ban and that Councilmember Holstege is working on getting the issue on a City Council agenda. Vice Chair McCann also reported on the issues regarding the Anaergia Orex system and the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Chair Clark reported on the Battery Recycling program and that he has visited a couple of the locations where the recycle containers are scheduled to be placed. This program will continue to move forward with additional support and input from City staff.

3. Ad Hoc Committee on Walkability and Pedestrian Planning - Commissioner Wilson reported that a meeting is planned for January 22, 2019 on the pedestrian plan on the Indian Canyon two-way conversion. Commissioner Gauthier reported that he has researched information on what other cities are doing in regards to electric scooters. Commissioner Gauthier requested that scooters be on the agenda for February.
4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs – Commissioner Gauthier stated no report this month and that the committee members are planning on attending the movies being presented for the series.
5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Jim Flanagan reported on recommendations he has been discussing with the Engineering Department on bike lane improvements. He requested direction on whether or not a motion should be brought to the Commission or to continue working with Engineering. It was agreed that he will work more with Engineering before bringing a motion to the Commission. Mr. Flanagan also requested direction on the American Bicycle Association “Bicycle Friendly City” application. Chair Clark asked if the bicycle map should be updated. Mr. Flanagan reported that there are not that many changes that need to be made at this time.
6. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported on his research regarding “Green Monday” organization and program. One way to promote is to encourage local restaurants to provide a meatless entrée on Mondays. Commissioner Baker suggested that as Commissioners go out to eat that they ask the restaurant how they feel about the program. Commissioner Baker also handed out a brochure put out by the Parks and Recreation Department showing their programs. Commissioners can report out on what they heard at the February meeting and determine next steps.
7. Water - Commissioner Freedman reported current numbers for water conservation are at 13.4% in November with a savings over the last twelve months of 13.8% with a cumulative savings of 16.4% since 2016. He also reported that DWA still has funds available for turf conversion.
8. Outreach – Commissioner Futterman stated no report this month.

#### **G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -**

Commissioner Santora requested clarification on the process for getting items on the agenda and why an item can be removed from the agenda by City Staff.

Commissioner Futterman stated that Parks and Recreation Staff have had requests for battery recycling information and that the bicycle maps are being requested also at the Leisure Center.

Chair Clark stated that the Commission has supported the ONE-PS picnic in the past and that sponsor applications are now available for the 2019 picnic.

Commissioner Freedman reported that the FLIX bus now picks up passengers in downtown Palm Springs instead of at the train station.

- #### **H. ADJOURNMENT -**
- The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:40 PM by a motion from Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Santora 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, February 19, 2019, 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,

Patrick Tallarico, Manager, Office of Sustainability