



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, February 19, 2019 Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: 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 Santora and unanimously carried.

	This Meeting	Present to Date	FY 2018/2019 Excused Absences	FY 2018/2019 Unexcused Absences
Roy Clark, Chair	X	31		
Robert McCann, Vice Chair	X	29		
Grant Wilson	E	67	1	
David Freedman	X	41	1	
Jennifer Futterman	X	28	1	
Greg Gauthier	X	22		
John Goins	X	19	2	
T Santora	X	11		
Carl Baker	X	11		
Jim Flanagan	X	1		
Lani Miller	X	1		

X = Present
 L = Late

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

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

CITY MANAGER / STAFF COMMENTS – Manager Tallarico reported on the following:

- Contact he had with a representative of College of the Desert Palm Springs campus to discuss sustainability efforts;
- The plans for the City’s budget development process;
- The receipt of an extension for an existing Electric Vehicle charging station grant to add a Level III charger to City Hall; and
- The Desert Community Energy presentation on the City Council agenda for February 20, 2019.

COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS – None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Christine Hammond, spoke on the need to irrigate trees properly to prevent them from dying.

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Chair Clark welcomed the Commissioners of the Class of 2021, returning Commissioner, Vice-Chair McCann and Commissioners Lani Miller and Jim Flanagan. Miller and Flanagan gave a brief introduction of themselves and their particular interests that they would like to pursue as part of the Commission.

B. MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2019 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 reported that the January 12, 2019 Shredding event was very successful. He also reported on mandatory recycling programs AB 1826, AB341

and SB 1383 that is under development. The City is going to be required to develop ordinances and expand its enforcement efforts to comply with these requirements in the future.

D. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Status of the Leaf Blower Exchange Programs – Manager Tallarico reported that the Leaf Blower Exchange Program was launched for residents through a City rebate program and for Commercial operators through incentives from AQMD. A demonstration workshop of different electric blowers is being scheduled.
2. Status of Household Battery Recycling Program. Manager Tallarico reported that the City is in the process of purchasing products to implement the program and designing a poster that will be used at the recycling stations.
3. Status of Recommended Ban Plastic Containers and Straws at Food Service Establishments. Manager Tallarico reported that the subcommittee has requested an ordinance on this, and more outreach and research is being planned.
4. Status of Construction and Demolition Waste Ordinance. Manager Tallarico reported that more research is being done in light of new laws coming from the State. Any new ordinance developed should be consistent with those new laws.
5. Sustainability Film Series Program, Palm Springs Cultural Center. **“MOTION:** The Sustainability Commission approves sponsorship of the Sustainability Film Series Program, \$2000”. Motion by Commissioner Gauthier, seconded by Commissioner Baker. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Request for input on electric scooters in Palm Springs. Manager Tallarico requested the Commissioners review and comment on the development of an electric scooter ordinance for the City. The group agreed that this would be developed through the Ad Hoc Committee on Walkability and Pedestrian Planning.
7. **“MOTION:** The Sustainability Commission supports in principal, concept, intent, and purpose the ‘Clean Indoor Air and Health Protection’ ordinance of January 2019”. Motion by Commissioner Baker, Seconded by Commissioner Santora.

AYES: 6
NOES: 3
ABSTENTIONS: 1

Commissioners noted the following concerns or suggested changes:

- Add a reference to “elder care facilities” in addition to child care facilities in the “Place of Employment” definition and in Section C.4.
- The ordinance still needs further coordination with the City’s cannabis regulations, which are in both the Municipal Code and the Zoning Code. For example, cannabis is defined in PSMC Section 5.55.050 and the tobacco ordinance should not have a different definition. Any uses permitted for Cannabis Lounge Facilities under the Zoning Code should be permitted under the “Clean Indoor Air and Health Protection” ordinance.
- The ordinance still needs to be reviewed for internal consistency. For example, certain definitions such as “tobacco vending machine” and “vendor assisted” are not used in the text.
- Edit the Human Rights Commission ordinance text as follows to ensure accuracy:
 - Page 1, Section 1, Findings, first “Whereas”, Bullet 2: Smoking has been linked to diseases of nearly all organs of the body. In the United States, smoking is responsible for 87 percent of lung cancer deaths, 32 percent of coronary artery deaths, and 79 percent of all cases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and
 - Page 1, Section 1, Findings, second “Whereas”, Bullet 3: The California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded that scientific research on environmental tobacco smoke clearly indicates that second hand smoke can: 1) harm the development of the fetus such as in low birth weight and prematurity; 2) infants may be at risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; and 3) Children may become especially susceptible to illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory and middle ear infections.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy. Manager Tallarico reported that additional funding has been received from the State to expand the Electric Vehicle charging station network. Also, the City will be considering a fee for charging services. The Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building will add this to their agenda. Commissioner Flanagan will join this subcommittee.
2. ONE-PS Annual Picnic, March 23, 2019. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Commission approves sponsorship of the ONE-PS Picnic, \$500". Manager Tallarico reported that a request was made at a prior meeting to provide a sponsorship of the ONE-PS picnic. It was noted that the Commission has not paid for sponsorship in the past. Motion by Commissioner Santora and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Chair Clark and Commissioner Freedman recused themselves from discussion and voting as they have an interest in ONE-PS. Motion passed 8-0 on an open vote.
3. **MOTION:** "The Sustainability Commission approves the draft amendments to the wind energy conversion systems ordinance to facilitate the repowering of wind energy conversion systems to take account of energy efficiencies and recommends that the City forward the draft ordinance to the Planning Commission for adoption". Motion by Commissioner Freedman, seconded by Commissioner Baker. Commissioner Freedman reported that new technology has been developed on wind turbines and that this ordinance would raise the height of turbines to 499 feet. The draft amendments will go to the Planning Commission for further development. Noise and wildlife concerns were discussed. Motion passed unanimously 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. Funding from CVAG will not be forthcoming so other options are being looked at. He also reported on the upcoming status of DCE startup with the possibility of the City accepting 100% renewable energy as the default setting with the option of opting down. Commissioner Freedman also reported on the process of updating zoning laws in preparation of new solar laws coming from the State. Commissioner Goins suggested that the solar ordinance show provisions for reduced demand versus reduced shading of solar panels. He also commented on house orientation versus lot line orientation and to not limit the size of a solar project to promote more energy independence. Commissioner Goins also stated that the Modernism Week presentation had to be canceled.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Vice Chair McCann and Chair Clark. Vice Chair McCann reported on the status of the Anaergia proposal. The Waste Water Treatment Plant will be doing a Capital Improvement Plan. Concerns that the effluent from the Anaergia system may have a negative impact on the water treatment process could make the Anaergia system less desirable. The Engineering Department will be researching any alternatives in relation to this project. Commissioners would like to see the Anaergia project move forward and would like for Engineering to engage Sustainability in the treatment plant analysis. In addition, they requested to receive a copy of the wastewater treatment plant analysis when completed. Vice Chair McCann also reported on the progress of placing trash/recycling containers downtown and what other cities are doing. He is working on a report that will help to provide guidelines for City and residential properties.
3. Ad Hoc Committee on Walkability and Pedestrian Planning – Commissioner Gauthier stated no report.
4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs – Commissioner Futterman reported that the first Sustainable Film Series film will be on February 28th.
5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Flanagan reported on recommendations he has been discussing with the Engineering Department on bike lane improvements. He also discussed recommendations for the traffic light at the Palm Canyon curve, a continuous green bike lane be created on Belardo Road downtown, and adding a sharrow lane on Indian Canyon downtown.
6. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on World Environment Day – Commissioner Futterman reported on the status of the event. They are currently looking for sponsors.

7. Wellness – Commissioner Baker - No further report.
8. Water - Commissioner Freedman reported current numbers for water conservation are at 19.4% in January with a savings over the last twelve months of 14.6% with a cumulative savings of 16.5% since 2016. He also reported that DWA is moving to district elections. DWA is also holding a facilities tour on February 27th.
9. Outreach – Commissioner Futterman reported on Arbor Day and the possibility of providing seedlings for the “For Kids Only” program.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA DEVELOPMENT -

Chair Clark requested Commissioners get agenda items to him by the first Monday of the month.

Commissioner Santora requested information on how items get on or off the agenda. He also requested that education on dying trees be added.

Commissioner Futterman requested Arbor Day and Salton Sea be placed on the agenda

Commissioner Freedman requested EV Charging Stations and Solar ordinance

Commissioner Flanagan requested Big Horn Sheep signage at trailheads

Commissioner Goins requested a priorities session be planned

- H. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:51 PM by a motion from Commissioner Santora and seconded by Commissioner Flanagan 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, March 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