



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 16, 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 Chair Clark. A motion to approve as posted by Commissioner Gauthier and seconded by Commissioner Miller 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>
Roy Clark, Chair	X	33		
Robert McCann, Vice Chair	X	31		
Grant Wilson	E	68	2	
David Freedman	X	43	1	
Jennifer Futterman	X	30	1	
Greg Gauthier	X	24		
John Goins	X	20	2	
T Santora	E	12	1	
Carl Baker	E	12	1	
Jim Flanagan	X	3		
Lani Miller	X	3		

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:

- Branding for the Sustainability Commission and the Office of Sustainability – Manager Tallarico requested input from Commissioners on items that they felt should be branded as the Sustainability Commission and other items that should be branded as the Office of Sustainability.
- He stated that for the Commission, we receive memos and reports that would need branding and that some Commissioners have asked about business cards that would also have Commission branding.
- Commissioners stated that other items could be Commission shirts and/or badges, the Bike Map, and the Commission web pages.
- He also stated that he will follow up on the status of getting Commissioners a City email address.
- He also noted that he will be preparing a draft document that describes how products get developed by the Commission and make their way through the city through to the City Council.

COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS – None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - None

B. MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Goins to approve as presented, second by Commissioner Flanagan and unanimously approved on an open vote.

C. RECYCLING REPORT, Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun reported that the next E-waste and Recycling event will be held on April 20, 2019. He also explained to the Commissioners what his duties include.

Manager Tallarico added that he will be working with Mr. Calhoun to update the monthly recycling report format for next month.

D. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Status of the Leaf Blower Information Campaign – Manager Tallarico reported that the Leaf Blower Exchange Program demonstration day was a success and that the word is getting out on the ban. He also reported that more outreach is being planned in the form of a letter to all Palm Springs residents. We have been getting a few calls regarding the ban and have been able to let them know the status of the ban and when enforcement begins.
2. Status of Household Battery Recycling Program. Manager Tallarico reported that the equipment for the battery recycling is here and that labels for the tubes and boxes for residents are being finalized.
3. Status of Polystyrene Container and Plastic Straw Ban. Manager Tallarico reported that the staff report is still under development and more information will be available at the next meeting.
4. Arbor Day Trees – Commissioner Futterman updated the Commissioners on the status of planting fruit trees. Unfortunately, fruit trees are more susceptible to disease and the City will not allow them to be planted in City Parks. Fruit trees could be planted in the Community Garden and other types of trees could be planted in the parks. Commissioner Futterman will continue to investigate where trees can be planted.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Sustainability Commission Priorities and Budget: Manager Tallarico stated that with the Budget for the next Fiscal Year approaching, he has been developing a priority list for next year. He shared his list (Attachment A) with the Commissioners and asked for feedback. No new items were identified.
2. Palm Springs Library Summer Reading Program: Mr. DeGarmo reported that the Library staff has asked the Commission once again to sponsor the Library's Summer Reading Program as the Commission has done before with the purchase of bicycles as prizes. The following motion was made by Commissioner Gauthier with a second by Commissioner Futterman:
“**MOTION:** The Sustainability Commission approves sponsorship of a bicycle raffle for the Library Summer Reading Program, \$400.” The motion passed unanimously on an open vote.
3. **MOTION:** The City Council should approve an amendment to the Municipal Code recommended by ONE-PS to allow trash and recycling containers to be placed on the curb or street any time after 5 p.m. the day before collection” Chair Clark reported on the above motion as it has been discussed at ONE-PS Committee. Commissioner Freedman and Chair Clark recused themselves from this item as they are involved with the ONE-PS Committee. Commissioner Miller made the above motion with a second by Commissioner McCann. Motion passed 6-0.
4. Big Horn Sheep Habitat Protection Ad Hoc Committee Formation – Manager Tallarico stated that even though this item has been discussed, no formal action was taken to form an ad hoc committee. He asked for volunteers to be on the ad hoc committee and Commissioner Flanagan volunteered and stated that Jane Garrison will also be on the committee and that others will be forthcoming. The end date for the Ad Hoc Committee on Big Horn Sheep Habitat will be December 31, 2019.

F. COMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioners Freedman, Goins and Flanagan
 - The draft wind energy conversion system ordinance will be going before City Council April 17th.
 - The draft solar ordinance is being considered by the Planning Commission probably at their May 8th meeting.
 - The DCE meeting held recently reported that a launch date of early 2020 is expected subject to City Council approval. A 100% Carbon Free option will be the default.
 - The solar policy on Accessory Dwelling Units will go before City Council in May.
 - Potential Reach Code measures are still being explored by the Subcommittee.
 - Subcommittee members continue to refine the NUSA conference presentation.

- Staff is in the process of moving forward with electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the processing of various associated grants.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Vice Chair McCann, Chair Clark, Commissioner Miller
 - Commissioner McCann reported on efforts to research placement and pairing of trash and recycling containers in City Parks and the standardized coloring of each type of container. A database of containers is being developed. This is the first step in identifying gaps and developing a strategy to address these gaps. There are several challenges of standardizing all containers given the range of types of containers that exist today.
 - Commissioner Miller reported on the following:
 - She is working on an evaluation of the City’s recycling streams to identify where materials are going and what is happening to them.
 - She noted the challenges resulting from China’s National Sword Policy and finding markets for materials in the United States.
 - Contamination in recycling streams is a critical issue. The group is working on a signage and education program.
 - Methane and Carbon Dioxide at landfills is a critical driver for changing waste management practices. The amount of tonnage going to landfills is increasing, which is leading to an increase in methane gas. Methane could be used to create electricity.
 - There are four Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) in the area for recyclables, 20% of materials are residual and end up going to landfill.
 - She noted ongoing work related to identifying what can and cannot be recycled. More outreach is needed for what is and is not recyclable.
 - Single stream recycling is facing critical challenges, which makes proper preparation of materials even more critical.
 3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning - Commissioners Wilson, Gauthier, Futterman
 - Manager Tallarico noted that the Staff Report related to e-scooters was submitted to the City Council for discussion.
 - The Ad Hoc Subcommittee will be working on the Walkability Master Plan and the Safe Routes to Schools Plan.
 4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs – Commissioners Futterman and Gauthier – Commissioner Futterman reported that the next Sustainable Film Series film is Serengeti Rules on April 25th.
 5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Flanagan –
 - Responses to Requests from the March 19, 2019 Sustainability Commission meeting were presented by Manager Tallarico regarding the Indian Canyon Two-way Conversion.
 - Manager Tallarico reported that the City re-ordered the current bike map and will work on updating the map/guide during the summer 2019.
 6. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on World Environment Day – Commissioners Futterman, Gauthier, Santora
 - Update on planning efforts – Commissioner Futterman reported that the City will focus on pollinators as the theme for this year’s event. The international focus is on “Air Pollution”.
 - Invitations have gone out to 60 exhibitors with 10 positive responses so far. More outreach is being planned.
 - Flow Box Circus Arts and Symara Stone will be performing.
 - Notices will be sent out for the Environmental Art Contest.
 7. Wellness – Commissioner Baker – No report
 8. Water - Commissioner Freedman
 - Public hearings on potential district maps for DWA were held in Desert Hot Springs.
 - There was a 20.5 % reduction in potable water production in March compared with 2013. Cumulative savings in the last twelve months as well as since the program began is 17%.
 - DWA is finalizing an update to its exchange agreement with Metropolitan Water District.
 - Commissioner Freedman would like to work on a turf buyback program for the next fiscal year.
 9. Outreach - Commissioner Futterman
 - Commissioner Futterman noted the Earth Day and Arbor Day events coming up.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA DEVELOPMENT -

Commissioner McCann spoke on Night Sky and possible development of an ordinance.

Commissioner Flanagan spoke on landscape lighting.

Commissioner Miller thanked Manager Tallarico on the agenda development memo.

Commissioner Goins spoke on the Co-gen plant and suggested the Commission may want to get an update on its operations.

Commissioner Futterman requested if a presentation will occur on the Salton Sea issue.

Manager Tallarico asked if Commission would like to have a Study Session on the issue bringing both sides of the issue to the Study Session. Development of a Study Session will be forthcoming.

H. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:00 PM by a motion from Commissioner Gauthier and seconded by Commissioner McCann 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, May 21, 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