



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 18, 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 Gauthier 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	65		
Roy Clark	X	29		
Grant Wilson	X	66		
David Freedman	X	39	1	
Jennifer Futterman	X	26	1	
Greg Gauthier	X	20		
John Goins	X	17	2	
Robert McCann	X	27		
T Santora	X	9		
Carl Baker	X	9		

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 – Director Virata presented Chair Jackson with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the Sustainability Commission and his accomplishments while serving on the Commission. Chair Jackson stated his appreciation and commented on his time on the Commission. Director Virata also stated that Patrick Tallarico is ready to begin his position as Sustainability Manager on January 14, 2019.

COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS – None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

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

B. PRESENTATIONS – Jane Garrison spoke on the “Save Oswit Canyon” movement to prevent development of the canyon. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed

C. MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Santora to approve as presented, second by Commissioner Freedman and approved unanimously by an open vote.

D. RECYCLING REPORT, Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun reported that he spoke with Andrew Smyth of CalRecycle on organics recycling and how closely the state is watching what cities are doing. Mr. Calhoun reported that the City is sending out compliance letters to businesses and multi-family residences. Mr. Calhoun also stated that the CalRecycle beverage grant paperwork has been submitted and that the funds will be available in September 2019. He also reported that the Shredding Event is scheduled for January 12, 2019 and that funds were approved to have Palm Springs Disposal Services at the event to accept

bulky items. 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 reported that a flyer is being sent out to businesses and residents asking them to stand by and wait for additional information regarding an exchange program.
2. Plastic straw and food ware ban for the City of Palm Springs - **MOTION:** Food or beverage products supplied by commercial food providers shall not be sold, packaged, distributed, or consumed with food service ware made of EPS foam, rigid polystyrene #6, and non-recyclable and non-compostable material in the City of Palm Springs. “Commercial Food Provider” means a person or place that provides or sells food within the City to the general public, including but not limited to grocery stores, supermarkets, sit-down or fast-food restaurants, drive-throughs, cafes, coffee shops, snack shops, public food markets, farmer’s markets, convenience stores, mobile food vendors, caterers, and food trucks. Motion and second from the Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction members McCann and Clark. Commissioner McCann presented a Power Point presentation on plastics pollution and the need for an ordinance on plastic straws and polystyrene food containers. City Council has requested that an ordinance be presented to them also. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed. Motion passed on an open vote 10 – 0.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Motion:** The Sustainability Commission will offer a rebate to Palm Springs residents for exchanging a working gas-powered leaf blower and producing a receipt for a new electric (corded or battery) leaf blower. Maximum rebate 40% of purchase price or \$100 maximum. Budget \$10,000. Motion made and seconded by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Leaf Blowers members Commissioners Jackson and Clark. Vice Chair Clark reported on research made on prices of non-commercial leaf blowers and that a maximum of \$100.00 rebate would suffice. The maximum budget of \$10,000.00 could be increased if necessary depending on the success of the program. Discussion ensued and the motion passed 10-0 on an open vote.
2. Discussion on regulating Electric Scooters for the City of Palm Springs- staff. Director Virata reported that he has received 33 emails that support the electric scooters. Mr. DeGarmo reported on an article he found stating that the issue may not go to the City Council until January or February 2019. Commissioners stated their positives and negatives on the subject and conditions that should exist if the scooters are allowed. Director Virata stated that City Staff is looking into best practices for electric scooters.
3. “Green Mondays” Initiative per request of Councilmember Holstege. Chair Jackson stated that the Green Mondays Initiative is a request to have restaurants and families eat no dairy or meat on Mondays. To have restaurants offer special dishes on Mondays in support for the initiative. Commissioner McCann stated that it would be a good idea for the Commission to look into this and do some outreach with local restaurants to develop a program for Palm Springs. Health and Wellness and Public Outreach would be the areas to work with this initiative.
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 he spoke with Katie Barrows of CVAG on a proposal to bring the Energy Code Coach program to Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley. More discussion on the particulars and the budget will take place with CVAG. Commissioner Freedman also stated that the Desert Communities Energy will meet in March 2019 to decide if they will move forward. He also reported on the Solar Ordinance and provisions being made in regards to historical buildings. Commissioner Goins stated that the Modernism Week event will be held on February 23, 2019 at 2:00 PM.
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 Staff. Director Virata stated that the ordinance is scheduled to go back to Council in January. Commissioner McCann also reported on the status of the Anaergia project and the cost of moving

forward. Councilmember Holstege had stated to the subcommittee that other projects are ongoing with the water treatment plant and that the Anaergia project be integrated with the other projects. Commissioner Clark reported on the status of the battery recycling grant and that a slow start on the program is commencing and that input from the incoming Sustainability Manager would be considered.

3. Ad Hoc Committee on Walkability and Pedestrian Planning - Commissioner Wilson reported that he will be contacting Councilmembers regarding the Two-way conversion of Indian Canyon and that input from the Sustainability Commission would be appreciated before voting on moving forward with the walkability plans for Indian Canyon.
4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Film Festival Programs – Commissioner Gauthier stated no report this month and expressed thanks to Mr. DeGarmo for getting logo artwork to the Cultural Center for promotional flyers for the Sustainable Film Series.
5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Chair Jackson stated that Jim Flanagan is out of town and that there is no report for this meeting.
6. Wellness – Commissioner Baker stated that he will have a report ready for the January 15, 2019 meeting on the smoking ordinance.
7. Water - Commissioner Freedman reported current numbers for water conservation are at 12% in November with a savings over the last four months of 13.4% with a cumulative savings of 16.5% since 2016. He also reported on his request to the Planning Commission which is considering the golf course redevelopment issue that any redevelopment of the area comply with the water efficient landscape ordinance.
8. Outreach – Commissioner Futterman reported that the World Environment Day is scheduled for Sunday, June 2, 2019. She also asked that an item be placed on the January 15, 2019 agenda for the Commission to support the event.

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

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -

Commissioner McCann stated that it is disturbing to him that the owners of Oswit Canyon may believe that they will be able to develop the land through approval from the City.

- I. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:31 PM by a motion from Commissioner Santora and seconded by Commissioner Baker 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, January 15, 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,

Jay Virata, Director of Community and Economic Development, For the Office of Sustainability