



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
 Tuesday, May 21, 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 Baker and unanimously carried.

	This Meeting	Present to Date	FY 2018/2019 Excused Absences	FY 2018/2019 Unexcused Absences
Roy Clark, Chair	X	34		
Robert McCann, Vice Chair	X	32		
Grant Wilson	X	69	2	
David Freedman	X	44	1	
Jennifer Futterman	X	31	1	
Greg Gauthier	X	25		
John Goins	X	21	2	
T Santora	E	12	2	
Carl Baker	X	13	1	
Jim Flanagan	X	4		
Lani Miller	X	4		

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:

- Product Development Process: The Product Workflow document that has been prepared that documents how work comes in and goes out of the Commission. New products will be directed to subcommittees for processing and then brought to the Commission for feedback and review.
- City e-mail Addresses for Commissioners: Guidelines from the IT Department were received. Email addresses will be available with the Commissioner’s name followed by “-abm” for Advisory Board Member. This title should also be used on any business card that the Commissioner may purchase. All Commissioners requested email addresses. Manager Tallarico will follow up on the request.
- Budget Update: No update, budget has been submitted to the City Council.
- Report on Past and Upcoming Council Meeting Topics: May 1, 2019 Meeting Councilmember Holstege asked that the Commission put the Plastics Ban on the June 5, 2019 City Council Meeting; Solar/ADU response to Councilmembers; Micromobility devices, a Request for Information (RFI) to scooter companies is being issued to request more information about their procedures; Trash can timing ordinance proposal came up for discussion and there was none so the ordinance will be on the May 22, 2019 Council Agenda for passage; the Open Spaces and Wind Energy ordinances are also on the May 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda for discussion; the June 5, 2019 Council agenda will have up for discussion the Desert Community Energy proposal and Downtown trashcan purchase.
- Update on Cogen Plant: Maintenance and Facilities Director Staci Schafer was unable to join the meeting due to a sandstorm forcing the closure of Gene Autry Trail.
- PS Cares – A division of Volunteer PS, we will be working more closely with them on bike matters.

**COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS –** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –** None

**A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - None**

**B. MEETING MINUTES**

April 16, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Vice Chair McCann to approve as amended, deleting the sentence "Gases are being burned off via flares at some facilities" from F. 2., second by Commissioner Baker and unanimously approved on an open vote. Abstention by Commissioner Wilson.

**C. RECYCLING REPORT**, Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun reported on the April 20, 2019 Shredding and E-Waste event stating that it was very well attended. He also reported the 2018 Annual Report data is being collected. He also reported that Desert Arc is receiving a Sustainability Award from Riverside County for their efforts. He also spoke with Andrew Smyth at CalRecycle on SB 1383. Manager Tallarico stated that we have received the Beverage Recycling container grant money from the State. Also, a brief meeting was held on the reporting format for the recycling report.

**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 gasoline powered Leaf Blower Ban enforcement will begin June 1, 2019. He reported that the City-wide letters were mailed and another Spanish radio announcement will be played before the June 1 deadline.
2. Status of Household Battery Recycling Program. Manager Tallarico reported that the program will hopefully be rolled out at the World Environment Day event and that the collection boxes will be covered under the grant.
3. Status of Polystyrene Container and Plastic Straw Ban. Manager Tallarico reported that the staff report is close to being finalized and that information is being sent to local businesses.
4. Arbor Day Trees – Commissioner Futterman updated the Commissioners on the status of planting fruit trees. She stated that she met with the For Kids Only spring camp at the Community Garden. Marenga seeds were planted by the kids. She stated that four fruit trees could be planted in the Garden. The trees will be planted next Fall in conjunction with the dedication of the Garden to former Manager Michele Mician.
5. Status of the amendment to the Municipal Code to allow trash and recycling containers to be placed on the curb or street any time after 5 p.m. the day before collection – Manager Tallarico discussed the status of this ordinance during the Staff Comments section of the agenda.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Low Visibility of Night Sky – Commissioner Flanagan, Commissioner McCann. Commissioner Flanagan reported on the Dark Skies Program and the need to reduce the amount of unnecessary lighting in the City. He also stated that City ordinances can play a part in creating better night skies. Enforcement of any ordinance will be a big issue. More research is being held including a meeting with Rancho Mirage Observatory astronomer. The proposed ordinance would be an enhancement to tourism and the quality of life of residents. Chair Clark created an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Night Sky with Commissioner Flanagan and Vice Chair McCann being the subcommittee and an end date of 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  
Commissioner Freedman reported on the following:
  - The Wind Ordinance will go before City Council on May 22, 2019 for discussion.
  - The draft solar ordinance has not been scheduled for the Planning Commission yet and no certain date has been determined.
  - The NUSA presentation by Commissioner Freedman and Vice Chair McCann was very well received by the attendees. Commissioner Freedman also led the Windmill Tour for the NUSA attendees that was also successful.

- Manager Tallarico stated that he and Commissioner Flanagan met with Engineering Department and Facilities personnel on possible locations for Electric Vehicle charging stations. Providing the power to the chargers is proving to be a big issue.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Vice Chair McCann, Chair Clark, Commissioner Miller
    - Manager Tallarico reported that he will be managing the group and will be facilitating the paperwork. He stated that there is no further information on the C&D ordinance and that he appreciated the assistance of Debbie Calhoun on the waste audits of the trash containers.
    - Commissioner Miller reported on the following:
      - She reported on the progress of the Recycling and Waste Materials Management project. Goal setting is progressing. Working on goal of diverting 90% of waste by 2030.
      - She noted ongoing work related to identifying what can and cannot be recycled. More outreach is needed for what is and is not recyclable.
      - She discussed landfills and the greenhouse gasses they produce.
    - Commissioner McCann reported on the following:
      - Contamination rates on trash and recycling containers at City Parks. He presented charts on contamination rates at different City Parks where the audits occurred.
      - Pairing trash bins with recycle bins would help to reduce the amount of contamination.
      - Bins located to sports events have higher contamination rates.
      - People are going through recycling bins and pulling out recyclables that have a recycle value.
      - The committee is also categorizing the type of contamination there is in the bins.
  3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning - Commissioners Wilson, Gauthier, Futterman
    - Commissioner Wilson reported that a meeting with Engineering and SCAG to discuss the Walkability Plan grant. A scope of work is being developed including the land use element.
    - The Ad Hoc Subcommittee is continuing to work 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 Sustainable Film Series film is Serengeti Rules on April 25<sup>th</sup> was the best attended film of the series. The next film on May 30<sup>th</sup> is “The Need To Grow”.
    - Commissioner Baker suggested having the films listed on the City Calendar.
  5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Flanagan –
    - Commissioner Flanagan reported that an electronic meeting in response to questions on the Indian Canyon two-way conversion regarding the traffic signal at the curve.
    - The bicycle safety brochure is continuing to be developed with the assistance of Vic Yepello.
    - Placement of bike racks in downtown areas. A more aggressive campaign is being developed to place more bike racks in the area.
  6. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on World Environment Day – Commissioners Futterman, Gauthier, Santora
    - Commissioner Futterman reported that 20 exhibitors have committed to being there with three of them being sponsors.
    - Three chefs have been confirmed to be present also. Produce will come from the Farmers Market.
    - Commissioner Santora has been working with some fine artists who will show their work at the event.
    - She discussed the billboards that are up to promote the event along with the “Eye on the Desert” interview on television.
    - A proclamation for the Mayors Monarch Pledge will be presented at the event.
  7. Big Horn Sheep Habitat Protection – Commissioner Flanagan reported that the issue is with Assistant City Manager Fuller to be put forward to the Closed Session.
  8. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported that he met with Richard Noble from Climate Reality and that they discussed his ideas on a possible town hall summit on Climate Reality and on a possible event on Earth Day 2020.
  9. Water - Commissioner Freedman reported on:
    - DWA is working on the rebate programs for Fiscal Year 2019-20 beginning July 1, 2019.
    - Rebates will also be available for back and side yards.

- DWA is working with staff on a conservation demonstration garden at the Airport through a grant from the Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management plan.
- The proposed district map for the 2020 elections will be discussed at the June 4, 2019 meeting
- There was a 28.7 % reduction in potable water production in April compared with 2013. Cumulative savings in the last twelve months as well as since the program began is 17.7%.

10. Outreach - Commissioner Futterman – No further comment.

**G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA DEVELOPMENT -**

Commissioner Futterman stated that she spoke with Tracy Ulbrecht regarding eradicating fountain grass. Commissioner Freedman stated that the Solar/Green Building subcommittee will be meeting with Jocelyn Kane of the CV Cannabis Alliance Network discussing sustainability in the cannabis industry.

Commissioner Wilson expressed his gratitude to the City for allowing the Commissioners to participate in the NUSA conference. He spoke on the sessions that he attended and the information he was able to obtain from the presenters. He spoke on the aesthetics of road tattoos and efforts of traffic calming.

**H. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:17 PM by a motion from Commissioner Baker 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, June 18, 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