



# Subcommittee Report

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| PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: September 17, 2019            | SUBMITTED BY: Patrick Tallarico                 |
| SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing SubCommittee on Waste Reduction (SSCoWR) | SUBMITTED DATE: September 12, 2019              |
| LAST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: September 5, 2019                    | NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: October 4, 2019 |

**Subcommittee Goal:**

Divert 90% of waste generated by the City of Palm Springs from landfill by 2030.

**Summary:**

1. C&D Waste Ordinance.
  - No developments to report.
  
2. Reducing Single-use Nonrecyclable Plastic Food Ware and Plastic Straws by Food Service Establishments.
  - Staff is in the process of developing the ordinance draft. To inform that draft, they will hold a Stakeholder meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> to get input from the business communities on key concepts that could be included in the ordinance. The City reached out to individuals from other cities such as Encinitas and Alameda and Long Beach to get their input on lessons learned from similar ordinances.
  - The City added a page on single-use plastics to its website.
  
3. Battery Recycling Project
  - The City is routinely collecting batteries from various locations around the City. In July and August, the City sent 12, 35-pound containers for recycling.
  
4. Toward a Public Spaces Recycling Program for the City of Palm Springs.
  - The group focused on signage during its August and September meetings. Robert McCann presented some mockups of potential signs to be placed on and above recycling and trash containers in parks and downtown. Signage on containers will focus on what not to put in. Signage above the containers will focus on what TO put in. The City met with a graphics specialist on September 10<sup>th</sup> to get an estimate for developing the signs.
  - The group also discussed conducting a pilot program with The Cultural Center that would not only focus on increasing their recycling rates but also moving to reusable and compostable food ware. Roy Clark and Patrick Tallarico met with Cultural Center staff on August 15<sup>th</sup> to assess mutual interests and visited the Center to see what types of materials they have that are recyclable and what materials they use for food service. The group agreed that Chair Clark will be the lead contact for the effort, which will begin with the recycling focus at the Cinema Diverse the weekend of September 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Sept 10. Rob McCann and Patrick Tallarico met with teacher Lynn Yada, Desert Learning Center (DLC), to finalize plans for a collaborative scientific study to investigate the separate and joint effects of

pairing recycle and trash containers, providing signage, and educating waste receptacle users, on waste disposal behavior in outdoor trash and recycle containers. In Phase 1 of the study, to be carried out before Christmas, DLC students will repeatedly collect, sort and classify waste from existing DLC mixed-stream outdoor trash receptacles into several waste categories. The relative quantity of each category in each container will be recorded.

#### 5. Palm Springs Waste and Recycling Materials Management Investigation.

- Lani Miller continued to research and review recycling program websites, web/mobile applications, and communications materials to identify potential good examples to inform future communication efforts. She attended the CRRRA Conference in Rancho Mirage along with City Staff to gather information and lessons learned from other cities.
- Manager Tallarico and Commissioner Miller reviewed some of the key takeaways from the CRRRA conference at the September Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Miller met with PSDS on August 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss content for communications materials.
- Commissioner Miller presented a list of things to keep out of recycling containers at the July Commission meeting. She worked on developing a narrative version of this list and presented it to the Committee at the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. She also presented a set of instructions on how to prepare materials for recycling. The group was asked to provide feedback to Commissioner Miller following the meeting.
- PSDS will be including an article on plastics recycling in its October newsletter. This article will talk about types of plastics and secondary markets. The Committee was asked to provide input on the draft article. Manager Tallarico agreed to consolidate this feedback and send it to PSDS.

#### 6. Waste and Recycling Reporting

- Nothing new to report.

#### 7. Downtown Trash and Recycling Containers

- Sustainability staff worked with Maintenance staff to develop the staff report for the purchase of new containers. The report will be presented to City Council at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. At the Committee's meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup>, the group recommended that the factory-cut labeling for each container "Trash" and "Recycling" be moved down a few inches from the container openings so that signage could be placed on the units to indicate what "should not" be placed in the container. The group also discussed signage that will be placed above paired containers to inform individuals about what should be placed in each container.

#### 8. Parks Trash and Recycling Containers

- July 27, 2019. 35 additional blue recycle containers were procured from Smart Industries for placement in the parks. SSCoWR and Office of Sustainability representatives will be meeting shortly to make placement decisions.

#### 9. City Website

- The Committee agreed to conduct a review of the City's recycling and sustainability website at the next meeting in October to identify improvements and consider additions such as a link to Kars 4 Kids.

**Recommendation/Request**

Subcommittee members will continue to conduct research and refine products to improving recycling rates and report on progress at future Commission meetings.

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| <b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION</b>               | N/A |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY</b> | N/A |
| <b>POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:</b>          | N/A |