



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 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 Miller and seconded by Vice Chair McCann and carried by a vote of 7-0-1 with Commissioner Baker abstaining.

	This Meeting	Present to Date	FY 2019/2020 Excused Absences	FY 2019/2020 Unexcused Absences
Roy Clark, Chair	X	36		
Robert McCann, Vice Chair	X	34		
David Freedman	X	46		
Jennifer Futterman	X	33		
Greg Gauthier	X	27		
John Goins	E	22	1	
T Santora	E	12	1	
Carl Baker	X	14		
Jim Flanagan	E	5	1	
Lani Miller	X	5		
Sandra Garratt	X	1		

X = Present

E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)

L = Late

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:

- Brown Act Refresher – City Clerk Anthony Mejia provided a handout describing the “ABC’s” of the Brown Act. He hit on some high points of the Act and Commissioner conduct that is and is not acceptable outside of a public meeting. Also, Public Comments can be by an anonymous person, the speaker does not have to identify themselves. Standing subcommittees are also under the Brown Act Rules.
- Update on Cogen Plant: Maintenance and Facilities Director Staci Schafer reported that the Cogen Plant is currently down, waiting on a part. The plant has been up most of the time in the last four months. The City is moving forward with Engie International (formerly Chevron/Opterra) on some terms and agreement on how to move forward with the plant to get more energy savings. The energy produced at this time is being consumed by the airport.
- Product Development Process: A product Workflow was distributed to the Commissioners detailing how a program is put into place when brought before the Commission. Also added to the Workflow was a section on projects or programs that emerge from the Commission and programs that emerge from outside the City.
- Report on Past and Upcoming Council Meeting Topics: At the June 19, 2019 Council meeting Sandra Garratt was appointed to the Sustainability Commission. Also, the Salton Sea resolution was passed in support for a comprehensive analysis of all water import alternatives as a part of the long-term solution for the Salton Sea. Also the Dockless electric scooter proposal was discussed and voted down. Bicycles were added to the list of things to think about. A plastics ban was fully supported so the Commission will move forward with recommendations to the Council.
- On July 10th there was a request from Council to evaluate non-toxic alternatives to RoundUp weed killer for gardening and landscaping activities. Commission to decide how to respond to the request.

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- For the July 24, 2019 Council meeting the Solar Zoning Ordinance will go before the Council.
- The Summer Reading Program Bike Raffle at the Library will be held on July 18th.
- Manager Tallarico requested which email address each Commissioner would like to use for future correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Chair Clark welcomed Commissioner Sandra Garratt and she gave a brief statement of her interests and background .

B. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Fountain Grass Eradication – Jennifer Prado (Friends of the Desert Mountains) and Tracy Merrigan. Ms Prado discussed the problem of Fountain Grass being an invasive plant with a Power Point presentation. The grasses create a fire problem as well as taking water away from the desert. The only way to kill it is to pull it out by the roots and destroy the seeds. It is a very fast-growing plant. A recommendation was made to ask the City to ban the sale of the plant within the City limits.
2. Sidewalks and Pedestrian Safety – Don Barratt spoke on crosswalks in the Warn Sands neighborhood. Crossing Ramon between Sunrise and Indian Canyon is difficult and more crosswalks are needed for pedestrian safety. Another area of concern is along Ramon from Calle Encilia to Avenida Caballeros.

C. MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Baker to approve as presented, second by Commissioner Gauthier. Motion passed 7-0-1 with Commissioner Baker abstaining.

D. RECYCLING REPORT, Recycling Coordinator Gary Calhoun reported on the following

1. Beverage Container grant annual report for FY 2016-17 is due September 3, 2019
2. Desert Arc has asked for a proof of designation which will allow them to collect ewaste.
3. Special events – three ewaste and shredding events throughout the year
4. Annual Report which is due in August is being worked on and will be submitted on time.
5. Legislation – SB1383 Organics recycling bill is causing some consternation with waste haulers and the haulers will be presenting a much more aggressive approach to the bill.
6. Other duties as requested – no report.
7. Recyclable materials taken to approved recycling facilities – The battery recycling program has proven to be successful with 4 pickups already and another 4 scheduled. He also reported on the tonnage received by SA Recycling.
8. Current Legislation – Mandatory Commercial Recycling letters will be mailed out soon.

E. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed the following items. Key points are highlighted.

1. Status of the Leaf Blower Information Campaign – Manager Tallarico reported that to date about 67 complaints have been filed with about 30 that were unable to be determined as the gardener had already left the address, 9 citations and about 15 false alarms. More outreach will be forthcoming to show the difference between a gas blower and an electric blower. We have also been receiving a lot of positive feedback from residents and landscapers.
2. Status of Household Battery Recycling Program. Manager Tallarico reported that to date, we have recycled about 240 pounds or 3800 batteries in the first month of the program. One additional location for a collection tube has been added at the Farmers Market. Home collection boxes have also been provided to the True Value store per their request. A request was made to take the collection boxes to schools and hospitals where they can be distributed.
3. Status of Downtown Trash/Recycling Receptacle Analysis. Manager Tallarico reported on the steps that have been taken to make a decision on obtaining new trash and recycling containers. Manager Tallarico showed a Power Point presentation (attached) showing the status of the research and recommendations for the new containers. A waste audit was also conducted in the Downtown area.

Selection parameters for the containers were presented. A plan was developed for the placement of containers still to be approved. Chair Clark stated that the City Manager requested a recommendation from the Commission for selection of appropriate containers. The following motion was made by Vice Chair McCann and seconded by Commissioner Baker.

“MOTION: The Sustainability Commission recommends that the City purchase standalone (not combined) trash and recycling containers for the downtown/uptown business districts that can be paired where necessary to encourage effective recycling. The containers must meet the following requirements: trash containers shall be grey and recycling containers shall be blue; they shall have non-removable tops; they shall be of similar design but have appropriate openings and markings to differentiate trash and recycling; they shall be made of durable materials and be resistant to weather, graffiti, and power washing; and they shall have liners that hold bags and prevent them from slipping.”

AYES: 8
NOES: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
EXCUSED ABSENT: 3

Commission members noted the following additional concerns that the City should consider as it moves forward with this action:

- The material used for the bags in the recycle containers should be made from biodegradable materials.
- The liners in the containers should be made from non-plastic materials if available.
- Signage for the containers should include words and graphics and the written information should be in both English and Spanish.
- If plastic bags are used to collect recyclables, recyclable materials should be freed from the bags before they are sent offsite to be recycled.
- Existing concrete containers in good condition should be reused elsewhere in the City

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 draft solar ordinance will be on the City Council on June 24, 2019. The Planning Commission approved the ordinance at their June 26, 2019 meeting.
 - The DCE Community Advisory Committee chose Commissioners Freedman, Baker and Miller as representatives from Palm Springs. The Advisory Committee will be working on a RFP for an enhanced enrollment program for low income customers.
 - Also as a result of the City electing the 100% carbon free product from DCE the annual greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced from 431,000 to 313,000 metric tons, a 25% decrease.
 - The Energy Code training program is moving forward with CVAG and DVBA. The Energy Code ACE program sponsored by SCE and SoCalGas will be presented at no cost to the Commission. The program is being planned for the week of October 21, 2019.
 - Manager Tallarico reported on the progress of adding more EV charging stations in the City. Sustainability is working with the Engineering Department to assess the various locations throughout the City.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Vice Chair McCann, Chair Clark, Commissioner Miller
 - Manager Tallarico reported on the following:
 - That the plastic foodware and straw ban ordinance is in the development stage with some outreach being planned over the next few months.
 - Commissioner McCann reported on the following:
 - The Downtown trash container audit. The audit revealed that Food Packaging, Drink cups and miscellaneous plastics were the main items found.
 - Signage on both trash and recycle containers will help to inform the public what is and is

- not recyclable.
- Single use plastic foodware should be compostable.
- Have manufacturers label their items as either recyclable or trash.
- Commissioner Miller reported on the following:
 - Progress of the recycling list being developed. She showed a Power Point presentation on what is currently recyclable and what is not (attached).
 - Education and outreach is extremely important to providing the correct message.
- 3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning - Commissioners Wilson, Gauthier, Futterman
 - Manager Tallarico stated that he has been trying to get in contact with the project manager at SCAG on the Walkability Plan but has not heard back yet. We are getting positive feedback on places that need improving and on improving the safe routes to school.
- 4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on World Environment Day – Commissioners Futterman, Gauthier, Santora
 - Chair Clark stated that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee will now be a Standing Subcommittee and asked if anyone would like to join the group.
 - Commissioner Garratt volunteered to join the Subcommittee
- 5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Flanagan –
 - No Report
- 6. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Night Sky – Vice Chair McCann and Commissioner Flanagan -
 - No Report
- 7. Big Horn Sheep Habitat Protection – Commissioner Flanagan
 - Manager Tallarico stated that signs were received to put up on the trail heads prohibiting dogs on some of the trails. The signs will be going up soon.
 - Commissioner McCann reported that a press conference will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at Oswit Canyon reporting that the amount of money now needed to purchase the land and keep development out is down to one million dollars. Saving the Oswit Canyon land will help to protect the Big Horn Sheep.
- 8. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported that he spoke with Richard Noble on his ideas to help Palm Springs to become more sustainable. No specifics have been developed. Chair Clark asked if Commissioner Baker would like to look into alternatives to RounUp for lawn care.
- 9. Water - Commissioner Freedman reported on:
 - DWA completed its process for elections by division starting in 2020.
 - 22.3% reduction in potable water production compared with 2013 and cumulative savings over the last 12-month period of 18.1% and cumulative savings in the last three years is 17.6%.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA DEVELOPMENT -

Commissioner Futterman stated that a comprehensive guide to environmental education and learning resources has been published.

Commissioner Freedman requested an agenda item for September be elections for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year. Chair Clark stated that the elections were delayed due to 3 Commissioners being excused and to let Commissioner Garratt have a chance to see the workings of the Commission. The elections will be held at the September meeting.

H. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:38 PM by a motion from Commissioner Gauthier 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, September 17, 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