



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, by Governor Newsom, this meeting was conducted by teleconference and there was no in-person public access to the meeting location.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Clark called the meeting to order at **5:34** p.m.

ROLL CALL: A quorum was present for this Regular Meeting of the City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

AGENDA APPROVAL: The agenda was presented by Chair Clark. A motion to approve as posted was made by Commissioner McCann and seconded by Commissioner Miller and carried unanimously on an open vote.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2020/2021 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2020/2021 Unexcused Absences</u>
Roy Clark, Chair	X	48		
Robert McCann, Vice Chair	X	46		
David Freedman	X	58		
Jennifer Futterman	X	41	1	
Greg Gauthier	X	37	1	
Carl Baker	X	24		
Jim Flanagan	X	17		
Lani Miller	X	16		
Sandra Garratt	E	12	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

STAFF COMMENTS – Manager Tallarico submitted a written report (which was included in the meeting materials) on the following:

- In addition to the items included in the update memo, City Council discussed the downtown residential project that will replace the Virgin hotel. That project has a requirement to exceed state-mandated energy code requirements and meet other sustainability measures. Manager Tallarico will follow up with the Planning Department to ensure that the developer understands the requirements.
- Mr. Tallarico also announced that there was another person yet to interview for the Program Coordinator position and that the hiring process should be complete by the next Commission meeting.
- The group agreed to defer discussion of the Tree City USA standard until the next meeting because Commissioner Garratt was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

A. PRESENTATIONS – None

B. MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes approval: Motion by Commissioner Flanagan to accept as modified, second by Commissioner Baker. Motion passed unanimously on an open vote. Commissioner Gauthier abstained because he was absent from the meeting.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Parking Fees at Downtown Garages – Commissioner Flanagan reviewed current General Plan language about exploration of paid parking. He developed a more active statement to include in

a future iteration of the General Plan. Mr. Flanagan read the draft language. Manager Tallarico will send around the draft language to the Commission after the meeting for further consideration. It will be added to the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

2. Sustainability Scholarship Program – Manager Tallarico reviewed the requests made to date under the program and discussed the following items with the Commission:
 - The Commission approved all requests for electric leaf blowers.
 - The Commission requested more information on the biodegradable gloves and the UV disinfecting equipment. Manager Tallarico asked that Commissioners provide feedback by Tuesday January 26th.
 - The Commission also supported the purchase of the split AC system for Cathedral City Upholstery (which is located in Palm Springs).
 - The Commission rejected the request for medical waste, sharps containers, and red bags because it did not reflect anything beyond standard waste management practices.
 - Commissioner Freedman suggested focusing funding on processes that use less resources or generate less waste than a traditional practice.
 - There have been no requests for the Home Energy Assessment rebate.
 - Commissioner Miller requested that Commissioner Freedman share any information he may gather about electric vehicle rebates with the Commission.

D. NEW BUSINESS - NONE.

E. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioners Freedman and Flanagan
 - AB 1236 implementing ordinance passed City Council, and Commissioner Freedman has provided input on updates needed to the City website in response.
 - Mr. Freedman summarized recent conversations that the Energy Commission is having in anticipation of the 2022 Energy Code.
 - He noted that Chula Vista's Reach Codes are particularly applicable to the City of Palm Springs and can be shared with Council when that topic is presented to them.
 - There is cap and trade money available for affordable housing projects. The DAP project and the Agave Affordable Housing project may be eligible if they go all electric. Commissioner Freedman will share more details when available.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Manager Tallarico, Vice Chair McCann, Chair Clark, Commissioner Miller
 - Manager Tallarico referred participants to the report information. He announced he is kicking off the discussion with PSDS on SB 1383 compliance. He also shared the latest product from the Subcommittee related to signage on recycling containers in the downtown area to help people understand what not to put in the recycling containers.
3. Standing Subcommittee on World Environment Day – Commissioners Futterman, Garratt, Gauthier
 - Commissioner Futterman shared the draft flyer for the art/essay/video contest. It will be in English and Spanish.
 - She requested that the Commission, as a sponsor, serve as a sponsor for all three of the categories and increase the financial commitment to \$1000.
 - Commissioner Miller made a motion that the Commission increase its contribution to \$1200. Commissioner McCann seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously on an open vote.
 - Commissioner Freedman suggested contacting Allianza to potentially identify a judge for the contest.
 - Commissioner Baker suggested Commissioner Perez or Congressman Ruiz may be interested in providing a resolution.
4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning - Commissioners Gauthier, Futterman
 - Manager Tallarico mentioned that the next meeting of the Community Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for January 20th.
5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Flanagan.
 - Manager Tallarico will reach out to Council Member Middleton regarding a discussion on biking.

6. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Night Sky – Vice Chair McCann and Commissioner Flanagan
 - The City passed along the letter on uplighting, and Maintenance said they would investigate lighting compliance.
 - Commissioner McCann is still developing updated guidelines that reflects best practices from other cities.
7. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update – Manager Tallarico, Chair Clark, Vice Chair McCann, Commissioner Freedman
 - No updates.
8. Water Conservation – Commissioner Freedman reported:
 - The DWA Board extended its COVID fee waivers for two more months.
 - Commissioner Freedman updated the Board on the Airport Demonstration Garden.
 - The Whitewater Hydro Plant generated nearly 2M kWh of electricity last year, which is sold to SCE.
 - DWA and its customers achieved a 6% reduction in potable water during December 2020 compared to December 2013 baseline.
9. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported
 - The review of the updated smoking ordinance will be added to the next agenda.
10. Desert Community Energy, Community Advisory Committee – Commissioners Baker, Freedman, Miller
 - DCE Board approved agreements with three wind projects in the Coachella Valley. There will be a press release and signing ceremony to celebrate agreement.
 - DCE is also negotiating a local long-term solar agreement.
 - The Community Advisory Committee will meet in the next month, and Commissioner Freedman will share information on the Sustainability Scholarship and Home Energy Assessment rebate program.
 - GRID Alternatives continues to work with DCE and the City to get the message to low income residents that may qualify for free solar.

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA

- Commissioner Miller requested more information about DWA's current comparison method – to show usage compared to similar customers – instead of the 2013 baseline. Commissioner Freedman will investigate what “similar customers” means. Commissioner Freedman agreed to report back at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Freedman also suggested looking into a leak detector to assess potential home leaks.

G. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:05 PM by a motion from Commissioner McCann 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 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, location to be determined. There is a possibility that the next meeting will be via telecommunication also. The Sustainability Commission's regular meeting schedule is at 5:30 p.m. the third Tuesday each month except August unless otherwise noted or amended.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Tallarico, Manager, Office of Sustainability