



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 15, 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 **5:32** p.m.

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

	This Meeting	Present to Date	FY 2020/2021 Excused Absences	FY 2020/2021 Unexcused Absences
Roy Clark, Chair	X	53		
Robert McCann, Vice Chair	X	51		
David Freedman	X	63		
Jennifer Futterman	X	44	3	
Greg Gauthier	E	41	2	
Carl Baker	X	29		
Jim Flanagan	E	21	1	
Lani Miller	X	19	1	2
Sandra Garratt	X	17	1	
Alex Ocañas	X	3		
Jake Torrens	X	3		

X = Present

E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)

L = Late

U = Unexcused (did not notify of absence)

REPORT OF POSTING OF AGENDA: The Agenda was available for public access at the City Hall exterior bulletin board (west side of the Council Chambers) by 6:00 PM Thursday, June 10, 2021 and posted on the City's website as required by established policies and procedures.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA: Chair Clark asked if there were any objections to the agenda for the June 15, 2021 meeting. There were no objections and the agenda was declared accepted.

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Tallarico, Manager, Office of Sustainability; Tracy Sheldon, Program Coordinator, Office of Sustainability

GUESTS PRESENT: None

STAFF COMMENTS – Manager Tallarico reported

- Manager Tallarico added that the Leaf Blower discussion will not be on the June 24, 2021 City Council agenda. The City is awaiting clarification from South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on the status of the State's Commercial Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment program.
- Manager Tallarico and Chair Clark recognized Vice Chair McCann for his contributions to the Sustainability Commission and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation as his term concludes June 30, 2021.
- Commissioner Freedman inquired when the GHG update would be placed on the City Council agenda and Manager Tallarico stated it may be placed on the July 22, 2021 City Council agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

A. PRESENTATIONS – None

B. MEETING MINUTES

Chair Clark asked if there were any objections to the meeting minutes for the May 18, 2021 meeting. There were no objections and the meeting minutes were declared approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Leaf Blower Ordinance Enhancement Discussion - Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico reported there will be one additional internal meeting to review the staff report before it goes to Council. Manager Tallarico added that the loss of the State's program through SCAQMD is a significant loss and may affect gardener's ability to purchase units through our local retailers.
 - Commissioner Torrens inquired if there have been past audits on HOA property compliance to the Leaf Blower ordinance. Manager Tallarico responded that formal audits of HOA's has not been completed in the past as the HOA's have been more responsive to City staff contact with concerns.
2. Food Ware Ordinance Update and Discussion – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinance and Commissioners provided the following input:
 - Commissioner Miller requested City staff provide research reports to the Commission documenting the effectiveness of composting food ware products.
 - Commissioner Torrens requested City staff provide access to ASTM standards.
 - Added stirrers and straws.
 - Commissioner Garratt shared that Ball Manufacturer is providing reusable glass jars which are made from 100% recycled materials.
 - City staff met with the local distributor for 7-Eleven and they already have an active program in-place for reusable cups and offer a discount greater than \$0.25 when customers use reusable cups.
 - Commissioner Baker stated that reusable cups can contaminate dispensers. Manager Tallarico indicated that current health code requirements allow for refilling activities where the drinking surface does not touch the equipment, and many refill stations meet this requirement.
3. Sustainability Scholarship & Home Energy Assessment Audit Status and Feedback – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico inquired if there were any questions about the report, and there were none.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. City-Funded Turf Conversion Projects – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico reported he had spoken with the Measure J Committee regarding future City property turf conversion projects and energy efficiency efforts, and the Committee was supportive. The next steps are working with the Finance Department on budgeting.
 - Commissioner Freedman recommended working with DWA on their future grant-funded projects for turf conversion projects.

E. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building - Commissioner Freedman reported
 - Commissioner Freedman provided an overview of the topics included in the Committee report included in the meeting packet.
 - Commissioner Freedman inquired when the Palm Springs Reach Code Proposal could go before City Council. Manager Tallarico stated the presentation should also include transportation measures for consideration. This will be discussed further at the next Solar and Green Building Subcommittee meeting.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico reported meetings have been scheduled with PSDS to update the franchise agreement to incorporate the SB 1383 elements and other updates. The State extended the date that it will start to enforce SB 1383 requirements against municipalities to January 1, 2023.
 - Manager Tallarico reported the Downtown Trash and Recycling Container signage were installed and

the temporary recycling containers were labeled in preparation for the June 15, 2021 State reopening day celebrations scheduled for downtown.

- Manager Tallarico reported on the activities of the Desert Community Compost Coalition. They will be working with the Parks and Recreation Department because the composting activities and garden would take place at a Parks and Recreation facility. Manager Tallarico is working on the draft language for the PSDS franchise agreement to incorporate community composting activities. Commissioner Torrens reported that one of the objectives of the Compost Coalition was to “fill the gap” for community members who resided in complexes of more than five (5) units which may not be included in the State mandated residential organics collection. Manager Tallarico indicated that if the Council passes the food ware ordinance to move to compostable food ware, the City would need to provide organics service to multi-family residential units.
3. Standing Subcommittee on World Environment Day – Commissioner Futterman reported
 - Commissioner Futterman reported on the Art Awards Ceremony was held on June 5, 2021 and was the first virtual awards ceremony. There was a total of approximately 130 entries, with a total of 47 winners with prizes totaling \$4,000.00. Commissioner Futterman thanked all the Commissioners who volunteered as judges.
 4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning – Manager Tallarico reported
 - The consultant is working on consolidating the information collected from the surveys and virtual meetings and is expected to provide a draft to the City later this month.
 5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Torrens reported
 - Commissioner Torrens reported that the group met, and a summary of their meeting has been included in the meeting packet. Primary goals discussed include; micro mobility (i.e. golf carts, e-bikes), connecting the city, improved signage and to host a town hall meeting to raise awareness and gather data on priorities.
 6. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Night Sky – Vice Chair McCann reported
 - Commissioner McCann reported he will continue working on the recommendations for council even though this is his final Commission meeting and another Commissioner will present at future meetings.
 7. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico reported that an offsite Strategic Planning meeting could be held in September to determine future priorities of the Commission and subcommittees.
 - Commissioner Baker reported there have not been any General Plan Update meetings yet this year and that community meetings have been scheduled later this month.
 8. Water Conservation – Commissioner Freedman reported
 - Commissioner Freedman reported DWA board met today and provided the following updates:
 - DWA Covid fee waivers have been extended, and the payment plan period was set at 48 months.
 - DWA approved its 2021-22 FY budget.
 - DWA approved the Coachella Valley Urban Water Management Plan.
 - The DWA Board indicated that there was sufficient water available to meet demand.
 - Manager Tallarico commented the Commission may want to consider drought messaging.
 9. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported – Commissioner Baker reported
 - Commissioner Baker reported the Human Rights Commission approved the Non-Smoking Ordinance as presented by the Commission. The topic will be included on the next Sustainability Commission for discussion.
 10. Desert Community Energy, Community Advisory Committee – Commissioners Freedman reported
 - Commissioner Freedman reported DCE issued its True-Ups for solar customers in May. The DCE board will meet next week to approve their 2021-22 FY budget.

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA

- Vice Chair McCann thanked the Commissioners for their time in volunteering to serve on the Sustainability Commission.
- Commissioner Garratt shared the State of Maine has approved a “first-in-the-nation” ban on certain residential uses of an insecticide blamed for destroying bee populations.
- Commissioner Ocañas shared that the week of June 21-27 is National Pollinator week.
- Commissioner Torrens inquired when meetings will be held in-person and Manager Tallarico stated it will most likely be in September and that the City Manager and City Council have not provided a date at this time.
- Chair Clark stated elections for Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the July 20, 2021 meeting. Commissioners were asked to submit their nominations to Office of Sustainability staff prior to the July 20th meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at **7:36** p.m. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 20, 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