



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, 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

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2021/2022 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2021/2022 Unexcused Absences</u>
Roy Clark, Chair	X	57		
David Freedman	X	67		
Jennifer Futterman	U	45	1	1
Carl Baker	X	33		
Sandra Garratt	X	21		
Alex Ocañas	E	6	1	
Jake Torrens	L	6	1	
Don Barrett	X	4		
Randy Evans	X	4		

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, October 14, 2021 and posted on the City's website as required by established policies and procedures.

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA: Chair Clark asked if there were any objections to the agenda for the October 19, 2021 meeting. There were no objections, and the agenda was declared accepted.

GUESTS PRESENT: None

STAFF COMMENTS – Manager Tallarico reported

- Manager Tallarico added to his report the city is in the process of selecting a contractor for the Airport Demonstration Garden. A follow up conversation will include scheduling, timing, and an emphasis on the importance of planting early in the season and locating the plants within the plant list. An update will be provided to the Commission at the November 16, 2021 meeting.
- Manager Tallarico stated the PSDS rate increase was an agenda item on last week's City Council meeting which passed. Additionally, the public hearing notice was sent to the printer last week and will be distributed to 34,000 people in the city.
- Chair Clark inquired about the agenda item which was pulled from the consent calendar related to the consultant selection for the Food Ware Ordinance. Manager Tallarico indicated a new staff report will be submitted to Council indicating the contract will be issued to two contractors that scored similarly as a result of the bid process. This will allow for more businesses to be reached sooner and brings a wider array of talent in supporting the outreach related to SB 1383.
- Commissioners Flanagan and Gauthier resigned from the Sustainability Commission the week of October

11, 2021. *Note: Although this announcement was not formally made during the meeting, their resignations occurred the week of October 11, 2021, so their names have been removed from the attendance roster in these meeting minutes.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Kim Floyd, resident of Palm Desert and member of the Sierra Club. Mr. Floyd stated he was commenting on behalf of Sierra Club members that live in Coachella Valley. Mr. Floyd stated that Palm Springs is a leader in addressing climate disruption. Mr. Floyd said the Sierra Club support in the Mayors comment from the October 14, 2021 council meeting for the Office of Sustainability to seek funding for additional staffing.

A. PRESENTATIONS – None

B. MEETING MINUTES

- Chair Clark asked if there were any objections to the meeting minutes for the September 21, 2021 meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Climate Action Roadmap Update – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico stated the Climate Action Roadmap is going to City Council on October 28, 2021. The documents have been updated since the last meeting to identify some of the potential impacts of some of the listed actions. Manager Tallarico stated the Climate Action Roadmap is a work in progress and will be a primary focus to update over the next few months as the city’s consultant provides additional data. The Climate Action Roadmap also includes proposed ordinances the Sustainability Commission has been working on which is requiring large commercial facilities to use 100% carbon free energy and the ordinance proposal for home renovations of a certain scale to include energy efficient upgrades.
 - Vice Chair Freedman inquired if would it be helpful for Chair Clark or Vice Chair Freedman to make a public comment on behalf of the commission at the Council meeting. Vice Chair Freedman agreed to do a short statement on support.
 - Commissioner Barrett suggested adding or modifying an action to focus on reducing GHG impacts from the hospitality industry.
2. Smoking Ordinance – Commissioner Baker reported
 - Commissioner Baker updated the Commission on activities since the last meeting. In the past, Commissioners have expressed concerns about the idea of prohibiting smoking in multi-family complexes due to equity issues. Businesses such as bars have expressed concern about restricting smoking on patio spaces. Commissioner Baker and Chair Clark met with Mayor Holstege and Councilmember Kors, and they indicated that they were supportive of bringing the Ordinance forward.
 - Manager Tallarico will vet the draft with Special Programs that oversees cannabis operations and will share the draft with the City Attorney.
 - Vice Chair Freedman asked if the “private right of action” language would be removed. Commissioner Baker indicated that it would.
 - Commissioner Barrett stated there have been similar complaints about smoke within the mobile home park where he resides and was unsure if this proposed ordinance would impact mobile home parks.
 - Commissioner Evans stated the challenge with this ordinance will be regulation and enforcement. Commissioner Baker stated it would be handled as a nuisance with residents reporting any violations.
 - Chair Clark stated a vote should be taken since there are several new commissioners. Concerns raised would be documented in the Staff Report that would accompany the Ordinance. A Motion was made by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Vice Chair Freedman to accept the draft ordinance as written with the removal of private right of action and acknowledging the additional internal reviews that would occur. The Motion passed 6-0-1 with Clark, Freedman, Baker, Torrens, Garratt, and Evans with “yes” votes, Commissioner Barrett abstaining, and Commissioners Futterman and Ocañas absent.

D. NEW BUSINESS - None

E. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building – Vice Chair Freedman reported
 - Vice Chair Freedman provided a summary of the report and shared that Governor Newsom recently signed several bills including energy related bills.
 - Vice Chair Freedman added there is a new solar law that would need to be reflected in the municipal code.
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared there is a new state ordinance that sets deadlines on approving permits to install EV chargers. For Palm Springs, this will require an amendment to the municipal code after January 1, 2022.
 - Vice Chair Freedman stated the CEC preapproved the Green Building Standards code last month with an effective date of January 1, 2023 along with the 2022 Energy Codes.
 - Vice Chair Freedman attended a workshop on EV grid integration, and the State is working to reduce barriers.
 - Manager Tallarico shared that SCE contacted him yesterday to discuss moving forward with the Charge Ready Program. The Charge Ready Program is free and assists business and property owners with infrastructure and equipment necessary to install EV charging stations. A meeting has been scheduled for next week to discuss the program further. Manager Tallarico stated he would be able to provide an update at next month's meeting.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico shared the rate adjustments were passed by Council at the October 14, 2021 meeting. A public hearing for the proposed increases will be held on December 9, 2021. City staff will post additional information online to inform the public on the rate adjustments and potential impacts.
 - Manager Tallarico stated City staff and PSDS continue working on developing the franchise agreement.
 - Manager Tallarico shared the Ordinance for SB 1383 was originally scheduled for November 4, 2021, but will be pushed to a later date. A meeting will be held with Mayor Holstege and Councilmember Kors to discuss the plan on moving these items forward.
3. Standing Subcommittee on World Environment Day – Commissioner Garratt reported
 - Commissioner Garratt shared that any planning that went in to the 2020 event will most likely carry forward to 2022.
4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico reported the consultant, KOA, provided an update on October 18, 2021 and working with them to complete the draft of the report and hold a public meeting in November to share the results.
5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Torrens
 - Chair Clark stated this has been structured as an ad hoc subcommittee, but Commissioner Torrens is the only Commission member participating. He suggested that the Subcommittee be dissolved and asked that Commissioner Torrens serve as a liaison to the biking group. Commissioner Torrens agreed to act as a liaison for the Commission on biking topics.
6. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Night Sky
 - Chair Clark inquired if any Commissioners would like to join this Subcommittee as former Commissioner Flanagan has resigned which leaves Commissioner Ocañas as the only member of this Subcommittee.
7. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico summarized that the full Commission met on October 5, 2021 and developed goals and other items to forward to City Council. The goals from all of the boards and commissions are currently being reviewed and consolidated. Staff will work to integrate other feedback from the October 5th meeting into the strategic planning document.
8. Water Conservation – Vice Chair Freedman reported
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared that the DWA Board reported that September 2020 until September 2021 was the driest year in a century.
 - Vice Chair Freedman stated DWA is looking at additional conservation incentives.
9. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported
 - No additional report.

10. Desert Community Energy, Community Advisory Committee – Vice Chair Freedman reported

- Vice Chair Freedman stated DCE met yesterday and approved a new outreach plan that will focus on the benefits of participation in DCE's carbon free program. There will also be a carbon free customer recognition program, including a mailing thanking customers for reducing GHG emissions.
- Vice Chair Freedman shared the DCE Board approved a request for offers for additional renewable energy and storage procurement for the 2023-2026 period.
- Vice Chair Freedman stated electricity wholesale costs for the winter are increasing because of an increase in natural gas costs.
- Vice Chair Freedman shared DCE will partner with OhmConnect on its free smart thermostat program which will encourage smart energy use and provide a way for customers to save on their utility charges.

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA

- Commissioner Barrett would like to clarify the role of plug-in hybrids in the GHG reduction discussions.

G. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at **6:20** p.m. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 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