



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 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	58		
David Freedman	X	68		
Jennifer Futterman	X	46	1	1
Carl Baker	X	34		
Alex Ocañas	E	6	1	
Jake Torrens	E	6	1	
Don Barrett	X	5		
Randy Evans	X	5		

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 Wednesday, November 10, 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 November 16, 2021 meeting. There were no objections, and the agenda was declared accepted.

GUESTS PRESENT: Patricia Breslin from the Palm Springs Bar and Restaurant Association and Kim Floyd with the San Geronio Chapter of the Sierra Club.

STAFF COMMENTS – Manager Tallarico noted the following information to supplement his written report:

- He and Program Coordinator Sheldon and Jay Virata, Director of Economic Development, met with ZEV Station regarding a high speed EV charging and hydrogen refueling station they are hoping to build in Palm Springs. They will present the concept to the Commission at a future meeting.
- Manager Tallarico stated an updated document has been received from the consultant for the Pedestrian Safety and Safe Routes to School Master Plan, and the report will be presented to the Sustainability Commission at its December meeting.
- Manager Tallarico shared that staff have received a request to support a business with window tinting through the Sustainability Scholarship program. The Commission agreed that they would like to support this and other energy efficiency projects.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

A. PRESENTATIONS – None

B. MEETING MINUTES

- Chair Clark inquired if there were any objections to the meeting minutes for the Special October 5, 2021 meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.
- Chair Clark inquired if there were any objections to the meeting minutes for the Regular October 19, 2021 meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Food Ware Consultants – Manager Tallarico reported
 - The consultants are in the process of onboarding and staff will host a kickoff meeting the week of November 22nd. Staff plans on having both consultants contact businesses immediately and to begin scheduling in person visits in mid-December.
 - Manager Tallarico shared the consultants will be able to offer scholarships through the Sustainability Scholarship program to assist businesses with financial incentives and the consultants can provide technical assistance.
2. Night Sky Memo Update
 - Chair Clark stated this item will be deferred until Commissioner Ocañas is present at the December 21, 2021 meeting.
3. Smoking Ordinance – Commissioner Baker
 - Commissioner Baker reviewed the updated draft Ordinance, which was included in the agenda materials.
 - Commissioner Baker summarized the Ordinance does not allow smoking in multi-family dwellings or in outdoor settings.
 - Commissioner Baker stated that current State law requires hotels to provide 20% of their rooms to be available to smoking guests and the Ordinance, as it is currently drafted, states hotels are to provide 10% of their rooms to be available to smoking guests. Commissioner Baker suggested following State law and updating the draft Ordinance to provide 20% of the rooms to be available to smoking guests.
 - Vice Chair Freedman wanted to clarify cannabis smoking lounges will continue to be allowed since they are currently allowed through the permitting process.
 - Commissioner Baker shared that the enforcement language will need to be clarified with the City Attorney.
 - Commissioner Baker stated the Human Rights Commission will review the draft at their December meeting.
 - Manager Tallarico agreed to change the hotel requirement and to confirm with the City Attorney that already permitted smoking lounges would not have to comply with the ordinance.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Earth Day Events – Manager Tallarico
 - Manager Tallarico shared that staff has begun planning for Earth Day 2022 to include three (3) to four (4) days of events inclusive of:
 - Movie night at Camelot Theater on Wednesday, April 20, 2022.
 - Cycldelic event in the evening on Thursday, April 21, 2022.
 - Celebrate Earth Day with a tree dedication at the new Downtown city park possibly with food trucks on Friday, April 22, 2022.
 - Shredding and e-waste event on Saturday, April 23, 2022.
 - Commissioner Futterman recommended making the events vegan.

E. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Subcommittee on Solar and Green Building – Vice Chair Freedman reported
 - Vice Chair Freedman reported that the City Attorney's Office has reviewed the draft renewable energy ordinance. He noted the need for the City to retain a consultant to reinforce the energy and water use findings in the ordinance, prior to presenting the ordinance to stakeholders and then to Council.
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared that two additional cannabis facilities have submitted applications similar to Kings Garden with conditions of approval.

- Vice Chair Freedman stated that a Clean Transportation program has been approved by the State for \$1.4 billion for infrastructure buildout and \$1.5 billion for electric vehicle incentive programs for consumers.
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared that additional research and investment is being made in mobile homes at the State level.
2. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Staff continue to work with PSDS on the franchise agreement but it will not likely be presented to Council on December 9, 2021.
 - The Solid Waste Ordinance has been finalized and is being presented to City Council on November 18, 2021. The new ordinance includes language mandated through SB 1383. Manager Tallarico shared that one of the changes, which is not related to SB 1383, is the amount of time that a property needs to be vacant before it can receive a waiver of disposal collection fees. The current Ordinance requires a 12 month waiting period and it is being reduced to six (6) months for City Council's approval.
 - Manager Tallarico shared the States new Recycling Labeling Requirements will result in less materials being considered recyclable, so more products will be diverted to landfills.
 3. Standing Subcommittee on World Environment Day – Commissioner Futterman reported
 - Commissioner Futterman shared the World Environment Day 2022 Art Contest will highlight water and justice. 2022 will mark the 15th year of the contest, and there are online events being planned. Commissioner Futterman asked if any of the Commissioners could assist in planning with the upcoming event. Commissioner Futterman will have a budget request prepared for the January 18, 2022 meeting.
 4. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Walkability & Pedestrian Planning – Manager Tallarico reported
 - No additional report.
 5. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Night Sky
 - No additional report.
 6. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update – Manager Tallarico reported
 - Manager Tallarico shared staff will prepare a draft of the Sustainability Strategic Plan based on the group's feedback.
 7. Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Torrens
 - No additional report.
 8. Water Conservation – Vice Chair Freedman reported
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared that Governor Newsom declared a statewide drought emergency, bringing Riverside County and the other 7 counties not yet declared into the drought emergency. In the Executive Order, the Governor required all California water agencies to evaluate their Water Shortage Contingency Plans that take into account local conditions and anticipate continued dry years.
 - Vice Chair Freedman stated DWA achieved a 5.4% reduction in metered potable water consumption during October 2021.
 9. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported
 - No additional report.
 10. Desert Community Energy, Community Advisory Committee – Vice Chair Freedman reported
 - Vice Chair Freedman stated there will be a DCE presentation at the November 18, 2021 City Council meeting.

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA

- Vice Chair Freedman requested more guidance on social media rules as it applies to Commissions and requested Guidance on Electronic Records and Public Integrity Ordinance be provided by the City Clerk's Office.
- Commissioner Baker referenced the recent grass scalping at the Boys and Girls Club and at the library and wants to see the City have turf conversion projects on City owned properties.

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- Commission Evans stated he would like to see additional outreach for the recruitment of Sustainability Commissioners.
- Commissioner Futterman stated she also supports turf conversion projects on city properties.

G. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at **6:35** p.m. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21, 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