



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

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	62		
David Freedman	X	72		
Jennifer Futterman	X	48	3	1
Carl Baker	X	37	1	
Alex Ocañas	U	9	1	1
Jake Torrens	X	9	2	
Don Barrett	X	9		
Randy Evans	X	8	1	

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 5:30 PM Thursday, March 10, 2022 and posted on the City's website as required by established policies and procedures.

CITY STAFF PRESENT: 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 March 15, 2022 meeting. Chair Clark requested that New Business Item 1 "PS Library Summer Reading Program, Request for Funds" be moved to immediately follow the presentation by Julie Warren which is the same topic. There were no objections, and the agenda was declared accepted.

GUESTS PRESENT: Bernard Rottner

STAFF COMMENTS

Program Coordinator Sheldon noted the following information to supplement her written report:

- The Airport Demonstration Garden has received approximately 15 suggested substitutions from the approved plant list by the contractor, Marina Landscape. City staff has advised the contractor of the extensive review and approval process which went into the plant list and requested the vendor contact additional nurseries to reduce the number of suggested substitutions. Also, the signage proposals have been received from three local vendors and one out of area vendor. The most visually appealing signage proposal has the highest quote and staff will be asking the vendors to confirm their quotes before forwarding to the Airport Landscape Committee for final design selection.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No public comments.

A. PRESENTATIONS

- Julie Warren, Library and Public Services Manager, provided the historical background of the Sustainability Commission's support of the Summer Reading Program from 2013 through 2021. With the Sustainability Commission's support, the library has been able to purchase bicycles as prizes for the Summer Reading Program. The library is requesting \$500 in support from the Sustainability Commission to purchase bikes for the 2022 Summer Reading Program "Read Beyond the Beaten Path!"
- Councilmember Baker made a motion to approve \$500 to the Palm Springs Library 2022 Summer Reading Program "Read Beyond the Beaten Path" for the purchase of bicycles. Councilmember Futterman seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously accepted.

B. MEETING MINUTES

- Chair Clark inquired if there were any objections to the meeting minutes for the Regular February 15, 2022 meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. City Council Priorities and Work Plan Process, Update – Chair Clark reported
 - Chair Clark provided an overview of the City Council Strategic Plan from the Study Session held on February 22, 2022 during the absence of Deputy City Manager Fagg. Chair Clark reviewed the list of items under Environmental Stewardship which lists the majority of the items recommended by the Sustainability Commission.
 - Chair Clark reviewed the timelines of the tasks listed under Environmental Stewardship and highlighted the hiring of a Sustainability Director, completion of greenhouse gas analysis, targeting high value projects and initiatives. Additional objectives include the implementation of SB 1383, the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy, updates to the franchise agreement with the solid waste hauler, Desert Community Energy, Community Composting, Commercial Renewable Energy Standards, and land conservation goals.
 - Chair Clark highlighted the third section which includes integration of sustainability initiatives within other departments and the creation of green purchasing policies. The Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy was removed from the March 10, 2022 City Council meeting for further review. The policy includes procurement of recycled content paper with minimum 30% recycled content, purchasing products with fewer toxic chemicals, purchasing energy from renewable sources, purchasing products which improve indoor air quality, and purchasing products which reduce pollution. Chair Clark and Vice Chair Freedman have volunteered to form a subcommittee to review the policy and make recommendations to the City Council, and Councilmember Evans stated his interest in being on the subcommittee as well.
2. Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program – Program Coordinator Sheldon reported
 - Program Coordinator Sheldon reported the draft staff report is in progress for the Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program. Vice Chair Freedman has offered to review the report and add additional information on implementation and technical information.
3. ONE-PS Picnic – Councilmember Barrett reported
 - Councilmember Barrett provided an update to the planning of the annual ONE-PS Picnic & Community Expo being held on Saturday, March 19th from 11am-2pm at Ruth Hardy Park. Volunteers are needed for the Sustainability booth and at the waste stations. Commissioner Baker and Vice Chair Freedman noted they are unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. PS Library Summer Reading Program, Request for Funds – Library and Public Services Manager Julie Warren reported
 - The report for this item is provided under "Presentation."

E. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Program Coordinator Sheldon reviewed the written report and added the following:
 - Program Coordinator Sheldon stated the franchise agreement discussions are still in process

between City and PSDS legal counsels. The draft franchise agreement will not be released to the Commission until the edits are completed by legal counsels and once it is prepared to be forwarded to City Council.

- Commissioner Torrens inquired about the references to composting within the franchise agreement. Program Coordinator Sheldon stated language previously drafted by Manager Tallarico has remained the same and accommodates community composting within Palm Springs. The only allowance is that a rate cannot be charged for community composting and that a membership fee would need to be established.
 - The first round of reporting for SB 1383 is due to the State by April 1, 2022 and staff is working with PSDS on data collection for the report.
 - The Food Ware Ordinance outreach is continuing. Program Coordinator Sheldon shared an update on the progress being made with McDonald's. The local franchise owner is supportive of compliance with the ordinance and is assisting with communications at the corporate level.
 - Program Coordinator Sheldon is working with the Palm Springs Cultural Center on improvements to their solid waste collection area.
 - Program Coordinator has continued discussion with Desert Compost on identifying a location for community compost. City Council has listed community compost as a priority in the 2021/22 Strategic Plan.
 - City staff is in the process of obtaining quotes from vendors for the City's battery collection program. The Procurement Department is no longer accepting Battery Solutions LLC as an approved vendor.
 - The next Shredding and E-waste event is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd from 8am-12pm at City Hall. Volunteers are needed for the event.
2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update – Chair Clark reported
- Chair Clark shared he has been in communications with David Newell and is continuing conversations of implementing sustainability into the General Plan Update. A meeting has been schedule with David Newell on March 16, 2022 to discuss updates to the Sustainability Plan and how it fits in with the General Plan Update.
3. Solar and Green Building – Vice Chair Freedman reported
- Vice Chair Freedman shared an update on the findings in the renewable energy ordinance based on the work from the cannabis consultant. Vice Chair Freedman is working on a cost-effectiveness analysis. Vice Chair Freedman stated he is working with DCE's consultants on an estimate of GHG emissions savings from requiring commercial businesses to purchase renewable energy. Vice Chair Freedman anticipates having a new draft of the ordinance in the next week or so and then will coordinate with Chair Clark and staff on outreach to stakeholders.
 - Vice Chair Freedman stated the Reach Codes team released the multifamily module for the existing home energy efficiency model ordinance. Vice Chair Freedman will update the ordinance he drafted and will discuss with Chair Clark and staff on next steps.
 - The Energy Commission will launch a new round of EV charger funding on April 5, with priority for low-income communities and multi-family dwelling sites. Vice Chair Freedman stated he forwarded the announcements to staff.
 - The Energy Commission has approved the final Guidelines for the BUILD program for all-electric affordable housing. The Monarch project developer is ready to submit their completed application. Vice Chair Freedman has informed Commissioner Baker for the DAP Health affordable housing projects and staff for the proposed navigation center.
4. World Environment Day – Commissioner Futterman
- Commissioner Futterman provided an update on the 2022 Water and Justice theme for World Environment Day. Water issues and water justice are predominant issues within Coachella Valley and both themes will be accepted. The flyer is in the process of being revised and will be completed soon. This year's request of support from the Sustainability Commission for the Environmental Education Collaborative will be in the amount of \$2,000. This year's event will be held virtually on Sunday, June 5, 2022. The virtual art awards ceremony will be held on June 5, 2022. Commissioner Futterman stated it would be helpful for the Commission to approve an event and/or presence during

the same weekend.

- Commissioner Futterman inquired about the plans for Earth Day 2022. Program Coordinator Sheldon stated the previous plans for revitalizing CYCLEdelic, a tree planting ceremony and hosting movies at the Cultural Center were researched and quotes were obtained. Staff was approved to proceed with Earth Day planning of events that did not have budgetary costs.
- Commissioner Futterman inquired about the Monarch Mayor's Pledge and the possibility of purchasing and distributing milkweed. Program Coordinator Sheldon stated that Mayor Middleton has requested staff to sign the City of Palm Springs up for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge for 2022. Program Coordinator Sheldon confirmed this task has been completed.
- Chair Clark added that a connection has been made with a Master Gardener named Roger Tansey at the Certified Farmer's Market in regard to obtaining milkweed plants. Chair Clark also stated that in previous years the Milkweed for Monarchs organization worked with Palm Springs High School in obtaining milkweed plants and selling them at the Sustainability Commission's booth at the Certified Farmer's Market. Chair Clark said he would provide an update at the next Commission meeting.

5. Night Sky – Commissioner Ocañas

- No report.

6. Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Torrens

- No report.

7. Water Conservation – Vice Chair Freedman reported

- Vice Chair Freedman stated he provided an update at the DWA Board meeting on the Airport Demonstration Garden.
- The Board authorized additional funding to the Department of Water Resources for environmental planning costs associated with the Delta Conveyance Project in the amount up to \$3,284,178.
- Water usage continues to increase despite the dry winter and Governor's call for a 15% voluntary cutback in water use. According to the Desert Sun, the Coachella Valley had the state's largest increase in water consumption from last year, 19%. In the announcement Program Coordinator Sheldon sent, the California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot will join Mayor Pro Tem Garner and DWA Board President Kristin Bloomer for a press conference to highlight the importance of water sustainability investments in the desert region.

8. Wellness – Commissioner Baker

- Commissioner Baker stated the updates received from the American Lung Association have been received and will be shared with the Human Rights Commission for their approval.

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

- Vice Chair Freedman stated Southern California Edison increased its electricity rates effective March 1, 2022. DCE's rates are also increasing, but the premium for DCE's carbon-free energy over SCE's base rate remains at 14%.
- The Community Advisory Committee will meet next Monday, March 21, 2022 to discuss the outreach plan and other updates. Commissioner Barrett mentioned that DCE will have a booth at the ONE-PS picnic. He has volunteered for some of the time, in addition to his Sustainability Commission booth duties.
- The DCE Board will meet on March 28, 2022 and consider a support letter for AB 1814, which would authorize CCA's like DCE to apply for transportation electrification funding. Vice Chair Freedman is working with Deputy City Manager Fagg and Program Coordinator Sheldon on getting a similar letter on the Council agenda for next Thursday, March 24, 2022. Vice Chair Freedman will also be working with staff to see how to move the City's EV chargers to DCE carbon-free energy.
- The CVAG Executive Committee approved a resolution on February 28, 2022 like the one approved by the DCE Board on February 14, 2022 calling on the CPUC to protect rooftop solar and expand

access to all households, particularly those of low and moderate income. The resolutions will be sent to the CPUC, Governor Newsom and the local legislative delegation.

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA - NONE

- Chair Clark reminded Commissioners to complete the Form 700 and to submit to the Clerk's Office by March 28, 2022.
- Chair Clark shared that three of the current Commissioners are ending their second terms on June 30, 2022, which includes Vice Chair Freedman, Commissioner Futterman and Chair Clark. The election of the Chair and Vice Chair for 2022/23 will be held at the end of the April 19, 2022 Sustainability Commission meeting to provide a transition time before June 30, 2022. Chair Clark asked the Commissioners to submit their recommendations of Chair and Vice Chair to Program Coordinator Sheldon.

G. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at **6:41** p.m. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 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,

Tracy Sheldon, Program Coordinator, Office of Sustainability