



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 19, 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 **5:34** 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	63		
David Freedman	X	73		
Jennifer Futterman	U	48	3	2
Carl Baker	X	38	1	
Alex Ocañas	E	9	2	1
Jake Torrens	E	9	3	
Don Barrett	X	10		
Randy Evans	E	8	2	

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, April 14, 2022 and posted on the City's website as required by established policies and procedures.

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Tracy Sheldon, Interim Director, Office of Sustainability.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA: Chair Clark asked if there were any objections to the agenda for the April 19, 2022 meeting. There were no objections, and the agenda was declared accepted.

GUESTS PRESENT: Bernard Rottner, Jeff Berlin with e-Mission Control, Connor Whaley

STAFF COMMENTS

Interim Director Sheldon noted the following information to supplement her written report:

- The Shredding and E-waste event is this Saturday, April 23rd from 8am-12pm in the South parking lot of City Hall. A Bulky Items Collection event will be hosted by PSDS in the North parking lot of City Hall on Saturday, April 23rd from 8am-2pm.
- The Airport Demonstration Garden project is nearly complete with the exception of approximately 20 plants requiring replacement by the contractor due to damage sustained by high winds the day following the initial planting. City staff is in the process of scheduling a date for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and will report back as the planning progresses.
- Interim Director Sheldon is continuing to work with Desert Compost on identifying a location for Community Compost as listed in the City Council's Strategic Plan.
- Commissioner Barrett recommended the information provided by Energy Mission Control Inc. be forwarded to the Maintenance Department as this pertains to the purchase of vehicles through Fleet/Maintenance Department.
- There has been an increase in leaf blower enforcement complaints and city staff has mailed 111 enforcement letters during the month of April.

- There has been an increase in requests for Sustainability scholarships. The cutoff date for application submissions is June 10, 2022 to accommodate the City's fiscal year.
- During the March 15th Sustainability Commission meeting, Chair Clark asked staff to provide statistics on compliance rates for the Food Ware Ordinance which began implementation on January 1, 2022. Of the 388 businesses which provide food service, 15% are currently in complete compliance, 31% are in partial compliance, 28% are not in compliance and 26% are being removed from the list as food service is not part of their business. An example of the latter is hotels which do not provide any type of food service.
 - McDonald's corporate office has notified staff that they are not prepared to provide reusables.
 - Per the City's Food Ware Ordinance, fiber based compostables are required for all disposable items beginning January 1, 2023. The processing facilities in Coachella Valley do not accept compostable materials and these items will be routed for landfill disposal.
 - The two consultants working on the Food Ware Ordinance are suggesting enforcement for businesses which are not in compliance. This will be discussed at the standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction monthly meeting.
 - Vice Chair Freedman requested staff to prepare a presentation for the May 17, 2022 Sustainability Commission meeting clarifying fines for both the Food Ware Ordinance and SB 1383.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jeff Berlin with e-Mission Control introduced himself and advised he was available to answer questions.

A. PRESENTATIONS - None

B. MEETING MINUTES

- In the absence of a quorum for the Sustainability Commission meeting, approval of the meeting minutes for the Regular February 15, 2022 meeting will be placed on the May 17, 2022 agenda.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program – Interim Director Sheldon reported
 - Interim Director 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.

D. NEW BUSINESS - NONE

E. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Interim Director Sheldon reviewed the written report and added the following:
 - A meeting will be held on Friday, April 22, 2022 with City and PSDS legal counsel to review outstanding items in the update to the franchise agreement. PSDS has provide three different rate tiers for City Council to choose from and Sloan Vasquez McAfee has provided a review of the proposed rates for City Council's review.
 - Outreach and education efforts have continued for both SB 1383 planning efforts and the Food Ware Ordinance.
 - City staff was notified by CalRecycle on April 18, 2022 that the City of Palm Springs will bear the responsibility of all outreach and education to the schools within Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) which includes 28 school sites within Coachella Valley.
 - Site visits have continued with commercial accounts for AB 1826, AB 341 and SB 1383 compliance.
 - In regard to community composting and Desert Compost, city staff has been researching city owned sites to accommodate a community composting site location. At this time, staff has not been able to identify a location which will permit composting activities and continues to research.
 - The purchase of additional battery recycling containers through Battery Solutions has been on hold due to City and Battery Solutions legal departments discussions of the indemnification clause in Battery Solutions quote.
 - Vice Chair Freedman inquired if supplemental funding was available for the outreach and education

to the schools within PSUSD. Interim Director Sheldon advised a partnership approach will be pursued with the Sustainability or their equivalent departments within the other cities in Coachella Valley.

- Outreach materials have been developed by PSDS for the Recycling and Organics carts. PSDS will paint the brown metal Landfill dumpsters from “brown” to “gray” during the summer months. Per CalRecycle SB 1383 requirements, recycling containers must be “blue,” organics containers must be “green,” food waste only containers must be “brown” and landfill containers must be either “gray” or “black.”
 - Vice Chair Freedman asked for clarification of the plastic containers # 1-7 being accepted by the Edom Hill facility. Interim Director Sheldon stated per Burrtec, the owner of the Edom Hill facility, plastics #1-#7 are accepted in the Blue Recycling containers.
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 was held with David Newell on March 16, 2022 to discuss updates to the Sustainability Plan and how it fits in with the General Plan. The conclusion was that the Sustainability Plan is updated more frequently than the General Plan and it does not make sense to imbed the Sustainability Plan within the General Plan. It was agreed upon to put the principles of the Sustainability Plan into the Safety, Circulation and Housing Elements of the General Plan.
 3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy – Chair Clark, Vice Chair Freedman, Commissioner Evans
 - Chair Clark provided an update that this was discussed at the March 15, 2022 Sustainability Commission meeting and was discussed at the March 10, 2022 City Council meeting where it was requested that the Sustainability Commission make recommendations on the document. Chair Clark, Vice Chair Freedman, Commissioner Evans and Commissioner Barrett agreed to work on the policy. A meeting has been scheduled for April 25th at 2:00 pm to discuss.
 4. Solar and Green Building – Vice Chair Freedman reported
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared an update that he continues to work on the Renewable Energy Ordinance for cannabis and large commercial businesses. Vice Chair Freedman stated he has the cost effectiveness analysis from the cannabis consultant. The data from SCE on the amount of energy used by large businesses is pending. Chair Clark inquired if this Ordinance needed to go back to the Planning Commission. Vice Chair Freedman stated he did not think that it needed to go back to the Planning Commission since this is a requirement under Title 8 and not under the Zoning Code.
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared an update that he has completed his updates to the existing Home Energy Efficiency Model Ordinance and is in continued communications with the reach code team on how to include multi-family units into the ordinance.
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared he will be speaking on a panel at the Municipal Green Building Conference next month.
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared that the Energy Commission launched a new round of funding for EV chargers on April 5, 2022 with a priority for low income communities and multi-family dwelling sites. Vice Chair Freedman asked city staff to confirm if the energy source for currently installed EV chargers is from SCE or DCE.
 5. World Environment Day – Commissioner Futterman
 - Commissioner Futterman was not in attendance to provide a report. Interim Director Sheldon provided an update that Commissioner Futterman has emailed social media posts to promote the art contest.
 6. Night Sky – Commissioner Ocañas
 - Commissioner Ocañas was not in attendance and no report was provided for the meeting.
 7. Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Torrens
 - Commissioner Torrens was not in attendance and no report was provided for the meeting.

8. Water Conservation – Vice Chair Freedman reported
 - Vice Chair Freedman stated he provided an update to the DWA Board on the airport demonstration garden.
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared an update that DWA is participating in the low income household water assistance program which will allow customers to apply directly to Riverside County for relief funding up to \$2,000 on a first come, first served basis.
 - Vice Chair Freedman stated Governor Newsom issued an executive order at the end of March on the drought emergency which requires water agencies to go to level two of their water shortage contingency plan. This includes an irrigation ban on non-functional turf, which is the City’s medians.
9. Wellness – Commissioner Baker
 - Commissioner Baker reported the final version of the Smoking Ordinance was sent to the Human Rights Commission for review. Chair Clark shared the City Council would like to have it brought to them in May or June.
10. Desert Community Energy, Community Advisory Committee – Vice Chair Freedman reported
 - Vice Chair Freedman stated the Community Advisory Committee met on March 28, 2022 and the Board met on April 11, 2022.
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared DCE is focusing its outreach message on helping customers save money in the hot summer months.
 - Vice Chair Freedman stated OHM Connect is offering a \$0.99 smart thermostat or two smart plugs and a \$10.00 “Welcome” bonus.
 - Vice Chair Freedman said DCE staff and consultants met last week with Mayor Middleton, Councilmember Kors and City Manager Clifton to discuss promoting all the hospitality related businesses that are using 100% carbon free power in Palm Springs.
 - Vice Chair Freedman provided an update and stated the City Council approved a support letter for AB 1814 which would have authorized CCA’s like DCE to apply for transportation electrification funding, however it was pulled by the author because of stakeholder opposition.
 - Vice Chair Freedman shared DCE will be thanking the community at the State of the City Address on May 3, 2022 in achieving 2020 GHG education goals.
 - Vice Chair Freeman, in his role as Program Manager for the new Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN), is working on an implementation plan for SolarAPP+. There is \$40,000 available in funding for implementation for Palm Springs.

F. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- In the absence of a quorum, the election of the Sustainability Commission Chair and Vice Chair will be placed on the May 17, 2022 agenda.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA - NONE

- Vice Chair Freedman recommended a training be held for new Sustainability Commissioners in regard to public records and social media policies be held in July or September.
- Commissioner Barrett requested more information on a possible Statewide ban on single use plastics.
- Chair Clark discussed item 3B on the April 21, 2022 City Council Agenda, Review and Discussion of City Boards and Commissions. The item lists 10 challenges of the 14 Boards and Commissions. A study session will be held on June 21, 2021, which is the same day as the Sustainability Commission meeting. Chair Clark and Commissioner Barrett will meet and make recommendations for the May 17th Sustainability Commission meeting with a response to the challenges listed in the report.
- Vice Chair Freedman has concerns with Challenge #8.
- Commissioner Barrett has concerns with Challenges #7, 8 and 9.

H. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at **7:17** p.m. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, location to be determined. There is a possibility that the next meeting will be via telecommunication also. The

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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, Interim Director, Office of Sustainability