



## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 18, 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 Barrett called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

		Present This Meeting to Date	FY 2022/2023 Excused Absences	FY 2022/2023 Unexcused Absences
Don Barrett, Chair	X	15		
Randy Evans, Vice Chair	X	12	1	
Carl Baker	X	43		
David Freedman	X	78		
Jennifer Futterman	U	50		2
Jake Torrens	X	13	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, October 11, 2022, and posted on the City's website as required by established policies and procedures.

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** NONE

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:** Chair Don Barrett asked if there were any objections to the agenda for the October 18, 2022, meeting. There were no objections, and the agenda was declared accepted.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Paul Hinrichsen, Upper West Side; Will Petrasich, Upper West Side, and Board Member, Landscape Committee, of Sundance II HOA; and Kim Floyd, Sierra Club.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Paul Hinrichsen, Upper West Side is in favor of Item D2, matching grants for turf conversion. Without the grants, many would be unable to afford the conversion. He is also in favor of smoke-free Palm Springs.
- Will Petrasich, Upper West Side, and Board Member, Landscape Committee, of Sundance II HOA's is in favor of the matching grants for Item D2. HOA previously converted through Desert Water Agency and given the costs, would be unable to do further conversion without financial aid from the City.

### CHAIR'S REPORT

- Chair Don Barrett stated that last weekend's e-shredding event went well. No minutes this week because the City is out of staff. Director Lindsey-Paige McCloy and Palm Springs Disposal will be doing a session on compostable disposal. Don Barrett will be resigning as Chair but will remain on the Commission.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

- Director Lindsey-Paige McCloy mentioned the successful completion of her first e-shredding event, attended by a couple of hundred people and will look for expansion opportunities. There is a staffing shortage and a backlog of Meeting Minutes that hopefully be updated in November. Focus this month has been on trash and recycling issues, the turf program, roll out of composting, organics recycling, and this is compliance reporting season.

### **A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - NONE**

### **B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- Chair Barrett is resigning as Chair, effective after the November 2022 Sustainability meeting, The City Council has not approved new commissioners and the status of current applications is unknown; City Council is also revisiting the size of commissions. A Chair is required.
- Commissioner David Freedman volunteered to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair on an interim basis, although his term has expired. Commissioner Randy Evans volunteered for Chair beginning in December 2022. Given the City Council elections, appointments aren't expected until early 2023. Director McCloy to check with Deputy City Manager Fagg and the Clerk's office to ask about the status of candidates in the pipeline and Commissioner Freedman's status and his ability to serve on an interim basis, and to make sure there is a quorum to vote at the next meeting. Director McCloy to check the records for Commission Jennifer Futterman's last statement.

### **C. OLD BUSINESS- NONE**

### **D. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Biking and mobility
  - Commissioner Jake Torrens reported that he's shared the feedback with the subcommittee and will meet with Deputy City Manager Fagg to discuss a strategy to administer the survey; he can report back to the commission next month.
2. Turf Conversion
  - Sustainability Director Lindsey-Paige McCloy presented program design options for a possible match to the Desert Water Agency (DWA)'s turf conversion rebate. Commissioners reviewed past program involvement and conditions, and Commissioners Freedman, Baker, and Torrens shared their experiences working with the City's previous program and with DWA's current program.
  - Commissioners discussed the appropriate division of the available \$150,000 between property types – commercial, residential, and HOA – and the possible match amounts - \$1, \$2, or \$3 – seeking to identify the simplest program design that would incentivize effective and visible projects.
  - Commissioners confirmed that DWA's current program allows artificial turf, which the Sustainability Commission prefers to not support due to its being made of plastic.
  - Commissioners also reviewed possible caps to the matching funding to ensure that more than one project could take advantage of the funding.
  - Finally, commissioners reviewed options for future programs that would prioritize funding for low-income residents.
  - Commissioner Freedman introduced a motion, approved by the Commission, to recommend a program to the City Council that:
    - Matches the current DWA rebate of \$3/square foot, resulting in a total \$6/square foot reimbursement
    - Allocates \$150,000 for the remainder of FY22-23, divided \$100,000 for HOAs and \$50,000 for single-family homes or small residential
    - Caps matching funding at \$5,000 per project, whether HOA or single-family
    - Supports projects with little to no artificial turf
    - Continues to be administered by DWA, with DWA disbursing the City funds

### **E. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

1. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Chair Barrett reported
  - Hosting the upcoming brown bag event with ONE-PS to answer member questions about the new organics program.
2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update – Nothing to report.

3. Solar and Green Building – Commissioner Freedman
  - Monitoring funds that are beginning to flow on various federal and city projects.
  - Recommendation that we get a grant writer involved to alert City staff to grant funding opportunities
  - Commissioner Freedman has some revisions to proposed ordinances
  - SolarAPP+ legislation SB379 was signed by Governor Newsom and work can begin on CalAPP money for reimbursement to the City, application deadline is May 1, 2023
4. World Environment Day – On hold
5. Bicycle Routes and Cycling – Commissioner Torrens had nothing additional to report
6. Water Conservation – Commissioner Freedman reported
  - DWA increased their budget to support more turf conversion projects
  - Water reduction goals based on numbers for 2020, which were not a good benchmark for tourism in Palm Springs, so they may need to be updated
7. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported
  - Concerns about smoking ordinance which did not appear on the Council's October calendar as expected; Commissioner Baker has been asked to resume more public outreach with the merchants around Arenas and main street areas by a member of Council
8. Desert Community Energy, Community Advisory Committee – Commissioner Freedman reported
  - DCE Board meeting:
    - Geothermal project approved for Utah
    - Integrated Resource Plan, to be filed with California Public Utilities Commission
  - Inland Regional Energy Network
    - San Bernardino approved Programs Agreement
    - Sustainability and Recycling Forum on 10/27/2022, with regional representatives
    - Working with regional representatives on an application for funds from the Department of Energy

**F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA**

- Commissioner Baker – inquired whether we were working with tribe on turf conversion
- Commissioner Evans – requested an update on vendors for food ware ordinance
- Commission Freedman – requested an update on the airport demonstration garden

**G. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:53 p.m. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 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,



Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Office of Sustainability