



## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 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 Barrett 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. Commissioner Jennifer Futterman's term has expired, and she has not continued on her extended term.

		Present	FY 2022/2023	FY 2022/2023
	<u>This Meeting to Date</u>	<u>Excused Absences</u>	<u>Excused Absences</u>	<u>Unexcused Absences</u>
Don Barrett, Chair	X	16		
Randy Evans, Vice Chair	X	13	1	
Carl Baker	X	44		
David Freedman	X	79		
Jake Torrens	X	14	1	

X = Present  
L = Late

E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)  
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, November 8, 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 and Anita Fields, Office of Sustainability

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:** Chair Don Barrett asked if there were any objections to the agenda for the November 15, 2022, meeting. There were no objections, and the agenda was declared accepted.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Paul Heinrichsen. Upper West Side; Bernard Rottner.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Paul Heinrichsen. Upper West Side asks an expansion of the limit for the turf conversion program to accommodate HOAs with larger projects. He supports the shade tree giveaways by some agencies in the region, the Smoke-Free Palm Springs initiative, and likes the Climate Action Roadmap.

### CHAIR'S REPORT - NONE

### STAFF COMMENTS

1. Director Lindsey-Paige McCloy introduced Anita Fields who is assisting with the Program Coordinator duties
  - a. There are no updates to the status of Commissioner appointments; decisions are expected in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023
  - b. Hiring for new staff:
    - i. Tracy Sheldon has separated, and her position will be backfilled
    - ii. Climate and Sustainability Specialist
  - c. Request that the December meeting date be changed to accommodate her travel on December

20, 2022.

- d. In-person meetings are now allowed. It is recommended that hybrid meetings are avoided: either on a recorded line or in-person.
- e. She is planning to speak with the Tribe to coordinate a broad conversation around sustainability initiatives, turf conversion, and jurisdiction for restaurant food ware enforcement.

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

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

1. Chair Barrett is resigning as Chair, effective after the November 2022 Sustainability meeting, Chair Barrett made a motion to elect Commissioner Evans as Chair, and Commissioner Freedman as Vice Chair; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker. A formal roll call vote unanimously approved the selections, effective the December 2022 meeting.

#### **C. OLD BUSINESS-**

1. Biking/mobility study update – Jake Torrens
  - i. They are moving forward with the survey; a subgroup assembled to plan execution, and will meet again in 3 months
2. Turf conversion, Desert Water Agency (“DWA”) Matching Grant Proposal – Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director
  - i. Proposal to the City Council was solid
  - ii. Council is lenient on the issue of artificial turf
    1. Minimum use, but they will monitor the use on a program wide (anyone receiving Palm Springs’ matching funds) basis; 15%, not allowing program matches to those with more than 30%
    2. Discussion regarding retroactive component for those who applied early to DWA’s rebate program, if they can be reimbursed or put at the top of the list for any increased round of funding; our start date will be December 1, 2022
    3. Question regarding an enhanced match for low-income users, e.g., \$4 (vs. \$3) per square foot, which was included in a request to the City Council; \$50,000 would be allocated to this group
    4. DWA does not have a planting requirement; City Council does not have a strict planting requirement
    5. Since Sustainability has limited staff, this program should be implemented in a way that works with DWA and with DWA activities.

#### **D. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Climate Action Roadmap – Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director
  - Progress has been made with the current roadmap and no changes have been made
  - November City Council meeting Agenda includes an update on the climate action roadmap, in a 30-minute presentation
  - There will be an overview of approximately 35 items from the roadmap and 15 from the Council’s 2022 priorities
  - Review of contents, timelines, and tools available to us as a municipality
  - The roadmap is a good foundational document to continue to work against
  - Successes of the last 12 months
    - Organics containers are now in most areas of Palm Springs
    - DCE’s work, which resulted in a 20% reduction in GHG emissions in one year
    - Battery recycling, shredding events
    - Greenhouse gas inventory and vulnerability assessments
    - Creating ordinances for energy efficiency in homes and using carbon free electricity in non-residential buildings
    - Work with major restaurants regarding composting
    - Demonstration Garden in Demuth Park, a community garden with some activity
    - \$100 rebate, possibility of promoting this for 2023
    - Regional collaborations
    - SB 1383, significant, and it will be staff intensive

- Safe Streets initiative presented to council
- Smoking ordinance presented to council
- Revisions to environmentally friendly purchasing policy presented to council
- EV Chargers and 100% clean energy through DCE
- Tree planting program through the Parks and Recreation Department
- Plans for 2023
  - Reduce use of vehicle transportation, both short-term and long-term solutions
  - Transition city fleet to electric vehicles
  - Increase the use of low-carbon methods of transportation
  - Work with Parks and Recreation to convert turf to low-water landscapes at city properties
  - Implement energy-efficiency ordinances
  - Significant changes coming in federal funding for buildings
  - Increase of regulations from the State
  - Update greenhouse gas inventory
  - Create green purchasing policies
  - Further reduce emissions by the City government
  - Promote mass transit options, e.g., Amtrak and bikes
  - Work with hotels on EV Initiatives
  - Promote Palm Springs as a destination where people can experience living carbon-free
- Enforcement
  - On January 1, 2023, enforcement of sustainable food ware will begin, utilizing a process similar to that used in the ban of gas leaf blowers
  - Leaf blower enforcement will be supported by the state law prohibiting the sale of leaf blowers in 2024 and the focus will be on educating the public on guidelines and alternatives
- Commissioner Freedman volunteered to review the draft presentation

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

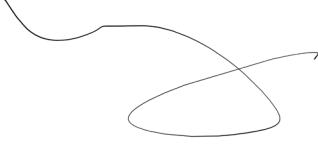
1. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – None
2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update – Commissioner Freedman
  - Comments on the plan were provided and this is possibly an item on the agenda for the November City Council meeting
3. Solar and Green Building – Commissioner Freedman
  - State funds are available for implementing SolarAPP required by SB 379
  - Monitor NEM 3.0, which will impact solar projects starting next year
4. Bicycle Routes and Cycling – None
5. Water Conservation – Commissioner Freedman
  - DWA Board Meeting that morning
    - New members
    - Pleased with the Turf Rebate program
    - Water use has declined
6. Wellness – Commissioner Baker reported
  - Smoking ordinance has been sent to City Council
7. Desert Community Energy, Community Advisory Committee – Commissioner Freedman
  - The objective is to bring CAC together and increase reserves in 2023, launch programs in 2024

#### **F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA**

- The December meeting will be virtual, and Director McCloy will send a poll for a new meeting date; date conflicts on December 13 and December 20, 2022
- Commissioners will resume their discussion of virtual vs. in-person meetings at the December meeting, pending some information from the Clerk's office on what is allowed under changing legislation governing remote meetings.

**G. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:06 p.m. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held online at 5:30 p.m. in December 2022, date to be determined. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted,".

Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability