



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 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 Barrett 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.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2022/2023 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2022/2023 Unexcused Absences</u>
Don Barrett, Chair	X	13		
Randy Evans, Vice Chair	A	10	1	
Carl Baker	X	41		
David Freedman	X	76		
Jennifer Futterman	X	50		
Jake Torrens	A	11	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, July 14, 2022 and posted on the City's website as required by established policies and procedures.

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Flinn Fagg, Deputy City Manager and Tracy Sheldon, Interim Director, Office of Sustainability

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Dorian Whitney and Paul Hinrichsen

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Barrett provided an update on the following in his Chair's report:

- Presentation by City Clerk re: Public Record Policy Presentation to the Sustainability Commission:
 - Chair Barrett stated this item will remain on hold until new Commissioners are appointed by City Council.
- Consolidation of Subcommittee and Commissioner Reports:
 - Chair Barrett stated he would like to reduce the number of Subcommittee and Commissioner reports listed within the monthly agenda to only items which will be reported on.
- Creation of alternative transportation subcommittee with two (2) commissioners:
 - Chair Barrett stated a discussion was scheduled for this meeting in regard to alternate transportation issues and the ability to create an alternative transportation subcommittee. Due to Commissioner Torrens absence of this meeting, this item will be carried forward to the September Sustainability Commission meeting.
- Staff Support Concerns:
 - Chair Barrett stated he is concerned with staffing levels and the City's ability to report on State requirements such as SB 1383, other current programs and future projects.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Deputy City Manager Fagg shared that City Manager Justin Clifton announced his resignation on Monday, July 18, 2022. Deputy City Manager Fagg reassured the Commission that the City Council priorities relative to Sustainability and funding for the program, including the expansion for Sustainability staff remain in place.
- Deputy City Manager Fagg announced Lindsey-Paige (LP) McCloy as the new Director of the Office of Sustainability. McCloy will begin her role as Director August 1, 2022. McCloy is currently the Program Director for the Los Angeles Clean Tech Incubator. Prior to that she was with the City of New York for seven years in the Office of the Mayor working in the Office of Sustainability and also in the Office of Chief Technology.
- Director McCloy introduced herself and shared her excitement for joining the City of Palm Springs. McCloy shared her undergrad education is in Mechanical Engineering and Material Science.
- Interim Director Sheldon provided an overview of how the funds were spent during FY 21/22 on the Sustainability Scholarship Program. Sheldon reported the funding supported local business owners with the costs in implementing the SB 1383 and purchasing reusables and compostable disposables in compliance of the Food Ware Ordinance. Sheldon reported approximately \$26,000 was distributed to businesses in support of the Food Ware Ordinance. Funds were also distributed in support of the Gas Leaf Blower Ban and other sustainable practices.

A. PRESENTATION

1. Art Contest Report – Commissioner Futterman reported
 - Commissioner Futterman shared an overview of the 2022 Environmental Art Contest Water and Water Justice Awards Winners. Commissioner Futterman provided a historical review of the Environmental Art Contest. The Environmental Art Contest began in Coachella Valley 18 years ago and was formerly funded by the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network, a program of the California Department of Education. Ten years ago, CREC stopped funding the Environmental Art Contest and it was taken over by the Environmental Education Collaborative, which Commissioner Futterman serves on the Board. The City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission became an annual sponsor of the Environmental Art Contest five (5) years ago and it has been entwined with World Environment Day. As a result of the COVID pandemic, the Environmental Art Contest has become a virtual event with the hopes that it can become an in-person event again in 2023. Commissioner Futterman thanked Commissioner Baker for being a judge of this year's contest. *(The complete presentation with the winners of each category is included in the published agenda packet on the City's website.)*

B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Chair Barrett reported the June 28, 2022 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes were not completed; therefore, they will be provided at the next Commission meeting for approval.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPPP) Review – EPPP subcommittee – Chair Barrett reported
 - Chair Barrett provided an update that the EPPP was listed, discussed and set for a vote during the June 28, 2022 Sustainability Commission meeting. During that meeting Commissioner Torrens requested additional time for review before voting at the July 19, 2022 Sustainability Commission meeting. Chair Barrett asked if there were any additional questions on the EPPP and if the Commission was prepared to vote on the EPPP.
 - **A Motion was made by Commissioner Freedman and seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy that was attached to the June 28, 2022 Sustainability Commission agenda packet and recommend it's adoption by City Council. The Motion passed 4-0 with Baker, Barrett, Freedman and Futterman with "yes" votes, and Commissioners Evans and Torrens were absent.**

D. NEW BUSINESS - NONE

E. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

1. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – No update
2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update – No update
3. Solar and Green Building – Commissioner Freedman reported
 - Commissioner Freedman reported the state legislature passed an energy trailer bill on June 29, 2022 which is part of the FY 22-23 budget. It provides \$1.2 billion for the California Arrearage Payment Program to help address unpaid residential utility balances incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. The relief period extends to December 31, 2022. DCE and SCE customers are eligible. Bill credits must be issued no later than April 3, 2023.
 - Commissioner Freedman reported the energy package of the 2022 Budget Act also establishes the Strategic Reliability Reserve to be administered by the Department of Water Resources to support electrical grid reliability. This bill authorizes DWR to contract for, purchase, finance or otherwise secure electrical generation to create additional capacity available during extreme energy grid events. Legislators and industry stakeholders have expressed unhappiness with many of the provisions in the bill. Concerns are largely focused on siting and use of fossil resources. Additional clarifying language may be adopted before the legislative session ends.
 - Commissioner Freedman reported he will meet with Deputy City Manager Fagg and Chief Building Official Alberto Gradilla Monday afternoon to discuss the two ordinances he drafted, which the Commission approved at last month's meeting. The objective is to have them adopted by Council before year-end.
4. World Environment Day – No update
5. Bicycle Routes and Cycling – No update
6. Water Conservation – Commissioner Freedman reported
 - Commissioner Freedman reported DWA and its customers achieved a 28.3% reduction in metered potable water consumption per meter during May 2022 compared to May 2013. Over the past 12 months, consumption per meter is trending 18.1% lower compared to 2013.
 - However, water conservation compared with the state's voluntary target of a 15% reduction from the 2020 baseline is lagging, partly because the tourism industry was closed then. To encourage applicants, DWA increased its turf rebate to \$3 / square foot in the fiscal year that began July 1.
 - During the July 19, 2022 DWA Board meeting, a resident noticed that Rancho Mirage is matching CVWD's \$3 / square foot turf removal rebate and asked if the City could provide matching funds.
 - Commissioner Freedman reported the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group has earmarked \$4.11 million in state grant funding for the Coachella Valley and has selected a tentative slate of projects to submit in the application due August 19, 2022. The application plans to include \$500,000 to extend DWA's recycled water system to Sunrise Park and \$116,000 in grass removal rebates for DWA customers. DWA will likely ask the City to cover part of the extensions costs, but DWA estimates the City would be able to recover its investment in a few years because the recycled water rates are lower than the potable water rates the City is now paying.
7. Wellness – No update
8. Desert Community Energy, Community Advisory Committee – Commissioner Freedman reported
 - Commissioner Freedman reported the DCE Board met yesterday morning and approved a renewable energy procurement from Southern California Edison.
 - The Board also approved continued work on a program to install solar and battery storage distributed energy facilities. Several of the possible sites are on properties the City owns or leases, so Commissioner Freedman is working with City staff.
 - Commissioner Freedman reported will be holding a follow-up presentation on July 27, 2022 on the SolarAPP+ permitting platform and Energy Commission funding that is now available to cover some of the costs to implement SolarAPP+. Commissioner Freedman reported Tracy Sheldon, Interim Director, Office of Sustainability and Taja Sims, Plans Examiner Supervisor, Building and Safety registered to attend.
 - Commissioner Freedman reported DCE is updating its flyer with energy saving tips for the summer. He will send the flyer to Tracy Sheldon for posting on the Office of Sustainability webpage.

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA

- Chair Barrett stated a discussion on turf conversion projects will be placed on a future agenda.
- Commissioner Freedman requested an update on Airport Demonstration Garden at the next Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Freedman asked for the City to provide a budget update on what the City can contribute to turf conversion projects, including efforts at the Airport and City parks.

G. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at **6:36** p.m. They adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 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