



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 23, 2023

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: Interim Chair Freedman called the meeting to order at 5:33 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	X	18		
Carl Baker, Interim Vice Chair	X	46		
David Freedman, Interim Chair	X	81		
Jake Torrens	E	15	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 Monday, February 16, 2023, 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: Interim Chair Freedman stated that Item B.1 would be moved to the beginning of the meeting for discussion and to preserve our quorum, accommodating any Commission members who need to leave the meeting early. Interim Chair Freedman asked if there were any objections to the agenda for the February 23, 2023, meeting. There were no objections, and the agenda was declared accepted.

GUESTS PRESENT: R. Engel

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

B. OLD BUSINESS-

1. Review of the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy ("EPPP") document and project plan before submission to the City Council
 - a. Director McCloy noted that this policy incorporated the comments of the Commissioners and that she worked with Procurement and Public Works for their input
 - b. Language was changed from a recommendation to utilize local vendors for source reduction purposes and referring directly to the City's local preference policy
 - c. There were no material changes to the text from the previous meeting.
 - d. Director McCloy to highlight the purchase of electric vehicles in the Staff Report, noting that transportation is a major contributor to GHG emissions
 - e. Motion to approve and recommend the policy put forth by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Baker. A formal roll call vote unanimously approved the policy for presentation to

the City Council and recommendation that the City Council adopt the EPPP.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Interim Chair Freedman thanked the staff for their efforts in moving forward, for keeping the small and lean team together as they continue to adopt the City's policies

STAFF COMMENTS

1.
 - a. There are no updates on the status of Commissioner appointments
 - b. The budget for FY 2023-24 has a clear direction
 - i. Moving forward with the existing roadmap
 - ii. Moving forward with our greenhouse gas inventory, which is in the current budget
 - iii. The budget includes an expanded version of the public turf conversion program, including a request for an additional \$1 million for turf conversions
 1. Additional allocation of \$300,000 to Desert Water Agency granted recently was expended the day it was approved by City Council due to a substantial waitlist from the December 2022 launch of the program. We can fund a substantial number of new projects, but we are unable to accept new applications for the matching program this fiscal year
 - iv. The budget includes a request for \$500,000 for fleet electrification and electrical upgrades
 1. SCE Charge-Ready funding may be available as well
 - v. The budget includes two new positions
 1. Director McCloy is interviewing to candidates for Specialists - subject matter leads - tentatively focused on waste and on buildings and energies; they will lead on policy portfolios and public engagement project management, and liaising with our agency partners, etc.
 - c. The Commission will continue holding meetings via teleconferencing pending further guidance from City Council
 - i. AB 361 ends this year, and City Council will revisit the extension of teleconferencing every 30 days
 1. The Commission can work towards in-person meetings, utilizing hybrid meetings to accommodate Commission members who travel frequently
 2. Look to the Planning Commission, as the lead commission, for timing regarding the return to in-person meetings
 - ii. Hybrid meetings are feasible
 - iii. There will be an in-person meeting when we bring the new Commissioners on board

A. MEETING MINUTES

1. Interim Chair Freedman inquired if there were any objections to the meeting minutes for the Regular December 19, 2022 meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Turf Conversion Update
 - i. Desert Water Agency ("DWA") received and additional \$1.6 million from the State
 - ii. Caps on HOAs to be revisited
 - iii. Director McCloy asked to present a recommended policy to the Commission for the new fiscal year
 - iv. Working with DWA to identify an effective way to enable low-income residents to participate in the program, possibly the use of "direct pay," which would eliminate an upfront payment
2. Implementation of SB 1383
 - i. Director McCloy outlines the progress being made in selecting a vendor for the required active, real-time, and detailed implementation of record-keeping, to be stored in a relational database
 - ii. The City is required to purchase 4,000 tons (0.08 tons per resident) of recovered waste product, e.g., mulch, compost
 1. The focus will be on finding a mix of uses to reach goal
 2. Mulch consumption will be discussed at the March 2, 2023 SSCoWR meeting

3. DWA will be asked to encourage people to replace turf with vegetable gardens using mulch, instead of rocks and cacti
 - a. Seeing a product produced by removal of turf may encourage conversion
- iii. Update on status of procuring compost bins; interest has increased due to the distribution of bins in Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert
- iv. Multi-family outreach, need to get pails with labels and QR codes to assist with education
3. Reviewing program with PSDS to provide 15% discounts on waste rates for account holders who qualify for CARE, up to \$25,000

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Activities and events for Earth Day/Month, to do as much as possible while the spotlight is on this topic
 - i. Goals, audiences, vehicles, organizing framework reviewed
 1. Goals
 - a. Make policy announcements
 - i. Communicate and build support with stakeholders re proposed new policies addressing energy efficiency and electrification ordinances for existing buildings, commercial buildings
 - b. Recap the past year's progress
 - c. Raise awareness on key topics, e.g., composting, food ware ordinance, rebates, sustainability scholarships
 - ii. Audiences include residents, local businesses, and visitors, to show the leadership of Palm Springs in this area
 - iii. Vehicles include videos, events, the Mayor's Book Club, partner/surrogate voices
 - iv. Discuss the reasoning behind SB 1383, goal of the legislation
 - v. Engage Parks and Recreation in these activities
 - vi. Past events that were successful:
 1. Tree planting, through Parks and Recreation, and the dedication of the Community Garden
 - a. CVAG is looking at the "urban canopy" and that could be linked to a tree giveaway, plant a tree for Arbor Day
 2. Engage the Public Arts Commission for a related public art exhibit
 3. Partner voices include DCE (Desert Community Energy), who is discussing Arbor Day
 4. Incorporate Earth Day into the 80th Anniversary celebration of Palm Springs
 5. Bike event, a mini CicLAvia
 6. Earth Day version of Village Fest, with participation from various environmental organizations, encourage sustainable travel to/from the event
 - a. Comments regarding the lack of infrastructure connecting transit to nearby areas, possibility of using this as an opportunity to conduct a travel survey, an opportunity to get more data in this area
 7. Partner with local businesses and agencies, e.g., Acrisure Arena, school district, the tribes/casinos, personal wellness link with spas, Goldenvoice with messaging regarding trash during Coachella, highlight their use of bus service for the festival
 8. Highlight the expanded CV Link from CVAG
 9. Increase engagement with small pledges, e.g., commitments to carpool one time per week, etc.

D. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS -

1. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction, Commissioner Barrett
 - a. The focus is on SB 1383, with a current 80/20 ratio for compliance
2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update, Interim Chair Freedman – No additional comments. Waiting for the Housing Community Development Department to certify the city's housing element, which would subsequently go back to City Council. In the last 3 years, the Sustainability Commission has worked closely with the Planning Commission on sustainability issues and language in the Vision Statement and plan, but unclear if it was adopted by Council, possible meeting later this year.

3. Solar and Green Buildings, Interim Director Freedman
 - a. SolarApp+ must be adopted by September 30, 2024; staff is working on application to the California Energy Commission to cover implementation costs
 - b. State and Federal rebates available for heat pumps
 - c. Drafting an ordinance that would link energy effectiveness upgrades to permits and another that would require large electricity, contingent on cost-effectiveness updates to use carbon free energy
 - i. Policy and related issues regarding additional energy efficiency discussed with a consultant, Flinn Fagg and Veronica Goedhart, including lighting in the cannabis industry
 - d. New solar rules for net energy metering go into effect April 14th
4. Bicycle Routes and Cycling, Director McCloy
 - a. Demand for bike maps is high and supply must be replenished
 - i. New supply of maps will incorporate the CV Link
 - b. Installation of two new bike racks at Ace Hardware last week
5. Water conservation, Interim Director Freedman
 - a. DWA will begin posting their meetings on YouTube; Director McCloy to talk to new outreach and conservation manager for advice on promoting the availability of meetings online for those interested in water issues
6. Wellness – Nothing to report at this time
7. Desert Community Energy (“DCE”) / Inland Regional Energy Network, Interim Chair Freedman
 - a. They are looking for new procurement options, possibly new solar or wind projects in Palm Springs
 - b. Councilmember Lisa Middleton is the new Delegate and Chair, Mayor pro tem Bernstein is the Alternate
 - c. Questions surrounding changes to net energy metering, and they are updating the website
 - d. Inland Regional Energy Network has approved the implementor contracts.
 - i. The implementers will provide support for reach codes and the upgrading of city facilities
 - e. Solar panels at City Hall would have to incorporate Historic Preservation and technical concerns

E. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA

1. Commissioner Barrett would like to discuss the Blue Zone plan (wellness)
2. Changes to plans for the Airport
 - o Energy use at the airport and the possibility of incorporating solar
 - o Partner with the Airport on Earth Day activities
 - o Extending the SunLine to a stop inside of the airport
 - o Updating food concessions and hospitality, with Director McCloy presenting sustainable concepts
 - o Long term vision is being developed
 - Will request that the Airport Director meet with the Commission
3. Involve Prescott Reserve and Oswit in Earth Day activities
4. Have a Health Fair in the Convention Center and include contractors for solar, heat pumps, etc.
5. Sponsor an Environmental Art Fair, contacted by former Commissioner Jennifer Futterman; Director McCloy to follow-up with her and report on our previous involvement, prepare proposal for approval

F. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 7:13 p.m. They adjourned to the next Regular Meeting of the Sustainability Commission to be held online at 5:30 p.m. on March 21, 2023; Director McCloy to get guidance on protocol on the cancellation of that meeting. 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, Director, Office of Sustainability