



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 21, 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 5:32 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	19		
Carl Baker, Interim Vice Chair	X	47		
David Freedman, Interim Chair	X	82		
Jake Torrens	X	16	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 Tuesday, March 14, 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 asked if there were any objections to the agenda for the March 21, 2023 meeting. There were no objections, and the agenda was declared accepted.

GUESTS PRESENT: Kim Floyd

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

CHAIR'S REPORT – Interim Chair Freedman mentioned the recent IPCC Report.

STAFF COMMENTS

1. Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director
 - a. Status of Commissioner Appointments - The City Clerk's office is currently interviewing candidates for Commissioner appointments. They do not have a timeline for completion. Upon completion, there should be a total of five Commission members. Recruitment for the Commissioner positions remains open.
 - i. Director McCloy to confirm with the City Clerk's office the term expiration dates of current Commissioners and determine if reappointments are needed
 - b. Status of teleconferencing of Commission meetings - Per the City Clerk's office, meetings can be held via teleconferencing until January 2024.
 - i. It is recommended that the venue remain consistent, not vacillating between in-person and teleconferencing for each meeting.

- ii. Interim Chair Freedman recommends continuing remote meetings until new Commissioners are appointed, then have an in-person meeting when the new Commissioners are on board. Interim Vice Chair Baker agrees and adds that the new board should make decisions regarding venue when they meet.
- c. Status of Commissioners' items of interest
 - i. Airport Planning – There are currently two planning efforts
 - 1. New franchise and concession agreements
 - a. Sustainability and waste management are being incorporated into negotiations, new agreements
 - i. Significant changes in food and beverage, with packaging, food products, buildouts, and spaces
 - ii. Changes will result in progress towards goal of zero waste goals
 - iii. Director McCloy is requesting all electric stoves, if possible
 - 2. Airport Master Plan, for the next 20-40 years of air traffic, and anticipated levels of support
 - a. Consultants are advising on future practices
 - b. Director McCloy to ask consultants and/or airport staff to make a presentation to the Commission, in either May or June 2023 meeting, for feedback.
 - i. Director McCloy will take back to the Aviation planning group items addressing
 - 1. Sustainable aviation fuel and solar panels
 - c. Transit connections, intermodal options for travelers will be involved in the Master plan; draft recommendations regarding Sustainability from an old 2005 FAA draft are referenced but may be outdated.
 - i. Suggestion that consultants set framework goals, e.g., LED levels, for a comprehensive plan, versus focusing on individual projects and bullet lists. Commissioner Torrens offered to assist by introducing the consultants to other airport planners who are integrating sustainable aviation practices into their operations.
 - d. The need to work within contractual and regulatory restrictions for airlines was noted.
 - ii. Desert Compost will be asked to attend the Commission Meeting in either April or May, but not the same meeting as the airport consultants
 - iii. Director McCloy will contact Prescott Preserve, Oswit Land Trust, and the Agua Caliente tribe's Sustainability representative to meet with the Commission
 - iv. Hiring of additional staff is making progress, and a few capable candidates have been interviewed, one with a helpful background in government
 - 1. References are being checked for one candidate with a possible start in April
 - v. Environmental Champions, Green Citizen Awards
 - 1. Expand previous Green Citizen Awards program to include businesses, business owners, or civic leaders
 - 2. Present a formal proposal to the Commission for review once new Commissioners are in place
- d. Other items
 - i. Request to reschedule April meeting to April 25, 2023; Commissioners will be polled and change of date will be posted
 - ii. DAP purchased the four new EV Chargers at their site, and they are still under warranty with Embry; the City still maintains the old chargers.

A. MEETING MINUTES

- 1. A minor change had been made to the minutes of the Regular February 23, 2023 meeting. Interim Chair Freedman inquired if there were any objections to the revised meeting minutes. There were no objections, and the meeting minutes were accepted unanimously.

B. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Update on the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Plan ("EPPP"), Staff Report, and project

plan

- i. The EPPP will be presented to City Council for approval on March 23, 2023, in a joint presentation by Sustainability and Procurement. Commissioner Barrett may attend the meeting as well.
 1. Will note that many sustainable practices have already been adopted by the City's operational staff
 2. There will be two training groups: a basic training for all staff; and an expanded training for personnel – approximately six people - who place the majority of orders (power purchasers)
 - a. The practices of Parks and Recreation should be highlighted for good examples of sustainability in consumption.
 3. Contractors, like the wastewater treatment plant operated by Veolia, and Airport Operations are subject to EPPP guidelines, but this will be addressed in a manner that does not violate any contracts or regulations. A master plan is not needed to purchase green products.
 4. Staff can use up their existing supplies before purchasing new products
2. Turf Conversion Update
 - i. Desert Water Agency (“DWA”) has distributed all of the additional matching funds provided by the City, and those funded projects are in progress
 - ii. Director McCloy is waiting to feedback regarding additional funding for FY 2023-24.
 - iii. Director McCloy and Anita Fields will attend a landscaper talk at DWA on March 23, 2023, to discuss mulch and the possibility of using direct payments for turf conversions with low-income residents
 - iv. DWA has announced that they now have additional money available for turf conversions
 - v. Notwithstanding the recent rains, we still have drought conditions
3. Implementation of SB 1383
 - i. Rate increase by Palm Spring Disposal Service (“PSDS”), of approximately 6%, is being reviewed; it's pegged to the CPI index, which is allowed under the franchise agreement
 - ii. Outreach efforts continue and staff is in the process of getting pails
 - iii. An account on NextDoor will be established to assist with community education
 - iv. PSDS is focusing on 1-2 neighborhoods at a time to increase compliance with multi-family units
 1. PSDS estimates that 65% of their accounts are in compliance; distinction should be made between account holders in multi-unit structures (one account per complex) and number of households, which would be single-family residences.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Earth Day/Month events and activities
 - i. Due to timing constraints, we will be participating and supporting existing events
 1. Review of calendar events with the library, ONE-PS event, and Administrative Professional Day
 - a. Booth at Farmers' Market, both April 1st and April 22nd
 2. Create an op-ed for the Desert Sun outlining achievements, policy implementation, and activities
 - a. Director McCloy to circulate a draft of the article before forwarding to the publication
 3. Plan to participate this fall in Climate Week
2. Blue Zone update
 - i. Blue Zone's concept originated from article in the National Geographic about areas with large numbers of people with long lifespans, and their commonalities. Similarities in these areas.
 1. Practices
 2. Social connectedness
 3. Environment
 4. Housing is seen as a driver
 - ii. This effort is being led by Riverside County's Health Department; City of Palm Springs is participating in a feasibility assessment managed by a consultant.

- iii. The Blue Zone consultants will rank us on readiness; subsequently, the City Council will decide if they will engage with the consultant for 3 years, next steps will be determined by City Council.
 - iv. The Commissioners noted that the City had already adopted many of the recommended practices, and there should be a tie in to our current Sustainability Plan, which has a wellness component. Questions were raised about the Blue Zone packaging, if money would be better spent investing in current programs
 - v. The biking plan needs to be completed
 - vi. The Blue Zone sessions are being coordinated by Teresa Gallavan
 1. Director McCloy to provide the Commission's feedback to the Blue Zone working group and provide a copy of our Sustainability Plan
3. Sponsorship request received to renew sponsorship of the Environmental Art Contest, held on June 5, 2023, for \$2,500.
- i. The funds are available in our budget
 - ii. Commission members have been invited to assist with judging art submissions
 - iii. Interim Vice Chair Baker motioned to approve the proposal; Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

D. SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS -

1. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction, Commissioner Barrett
 - a. The focus is on multi-family compliance, and those discussions are ongoing
 - b. Reviewing options for enforcement with restaurants who are out of compliance
 - c. Discussion regarding the need to work with others in the region to meet mulch distribution goals
 - i. Interim Chair Freedman will discuss this with CVAG
2. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Strategic Planning and General Plan Update, Interim Vice Chair Baker— No updates.
3. Solar and Green Buildings, Interim Director Freedman –Updates covered in DCE / I-REN report
4. Routes and Cycling – No updates
 - a. Anticipating the release of the survey after staff has been hired
 - i. Commissioner Torrens, Director McCloy, and Anita Fields will meet to begin planning
 - b. Volunteer Palm Springs is installing Ghost Bikes at the site of bike accidents
5. Water conservation, Interim Director Freedman
 - a. Due to the recent rains, current conservation efforts are meeting and/or exceeding State targets
 - b. Drought conditions persist due to water levels at the Colorado River and other sources
 - c. DWA started their Prop 218 cost study
 - d. Program to assist low-income residents with bills planned, \$2,000 up to \$15,000 available beginning October 2023
 - e. DWA will begin meetings in person and posting their meetings on YouTube
6. Wellness, Interim Vice Chair Baker – Councilmember DeHarte has indicated that he did not support the proposed non-smoking ordinance
 - a. Director McCloy will follow-up with the Human Rights Commission with revised language
7. Desert Community Energy ("DCE") / Inland Regional Energy Network ("IREN"), Interim Chair Freedman
 - a. I-REN has approved a partnership with the California Energy Commission ("CEC") to apply for Federal Department of Energy funds under the Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation, funding under the Infrastructure Investment of Jobs Act ("IIJA"), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This would be a \$10 million grant, for, each of 2 proposals
 - i. To increase the functionality of SolarApp+ (residential), which would expand the features of the solar app, that currently just covers single-family retrofits for solar, with other features, including heat pumps and solar for new construction
 - ii. Code cycle (commercial), to help industrial designers who work with lighting automate how they get equipment to comply with energy codes and function appropriately
 - b. I-REN was approved to work with CivicWell for CivicSparks Fellows, for a Fellow to work with each member agency them every other year. If Palm Springs obtains a Fellow, that person, could possibly work on reach codes for residential retrofits and cannabis cultivation and requirements that large industrial commercial users use renewable energy
 - c. DCE has issued an RFP for renewable generation, with a priority for local projects

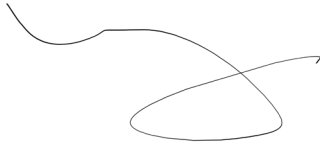
- d. New solar rules are effective April 15, 2023; DCE may get a proposal from an investment fund working with a solar installer
- e. Currently focused on community programs at DCE and they will get the Community Advisory Committee involved

E. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA

- 1. Request to reschedule the April meeting to April 25, 2023
- 2. Requests for notification of Earth Day events we are participating in, and a calendar of dates we plan to attend the Farmers' Market

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 April 26, 2023; 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