



Subcommittee Report

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 02-20-24	SUBMITTED BY: Don Barrett
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Subcommittee on Waste Reduction	SUBMITTED DATE: 02-20-24
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 02-01-24	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 03-01-24

Subcommittee Meeting Goal:

- Status of meeting SB 1383 requirement
- Impact of holiday-related waste
- Discuss event and downtown waste issues.
- Progress on community clean-up proposal
- Ban on Styrofoam coolers
- Battery recycling updates

Summary:

Status of meeting SB 1383 requirement: Liz Hernandez of PSDS reported on surveys of contamination in waste noting that single family contamination was at an acceptable low level but contamination at multi-family was high and that processes for addressing that were in place including providing information to Sustainability Department for issuing warning letters. [Data needed]

Holiday-related waste, event waste, and downtown waste issues: In order to address holiday, event, and downtown waste commissioners noted that feasibility demands meant focusing on discrete events where:

- after holidays when there is a lot more cardboard and paper waste, residents should be requested to place it in the recycling containers and not in the landfill containers
- there are easily identifiable event organizers
- ideal is to begin working with event at least 3 months in advance
- possible to eventually reach zero-waste
- value in addressing commuting to the event in the sustainable framework
- getting most Sustainability commissioners to participate in Sustainability action at the event

It was noted that we already have a commitment to work with the ONE-PS picnic on March 23 assisting attendees with waste separation, and thus the value of using that commitment to begin to develop an overall plan for working with events.

Community clean-up development: Commissioner Barrett reported on his observation of the monthly Tahquitz Creek wash cleanup operation on 1/20/2024. In terms of what made a good clean-up operation he noted that the wash cleanup had: 1) sign up table and clearly visible signs, 2) liability waiver, 3) sign-in sheet, 4) trash pick-up tools and bags 5) sharps containers and a first-aid kit, 6) on-site coordinators.

Commissioners raised concerns about how other organizations that would use a Sustainability-provided framework would handle supervision of volunteers, liability concerns, and property boundary (both physical and taking possession) issues. It was also noted that in some situations, Sustainability might suggest a different approach that includes working

with local businesses. Despite these concerns, the consensus of the SSCoWR Commissioners was to create a framework and resources so that neighborhoods and other organizations can support clean-up events, but to minimize the involvement and liability of Sustainability staff and commissioners in such events.

Ban on Styrofoam coolers: Commissioner Clark noted that the city’s regulations banning the provision of Styrofoam containers by businesses had failed to include mention of Styrofoam coolers but that adding that to the regulations would be a simple process of having the larger Sustainability Commission request City Council to add that to the regulation. Director McCloy noted that adding that to the regulation would require an exception for the use of disposable Styrofoam coolers by medical personnel for conveying various human samples. The SSCoWR Commissioners unanimously approved a decision to ask the Sustainability Commission at the February 20 Commission meeting to recommend action by Council on this.

Battery recycling concerns: postponed until subsequent meeting

Recommendation/Request

For Commission members to participate in waste-monitoring activities at the ONE-PS Picnic on March 23rd

For the Commission to approve a request to City Council to add Styrofoam coolers to the items to be banned by Palm Springs City regulations.

ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION	(See above)
ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY	(none)
POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:	(none)