



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

www.palmspringsca.gov/services/sustainability-and-recycling

March 19, 2024 5:30 PM	MEETING AGENDA	Palm Springs City Hall Large Conference Room
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Ken Alexander	Don Barrett, Vice Chair	Roy Clark, Chair
Kathy Cohn	Max Dirdah	Andrew Forster
Michael Frick	Erik Graham	Bernard Rottner
Prema Walker		

City of Palm Springs Vision Statement: Palm Springs aspires to be a unique world-class desert community where residents and visitors enjoy our high quality of life and a relaxing experience. We desire to balance our cultural and historical resources with responsible, sustainable economic growth and enhance our natural desert beauty. We are committed to providing responsive, friendly, and efficient customer service in an environment that fosters unity among all our citizens.

To view/listen/participate in the meeting live, please contact Lindsey-Paige McCloy at lindsey-paige.mccloy@palmspringsca.gov or the following telephone number (760-323-8214) to register for the Zoom meeting. There will be an email with Zoom credentials sent after registration is complete to access the meeting and offer public comment.

Any person who wishes to provide public testimony for an item on the agenda is requested to file a speaker card before the Public Testimony portion of the meeting. You may submit your public comment to the Subcommittee electronically. Material may be emailed to lindsey-paige.mccloy@palmspringsca.gov. Transmittal prior to the start of the meeting will help ensure that your correspondence is fully considered. Any correspondence received during or after the meeting will be distributed to the Subcommittee and retained for the official record.

Office of Sustainability staff representatives: Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director; Christian Wheeler, Climate and Sustainability Specialist; Juliet Shane Agtang, CivicSpark Fellow

Please **MUTE OR TURN OFF** all audible electronic devices for the duration of this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(5 MINUTES)

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS: This time is for members of the public to address the Commission on agenda items and items of general interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission values your comments but it cannot take action on items not listed on the posted Agenda. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each speaker.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

(5 MINUTES)

Chair Clark

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

(15 MINUTES)

1. Standing Subcommittee on Waste Reduction – Vice Chair Barrett
2. Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action – Chair Clark
3. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Water – Commissioner Rottner

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(10 MINUTES)

Director McCloy

NEW BUSINESS

(10 MINUTES)

1. PS Public Library Summer Reading Program, Request for Funds – Chair Clark

OLD BUSINESS

(40 MINUTES)

1. Tree Ordinance Update – Sustainability Specialist Wheeler
2. Food Ware Ordinance – Director McCloy
3. Earth Day/Month 2024 – Director McCloy
4. ONE-PS Picnic – Director McCloy and Liz Hernandez, PSDS

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA

(5 MINUTES)

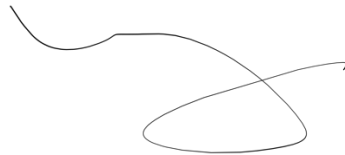
Commissioners have two (2) minutes to provide requests for future agenda items or input on other Commission-related items of interest.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission will adjourn to April 16, 2024, at 5:30 pm, unless otherwise noted.

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (760) 323-8204 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5(b)(2) the designated office for inspection of records in connection with the meeting is the Office of Sustainability, City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Agenda and staff reports are available on the City's website www.palmspringsca.gov. If you would like additional information on any item appearing on this agenda, please contact the Office of Sustainability at 760-323-8214.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING: I, Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability of the City of Palm Springs, California, certify this Agenda was posted at or before 5:30 PM on Thursday, March 14, 2024 as required by established policies and procedures.



Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability



City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission

March 19, 2024

Upcoming Agenda Items and Guest Presentations - Scheduled

Commission

March

- Tree ordinance update (staff request)
- Tentative - Cannabis/large building ordinance update (staff request)

April

- Education and compliance re: gas-powered leaf blower ban

SSCOWR

March

- Planning for ONE-PS picnic

Climate Action

March

- Possible presentation from CVAG/CV Link
- Educational efforts for wood-burning fires

Ad-hoc Committee on Water

- TBD

Upcoming Agenda Items and Guest Presentations - Unscheduled

Commission

- Inland Regional Energy Network guest presentation
- Dog/waste pickup stations
- Window bird strike prevention (Commissioner Frick)
- Solar on/in City buildings
- Shade structures
- Digital media/education
- Dark Sky ordinance

- Smoking ordinance
- Ban on use of glue traps and rodenticides—Prescott Reserve request

SSCOWR

- Waste enforcement

Climate Action

- Airport expansion
- SunLine
- Parks Master Plan
- Update on buildings programs (CivicSpark Fellow Agtang)
- Sustainable transportation planning and EV charging (Sustainability Specialist Wheeler)

Ad-hoc Committee on Water

- TBD

Additional suggested agenda items from Feb 20 Commission meeting

- Collaboration with other cities on sustainability; form committee (Commissioner Walker)
- Increased effort with respect to community gardens (Vice Chair Barrett)
- Trash container labeling (Commissioner Cohn)
- Shade structures and trees; work with Parks and Recreation Office/Commission (Commissioner Dirdah)
- Getting away from natural gas; education of companies doing work (+ CivicSpark Fellow Agtang's work) (Commissioner Rottner) → Climate action subcommittee



City of Palm Springs, Office of Sustainability

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Lindsey-Paige McCloy, Director, Office of Sustainability

Re: March Updates to the Sustainability Commission

Meeting Date: 19 March 2024

The Office of Sustainability would like to provide this update on activities since the last Commission meeting to help speed discussion at the in-person meeting. The following items can be discussed in more depth at the meeting, if desired by the Commission.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Next Council meeting topics:
 - April 25 (tentative): expanding foodware ordinance to include styrofoam coolers; update on foodware ordinance compliance
 - April, unscheduled: proclamation for Arbor Day
 - May 23 (tentative): public hearing for delinquent waste disposal charges
 - TBD: Tree ordinance (Study session with Planning Commission – early April)
- Next Subcommittee meeting dates:
 - SSCOWR: Thursday, April 4
 - Climate Action/Transportation: Wednesday, April 10
- Next Farmers' Market table: TBD – we will also have representatives from the City's arborist firm (West Coast Arborists) attend with us, and we're confirming the date that would work best for them.
- ONE-PS Picnic: March 23
- Library Family Fun Fest: March 27
- Next shredding and e-waste event: April 20
- Opportunities for Commissioner involvement:
 - We will discuss the ONE-PS Picnic in today's meeting
 - Juliet's survey on energy efficiency is open for contributions!
 - English - <https://arcg.is/1849bv0>
 - Spanish - <https://arcg.is/1ymynb0>
 - Stay tuned for further Earth Day planning!
 - Looking ahead: [CCEC Conference](#) on June 25-26

Commission Administrative Matters

- If you are still having trouble with the email address, please email ithelp@palmspringsca.gov and let them know that you are a Sustainability Commission member.
- You may have seen an email from a service called Proofpoint in that email. This is the City's new spam filtering service. Follow the instructions in the Proofpoint email to check your "quarantine." We've noticed that we're getting some overzealous spam filtering at first, so it's a good idea to keep an eye on it.

Updates on Ongoing Work

Water

The State Water Board released [updated draft language](#) for the "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" regulation on March 12. A comment period is open until March 27. After staff has had time to review the updated language, we may propose a comment for the rulemaking.

Turf Conversion

The public turf conversion match has been approximately 50% committed, meaning that about half of the \$1 million allocation has been committed so far. This is pretty close to on schedule, since the City is now on a two-year budget cycle. The team is also currently developing and advising turf removal projects at San Rafael in the Sunrise Norte assessment district (funded by Measure J) and at City Hall.

Waste

The City was awarded a grant of just over \$120,000 from CalRecycle to extend our edible food recovery program to include Tier 2 (large restaurants) generators. We will provide an update to SScOWR at the next meeting.

PSDS has taken on management of the shredding and e-waste collection events. They will host an event on April 20 here at City Hall. Residents will be able to bring bulky items, e-waste, and documents for shredding to the event.

We will return to the Council in late May for our annual public hearing on delinquent waste bills. The team is engaged in removing liens from properties as requested by escrow and title companies once outstanding bills are paid.

Some restaurant owners in the community have expressed frustration with new fees applied to wine bottles. The state's Bottle Bill expansion kicked in at the start of this year, with new return deposits available for wine bottles and other alcoholic beverage containers. Eligible products purchased after Jan 1, 2024 can now be returned to a deposit return center for a refund in a manner similar to that of aluminum cans and plastic bottles.

Foodware

Thanks to the Commission's support and advising, the team is finalizing the work to take an expansion of the foodware ordinance to the City Council in April. We are also working on an analysis of "where we stand" on foodware ordinance compliance to prepare a 6-month action plan.

Our capacity has been constrained, so we haven't made the progress we'd like to make on reducing the impact of VillageFest and other large events. We are hoping to try a light-lift strategy in advance of a dedicated team member joining in the summer to focus on these issues and may identify some funding to bring on a consultant to assist.

Batteries

We have collected batteries from City Hall, Demuth Park, the Leisure Center, the Fire Station, the Library, and the Farmers' Market this month. We are seeing a substantial uptick in collection volumes. Due to contracting issues, we have not been able to mail any batteries in for recycling in about 6 months. We believe we have finally resolved the contracting logjam!

Airport

The Airport will be returning to the City Council to discuss relocating the Signature terminal to the east side of the airport and some other changes to the runways, also referred to as the "airside," and the Consolidated Rental Car Facility, or CONRAC. This will be presented to the City Council on April 11. On April 26, the team will hold a second Community Open House.

EV Charging Stations

Current status of the stations is as follows:

- Museum Station: 5 of 6 Level 2 (medium speed) chargers functioning, all 4 DCFC (fast chargers) partially functioning due to broken charger clips. Roughly 25% of sessions on the DCFC fail
- City Hall Station: Both DCFC fully functioning; 1 of 2 L2 functioning
- Village Green/Belardo stations: both functioning
- Convention Center stations: 2 functioning, 2 not functioning.

Replacement cables and units are expected this month!

EVGo is also upgrading their equipment at the Palm Springs Visitors Center this month, which will bring another fast charger back into service here in the city.

Transportation

Christian reviewed the Transportation Survey Data with the Sustainability Subcommittee on Climate Action based on the 223 responses received from the Transportation Survey. Any commissioner who would like to see the presented data can reach out to Christian.

Christian is working on a plan to revamp and expand the bike repair pumps around the city. He is also working on applying for a Bicycle Friendly Community evaluation via the League of American Bicyclists for the City.

Christian will also be supporting Engineering's work on road reconfiguration projects to add cycling infrastructure to South Palm Canyon and to Racquet Club between Vista Chino and Palm Canyon.

Urban Environment

Outreach continues for the development of the Tree Ordinances and achieving the TreeCity designation. Internal outreach has been very promising and productive. The draft of the Tree Ordinance has been sent out for the City's legal team to review. We hit our Key Goal this month of finalizing a draft of the Tree Ordinance for internal and legal review!

Christian has submitted the proposals for the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants focused on urban heat and shade adaptation to encourage more active transportation. He is now working on an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Transportation grant focused on reducing GHG emissions via multimodal transportation around affordable housing developments.

Community Garden

There is now only one plot remaining in the garden! Christian will plan a meet & greet / potluck with the Community Garden members in the Spring.

Buildings and Energy Efficiency

Juliet continues to focus on the energy efficiency survey and has been taking on leadership roles in her fellowship program focusing on volunteer engagement. She has also advised Palm Springs residents on rebates available for future projects and is preparing updates to our website on incentives and support programs.

She has also been working to develop an induction stove cooking demo that we will discuss at this meeting!

Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Accounting

Christian is working through the utility data acquisition process to obtain data for our 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Data has been acquired from SoCalGas, Southern California Edison, and Desert Community Energy. The team will complete contracting with PlaceWorks this month.

Fleet Electrification and City Emissions Reductions

We are working with Public Works and our City departments to implement a fleet electrification strategy and a roadmap for building energy efficiency programs, hitting our Key Goal of convening our interagency working group on electrification strategy. We made great progress this month in identifying our top challenges and opportunities, and

we look forward to presenting a broader plan in the next six weeks. We are also working on a grant submission to the California Energy Commission for supplemental funding.

Air Quality

No significant updates this month.

Team Updates

We hit another Key Goal this month – we have extended an offer to a Program Coordinator candidate who has accepted! Their updated start date is April 1. We look forward to introducing them at our April meetings.

Our team has joined the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition, a network of cities focused on impacting energy and sustainability regulations in California. We're just getting up to speed, but we look forward to sharing more information and opportunities for engagement from this Coalition with the Commission.

Events and Public Engagement

We will discuss Earth Day a bit during this meeting. We are trying to make the most of the rest of the high season here in Palm Springs! Our new Program Coordinator will be helping with events and outreach, so you will see more content coming through in this section.

Our team participated in the Parks Department's internal and public sessions for their Master Planning process. We hope some Commissioners were also able to attend! The Library will be running a number of sessions for their renovation and Sustainability will be advising that process.

Key Goals for Next Month

We're hoping to continue on the following:

- Mapping key building data to understand target neighborhoods for efficiency programs
- Community outreach and project strategy for City turf conversion projects
- Fixing at least 50% of our out-of-service EV charging equipment by the end of Q1 (we might still make this!!)
- Eliminating 25% of the styrofoam used at VillageFest per month starting in Q1 (see discussion in Waste section) and prepare 6-month action plan for foodware
- Signing up 15 more people per month for the low-income discount program for waste services
- Apply for grant opportunities for sustainable transportation planning and EV charging
- Prepare campaign and program for Earth Day
- Finalize contract for GHG analysis
- Prepare and submit comment to Conservation regulations
- Prepare Foodware Ordinance expansion for City Council
- Bring Tree Ordinance to Planning Commission
- Finalize assistance program for Cannabis Growers
- Finalize fine program and workflow for waste enforcement



Staff Memo to the Sustainability Commission

Date: 19 March 2024

Subject: Tree Ordinance Update

From: Office of Sustainability

Summary

The Sustainability Department has drafted a Tree Protection Ordinance to support the goal of becoming a recognized **Tree City USA** community and fulfilling goals envisioned in the City Council adopted **2016 Sustainability Master Plan**. This memo is providing an update on the progress of the Tree Ordinance.

Recommendation

Prepare for request for support in the next commission meeting after the City's legal team has reviewed the draft. The drafted ordinance will be sent out for review by the commission once it has been reviewed by legal.

Background

The Sustainability Department introduced the plan to develop and implement a Tree Ordinance in order to support the goals of becoming a recognized Tree City and protecting the City's urban forest. The department initially introduced the general idea, steps for drafting the ordinance, and benefits of implementing such an ordinance to the Sustainability Commission in October 2023.

Furthermore, the State Water Resources Board introduced a proposed regulation that would limit water usage across the state in efforts to increase water conservation and promote more efficient use. In the drafting of this regulation, the State Water Resources Control Board expressed that extra leeway for landscape efficiency targets would be given to communities with Tree City recognitions and programs that support "climate ready landscapes".

Staff Analysis

The Department has taken the steps needed to draft the Tree Ordinance. These steps include researching similar ordinances passed in other cities, researching the City of Palm Springs current standards and processes as it relates to urban forestry, meeting with other department and understanding the impact, and drafting an ordinance that would be applicable to the City of Palm Springs. Other cities where similar ordinances have been passed includes but is not limited to the City of Indian Wells, the City of Riverside and the City of Moreno Valley. It should be noted that the only city in the Coachella Valley with a Tree Ordinance and a Tree City USA recognition is the City of Indian Well. Other cities with ordinances used in this research are the City of Palo Alto, City of El Cerrito, City of Rancho Cordova and City of Laguna Beach.

After researching these ordinances, the staff has drafted the document, modeling texts that would be the most appropriate for the City of Palm Springs and its goals. In addition to this, the staff met with the Department of Planning and the Department of Public Works to review the details of the ordinance and understand the scope and impact.

The Sustainability Department, with the help of the Planning Department and Public Works, has narrowed down the scope of the Ordinance to apply to trees on public property, within the public right-of-way and trees on private properties with approved landscape plans. Trees on public properties would include those in parks, medians, city lots, etc. Trees on private properties with approved landscape plans would include developments such as commercial developments, multifamily residence, HOA's, etc. This scope would exclude single family residences that are not part of an HOA. The major sections of this ordinance are outlined as follows:

- a) **Purpose and Definitions:** Outlines the goals of the ordinance, emphasizes the importance of trees and established the key definitions of key terms in the ordinance to ensure clarity and consistency throughout the drafted document.
- b) **Authority and Power:** This section details the delegation of authority, responsibility and enforcement of tree management within the City limits. This includes overseeing actions such as planting, pruning, maintenance, removal and replacement of trees specified in the ordinance.
- c) **Tree Planting and Care Standards:** This chapter sets standards for planting and maintaining public, including adherence to industry standards, utility clearance requirements, preferred species lists, planting distances and guidelines for planting near utility lines.
- d) **Prohibition Against Harming Trees:** This section outlines prohibiting that pertain to harming a tree such as prohibiting damaging or unauthorized removal, attaching objects to trees, and engaging in harmful practices such as tree topping or excessive pruning.
- e) **Removal of Trees:** In this section, the ordinance specifies procedures and requirements for obtaining approval for the removal of a protected or trees on an approved landscape plan, including conditions for replacement and the considerations for wildlife protection.
- f) **Replacement of Trees:** Sets the criteria for the replacement of removed trees, including replacement ratios, species selection, and exceptions based on site suitability or utility inference.
- g) **Tree Protection During Land Development:** Addresses measures to protect trees during construction or development activities, including tree appraisals, establishment of tree protection zones, and requirements for consultations with arborist.
- h) **Adjacent Owner Responsibility:** This section establishes the responsibilities of property owners, leasees, or tenants to maintain trees, shrubs, and plantings in the planting strip and outlines procedures for enforcement.
- i) **Certain Trees Declared a Nuisance:** Declares specific conditions under which trees or vegetation on private property be deemed a nuisance and establishes procedures for abatement.

*It should be noted that this section of the ordinance overlaps and references an existing section of the City's Municipal code, *Palm Springs Municipal Code Chapter 11.72 PUBLIC NUISANCES*.

- j) **Tree Stumps Prohibited:** Prohibits visible tree stumps from the public right-of-way and declares them as a public nuisance. Establishes the requirements for their removal.
- k) **Costs for Tree Removal:** This section clarifies that property owners are responsible for all costs associated with tree removal, including damages to public infrastructure.
- l) **Violation and Penalty:** Outlines enforcement actions and penalties for violations of the ordinance, include fines, restitution, and procedures for citations and appeals.

*This section would be similar to certain processes already in place by the city. Modeled after other codes within the Palm Springs Municipal Code that requires enforcement.

Conclusion

This ordinance aims to uphold the vital role that trees play in the City of Palm Springs by establishing planting, maintenance, removal, and replacement procedures to ensure the health, safety and aesthetic appeal within the City. Establishing a clear standard and procedure for urban forestry within the City by promoting responsible tree management, this ordinance seeks to preserve and enhance Palm Springs' urban forest for the benefit of the residents, visitors, and the environment. Aligning with the City's sustainability goals.

The Sustainability department will further review the draft of the ordinance with the Planning, Public Works and Code Enforcement. Subsequently, the ordinance will then be reviewed by the City's legal team and finalized. The Staff will then hold a study session with the Planning Commission to review the proposed ordinance. Lastly, it will be sent to council as an implementation item.

MEMO

TO: SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION, Attn: Roy Clark, Chair cc: Lindsey-Paige McCloy

FROM: Palm Springs Public Library, Julie Warren

DATE: February 28, 2024

BACKGROUND:

The Sustainability Commission has been a great partner with the Palm Springs Public Library in the past to provide bikes to members of the community as part of our Summer Reading program for several years. It was felt this was a natural tie-in to your health and wellness goals of the Commission. These are great incentives for readers to participate and they continue to be popular, highly-prized grand prizes.

Last year the Library decided not to ask the Sustainability Commission to donate funds for bicycles, so the last time the Commission donated funds was for the **2022 Summer Reading program READ BEYOND THE BEATEN PATH!** That year's theme was focused on outdoor activities, and biking was a perfect fit! The request made to the Commission was to authorize **up to \$500** for the purchase of bikes with helmets and locks to give away as grand finale prizes. Here is a historical look at the contributions of the Commission in the past:

In **2021 Summer Reading program READING COLORS YOUR WORLD**, our reading program continued online and the Commission once again approved our request for \$500 (with the final amount being \$496.91 with tax) for the purchase of three bicycles with helmets to give away as a grand finale prizes. Locks had to be purchased with other sponsor funds due to the cost increases in bikes, etc.

In **2020 Summer Reading program DIG DEEPER: READ, INVESTIGATE, DISCOVER**. This was our first year transitioning to an online only program in response to COVID. The Commission had previously approved our request for \$500 (with the final amount unknown due to loss of files with temporary lay-off) for the purchase of four bicycles with helmets + locks to give away as a grand finale prizes. Getting bikes were a challenge as there were shortages due to COVID and the final bikes weren't purchased until after summer reading had already begun.

In **2019 Summer Reading IT'S SHOWTIME @ YOUR LIBRARY!** At that time the Commission approved our request for \$350 for the purchase of up to three bicycles with helmets + locks to give away as grand finale prizes.

In **2018 Summer Reading READING TAKES YOU EVERYWHERE**, the Commission approved our request for \$350 (with the final amount being \$346.03 with tax and

shipping) for the purchase of three bicycles and one tricycle and all with helmets + locks to give away as a grand finale prizes.

In **2017 Summer Reading READING BY DESIGN**, the Commission approved our request for \$350 (with the final amount being \$351.39 with tax and shipping) for the purchase of 4 bikes + helmets and a razor scooter + helmet to give away as a grand finale prizes.

In 2016 for **Summer Reading 2016 READ FOR THE WIN!**, the commission approved up to \$700 and due to online sales we were able to purchase seven (7) bikes, helmets and locks for a total of \$678.28.

In 2013 for **Summer Reading 2013 READING IS SO DELICIOUS – EAT! MOVE! READ!**, the commission approved up to \$1,200.00 for the purchase of the bikes and safety equipment for each bicycle given. With savvy shopping we were able to purchase eight bikes/helmets/locks for a total of \$748.82.

REQUEST FOR 2024:

With the theme for 2024 Summer Reading being: ***Read, Renew, Repeat.***, we are incorporating programming elements related to recycling, sustainability and being good stewards. We felt that this was a natural tie-in to the goals of the Sustainability Commission and so we thought this might be a good year to reach out to the Commission to see if there was any interest in supporting the Library Summer Reading 2024 program in this way? We ask that you consider authorizing **up to \$500** this year for the purchase of 2-3 bikes with helmets and locks (which may include one tricycle). In return we will list you as a sponsor of Summer Reading and would love for you to be involved at the finale prize drawing on **Wed. July 24, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m. at the Library**. We want to purchase the bikes in May to take advantage of sales that occur during National Bike Month so a decision at your April meeting would be appreciated.

Our Summer Reading program will once again be a hybrid of online registration and interaction with in-person weekly programs and check-ins for free books each week. Participants earn grand prize entry tickets by reaching reading milestones and participating each week. Each participant gets to enter their grand prize entry tickets for the prize they want to try and win.

We haven't chosen all the prize options yet for the grand prizes, but we would like to include bikes this year. We will also purchase some technology items and other popular items, all funded by our Friends of the Palm Springs Library. We have found that people enjoy the variety of items to choose from and they were more invested in trying to 'win' the item of their choice.

Thank you for your consideration.



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)



Meeting Report: Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 19 March 2024	SUBMITTED BY: Roy Clark, Chair
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Standing Subcommittee on Climate Action	DATE SUBMITTED: 7 March 2024
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS: Roy Clark, Kathy Cohn, Erik Graham, Bernard Rottner, Prema Walker	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING: 13 March 2024
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 14 February 2024	

Subcommittee Goal: Develop and implement policies and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the City of Palm Springs by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030. (Reference: Palm Springs Climate Action Roadmap, dated 28 October 2021)

Summary of meeting

PlaceWorks GHG inventory model

- Eli Krispi, Senior Associate at PlaceWorks, gave an overview presentation of the model and methodology that PlaceWorks uses to evaluate greenhouse gas emissions in Palm Springs.
- Results of 2010, 2018, and 2020 (forecast) analyses are in the Climate Action Roadmap.

Transportation survey

- Sustainability Specialist Wheeler presented the results of the transportation survey, which had been included in the agenda packet. There were 230 responses from residents and 15 from visitors.
- Responses to some questions were as follows:
 - The primary mode of transportation is gas vehicles (~70% of respondents), electric or hybrid vehicles (~20%), walking (~4 %), bicycles (~2 %), and public transit (~2 %).
 - The majority of trips are 5 miles or less.
 - Improving road and driving safety, connectivity between locations and public transit, and walking and biking infrastructure are the most important transportation issues in Palm Springs.
 - Traffic, unreliable public transportation, inadequate biking/walking infrastructure, and safety are barriers to transportation in Palm Springs.
- Information about where in the City residents who responded live had not been captured. Commissioners thought it would be useful to have that information to address where improvements could be made, such as adding sidewalks.

Priority for presentation at March meeting

- CV Link: Current development plan/progress and operational plan (CVAG)

Priorities for near-term activities

- Subcommittee members reviewed (1) Appendix A of the Vulnerability Assessment, (2) the 2013 Climate Action Plan, and (3) the 2016 Sustainability Plan, and discussed activities that could be completed in the near term. The activities were captured on the white board in the conference room and are documented at the end of this report.
- The discussion was deferred from February to March.

Shade structures

- The plan for obtaining artistic shade structures for parks presented by the Public Arts Commission at the November Commission meeting was discussed. The subcommittee made the following two recommendations: (1) That the Parks and Recreation Commission provide regular updates on the shade structure plans; and (2) The

Sustainability Commission/Climate Action Subcommittee should request guidelines for materials used in the shade structures. The structures should be sustainable, utilizing durable and recycled materials. The Subcommittee Chair reported these recommendations at the January Commission meeting.

- The Sustainability Commission/Climate Action Subcommittee awaits information from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Wood-burning fires

- Commissioner Graham has received complaints from residents about smoke blowing from outdoor wood-burning fires into their yards. He asked if there were any ordinances or other means of governing wood-burning fires. It was reported that the AQMD has regulations governing wood-burning fires west of the mountains and the Coachella Valley. It may be difficult to get an ordinance passed in Palm Springs, and an ordinance may not be the right tool for dealing with fires. Commissioner Walker volunteered to present an educational approach to dealing with wood-burning fires at the March subcommittee meeting.

Recommendations/Requests to Subcommittee

Continue to prioritize presentations to the subcommittee on organizations and on-going activities, internal and external to the City

- CV Link: Current development plan/progress and operational plan (CVAG)
- Airport expansion (Ref: Jan 25 City Council Meeting) (Airport General Manager)
- Convention Center
- Bicycle routes (Sustainability Specialist Wheeler and Engineering)
- City fleet electrification (Director McCloy)
- Sunline routes/expansion (Sunline General Manager)
- Sustainable transportation planning and EV charging
- Update on buildings programs (CivicSpark Fellow Agtang)
- Parks Master Plan

<u>Request To Commission</u>	Read this report and tell Subcommittee what you would like discussed in more detail in Commission meeting
<u>Request To Office of Sustainability</u>	<p>Expand outreach and education to City Council, City staff, and other commissions; meeting notices and written messaging; integrate sustainability with other organizations</p> <p>Support new activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform GHG inventory, 2020 update and new 2022 (PlaceWorks) Identify the number of houses in the City with solar panels Identify the number of electric vehicles registered in the City by recent year Survey how EV drivers in the City charge their vehicles Investigate EV rideshare programs to serve disadvantaged areas and Navigation Center
<u>Potential Fiscal Impact/Request</u>	<p>Unknown</p> <p>Could be a lot of money required in the long term to implement strategic activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p>

Priorities for Near-Term Activities (notes from 10 January meeting)

- Lead by example section of City Council priorities 2022
 - Senior staff person in each department or interns to provide feedback
- Cool roofs
 - Rebates, assistance
- Shade trees and structures
- Vehicle/car maintenance
- Bus route maximization
 - Collaboration with SunLine
- Water conservation and efficiency
 - Section could be a basis for a new subcommittee
- Workforce expansion and training
 - Connection + data
- Handbooks and checklists for residents, businesses, City departments, etc.
- Vulnerability Assessment categories
 - Air quality
 - Extreme heat
 - Warm nights → LIHEAP connection (?)

Prioritization Framework

1. What is activity already?
2. Where are resources already available?
3. Narrow in or cluster to a smaller list?
4. Low-hanging fruit + easy-medium-hard ranking to show tangible progress
5. Identify ways to empower others to “do”
6. Use what we have—can programs be expanded or pivoted?

Evaluation of Priorities

