

Draft Minutes (including Attendance)
ONE-PS Membership Meeting
December 13, 2022 4:30 - 6:00 pm
Sunrise Park Pavilion, 401 S. Pavilion Way
Palm Springs, CA

[Note from Secretary, Don Barrett: 1) The audio at the Pavilion was very poor during the meeting resulting in Zoom attendees being unable to hear much of the meeting. Due to the poor quality, the Zoom portion was shut down early and there is neither a usable Zoom recording nor a transcription of the closed caption. 2) These notes taken by Bob Heinbaugh will thus serve as minutes of the meeting. 3) Zoom attendees will be counted in the attendance for the meeting]

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peter Sipkins at 4:36 PM. Mr. Sipkins announced Denise Goolsby is absent due to illness, and Acting City Manager Teresa Gallavan is absent due to previous commitments. She is involved with interviews for the prospective City Manager and preparing for the next Council meeting where a new Mayor and two new members to the Council will be sworn into office.

Mr. Sipkins also announced the meeting is not being recorded. He also expressed appreciation to Mayor Lisa Middleton for her excellent job representing the City of Palm Springs for the past year.

The presence of quorum was affirmed by the Chair.

ACTION ITEM: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Richard Bowman, Co-chairperson Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers and at-large candidates for the Board of Directors:

Peter Sipkins, Chair; Kathy Cohn, Vice Chair; Don Barrett, Secretary; Tom Gardner, Treasurer; Vacant, Communications and At-large nominees: Megan Rodriguez, Bob Farran, Ardine Thompson, Cynthia Sessions, Chris Ruetz, and Kate Castle.

ACTION ITEM: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the presented slate of candidates was approved by unanimous acclamation.

Mr. Sipkins expressed appreciation to the retiring board members: Shawna Thomas Faveau, Steven Moses and Jane Williams. He further welcomed the new members: Megan Rodriguez, Bob Farran, Ardine Thompson, and Kate Castle.

During the last Board of Directors meeting, the future of ONE-PS was discussed. Chris Ruetz reported on a poll he conducted of the membership regarding what the organization should be and do in the near future. There was a 70% response to the poll. Generally, the membership expressed concerns the group needs to move beyond being just a social gathering and become more involved in and with the City, and specifically with the City Council. A special Board meeting will be held tomorrow to further discuss the organization's future.

Mayor Lisa Middleton stated the next meeting of the Council will be focused primarily on expressing appreciation to the retiring council members, Goff Kors and Dennis Woods, while welcoming two new council

members, Jeffrey Bernstein and Ron deHarte. Council will also be swearing in Grace Garner as Mayor. Ms. Middleton expressed her pleasure serving as Mayor and she will treasure the experience.

Ms. Middleton referred to another election pertinent to Palm Springs, the election of Joel Kinnerman to the Board of Trustees of College of the Desert. With his presence on the Board, there is expectation the COD will act more favorably to the educational needs of the west Valley, specifically the Palm Springs campus. She also expressed appreciation to those residents who spoke up on behalf of the City by testifying and addressing the COD Board.

The number of homeless persons is growing at an alarming rate throughout the United States and here in Palm Springs as well. Public policy needs to stop its work and ask why so many people are dropping out of society. Homelessness is the number one issue in the State of California; homelessness knows no politics. It is a larger issue than simple politics. She cited the new Los Angeles Mayor's first act was to declare homelessness as an emergency.

Ms. Middleton alerted the membership of a proposed state-wide ballot initiative in 2024. Currently, municipalities can vote and approve local sales tax increases by a simple majority. Special interests in the State are attempting to raise the approval from a simple majority to a required $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. If approved, the initiative will be retroactive one year and jeopardize any future prospects for renewing Measure J, due to expire in a few more years. Backers of the initiative are prepared to spend millions and millions of dollars, making the efforts of Uber and proponents of Props 26 and 27 look pale in comparison.

She addressed a question regarding the concerns of bridge building on Indian Canyon and Gene Autry to preclude the frequent closures due to wind and water. Previous discussions indicated a minimum of \$250 million would be required for each project, and those estimates are about 15 years old. CVAG (Coachella Valley Association of Governments) has explored other options to traditional bridge construction. Using prefabricated bridges, for example, could reduce the construction cost to $\frac{1}{5}$ or $\frac{1}{6}$ of the usual cost of bridge building. Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Viaraigosa recently visited the Palm Springs area, specifically exploring the need to relieve the problems of a lack of access during blowing winds and flooding. About 15,000 vehicles use Indian Canyon per day; about 30,000 use Gene Autry daily. When these roads are closed, approximately one million vehicles are detoured. Indian Canyon is the higher priority for resolution, as it provides the most direct route from Desert Hot Springs to Desert Regional Hospital.

Ms. Middleton further reported on the studies being conducted regarding rail service from the Valley to Los Angeles on a daily basis. There is money for environmental impact studies. It appears that a new, third track laid parallel to the existing two tracks is the most feasible option to explore.

The Short Term Rental Ordinance has had two readings before City Council. Comments made before the Council are being further studied by staff for suggested changes.

The turf conversion program has been very popular. A number of residents filed their applications too soon or began their respective conversion before the December 1 start date. Data shows Palm Springs residents have reduced their water consumption by 20% over the last ten years.

Danny Deselms, Emergency Management, stated a new CERT training program is scheduled for January 20-22, 2023. Eleven individuals completed their training in November. Another training will be scheduled for March 2023. He further stated the Emergency Manager will be working with the Red Cross on their "Sound the Alarm" program, with the goal of installing smoke detectors in low income houses and mobile homes in the City.

Captain Mike Kovaleff announced there are seven openings in the Police Department. Two individuals are currently in the Police Academy with four individuals preparing to make lateral moves to PSPD. Eleven officers are out on sick leave.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding issues about homelessness. PSPD will be increasing the number of officers focusing on homelessness from one to three next year. There has been some success in placing a few families and individuals into housing or assisting them in returning to their original homes outside California. Drug addiction and mental health issues are the primary ingredients driving homelessness. The police department recognizes homelessness is not a crime, but many behaviors thereof are crimes. A major problem is that once a person has been arrested for a specific crime, they are booked and almost immediately released because most of the crimes are misdemeanors. There are few rehab facilities for the homeless, many having been unsuccessful in treatment centers. Homeless individuals are a major problem for homeowners and businesses in Palm Springs. Captain Kovaleff reminded members of the "Idaho Decision" whereby homeless individuals cannot be removed without there being a sufficient number of housing units available within a municipality. Those individuals are subject to arrest if they are blocking sidewalks. He stated the PSPD mission seems to be people moving, getting one group of homeless individuals out of one place, then they quickly re-group in another location. The PSPD is hoping for further assistance legislatively from the City Council.

The Navigation Center should be open within six months. It will be providing services to approximately 80 individuals. Currently, there is no overnight facility for the homeless in Palm Springs.

In response to a question regarding what the PSPD brings to the solution, he stated most of the proposed legislation from policing groups in California, has been nixed within the Legislature. One aspect that would be helpful is to have court-ordered treatment for drug addiction. The discussion continued with issues such as shopping cart theft, how disabled individuals are treated and cared for, and when and for what reason to call the PSPD regarding a homeless person or issue.

Nathan Gunkel, for the PS FD, stated the department serviced over 1000 calls last month, with 80% of them being a medical response. There are 13 new firefighters/paramedics joining the department. To participate with the PSFD's toy drive, individuals can bring gifts to Station 2.

L P McCloy, Sustainability Office, reported on six items:

1. A shredding/e-waste event will take place January 24, 2023.
2. There are 30 community gardening plots which are being reviewed by the department. Currently, residents pay \$30 for a small plot and \$50 for a large one. Applications for next year will be possible in January 2023.
3. Holiday Season is also battery season. Used batteries do not go in the trash, but can be recycled at City Hall, the Leisure Center, Fire Station 2, and the PS Library.
4. The composting implementation is moving forward. Members are requested to share successes and failures with Ms. McCloy.
5. The turf conversion has some money available for HOA applications.
6. DWA and the Sustainability Commission are intending to have members move away from recyclable bottles during meetings and utilize reusable containers from home.

Palm Springs Disposal Service, Liz Hernandez, spoke to the composting roll-out which began in October. "Waste Ambassadors" are meeting with HOA groups and organizations in their service area, to provide more and accurate information regarding the composting. They are also providing stickers to place on trash containers identifying what items go in each type of container. Christmas trees can be recycled within three

weeks after the holiday. Residents should cut the trees to four foot lengths and place these at the curb on schedule pick up days.

Bernard Rottner spoke to the ONE-PS Annual Picnic, set for March 25, 2023. He distributed a flier detailing the event and introduced new incentives for NOrgs to participate in the picnic events.

Mr. Sipkins was reminded to disband the Nominating Committee, which he did. He also expressed appreciation to the NOrg that provided balloon wranglers for the Festival of Lights Parade. Tom Oliver of Warm Sands, provided Prescott Preserve information about making neighborhoods Wildlife Safe.

Xochitl Pena, Desert Water Agency, spoke about the success of the turf conversion program, reiterating money remains available for small HOA projects. In response to a question, she stated there is no up-front money available for those low-income residents to participate, further stating those residents who do qualify are entitled to rebates of \$8 per square foot of turf removed. Ms. McCloy assisted in responding that a similar situation exists for HOAs, noting that currently there is no up-front money but that is being considered for next year. She further stated parties are in discussion about how to assist low-income residents.

Lauren Wolfer, PS Cultural Center, announced group rate tickets are available for ONE-PS for each of the following shows: "Why Won't the Train Run on Time?" and "The Lincoln Debate". Keisha D will be performing, December 18. The movie "Die Hard" will be released on December 22. "Auntie Mame" will be presented December 26.

ACTION ITEM: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Heinbaugh
Secretary Pro Tem

Neighborhood Organizations attending (n=32):

Andreas Hills
Araby Cove
Baristo
Canyon Corridor
Deepwell Estates
El Dorado Palms
El Rancho Vista Estates
Escena
Four Seasons
Gene Autry
Indian Canyons
Little Beverly Hills
Little Tuscany
Los Compadres
Melody Ranch
Mountain Gate
Old Las Palmas
Palm Canyon Neighborhood
Racquet Club West
Ranch Club Estates
Rimrock
Rogers Ranch
Sonora Sunrise
Sunmor
Sunrise Park
Tahquitz River Estates
Tahquitz Creek Golf
Twin Palms
Upper West Side
Vista Las Palmas
Warm Sands
Westgate PS