

Minutes (draft)
ONE-PS MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
12.10.2024
4:30-6:00
PALM SPRINGS POLICE TRAINING CENTER

CALL TO ORDER at 4:31 by Chris Ruetz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Carlene Hart, 2nd by Robyn Angeli passed with none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from 11.12.2024

Motion by Carlene Hart, 2nd by Robyn Angeli passed with none opposed.

NEW VISITORS

Chris Ruetz welcomed new attendees from the Rose Garden neighborhood of Baristo, Upper West Side, Melody Ranch, Twin Palms, and Palm Canyon NOrgs.

MEMBERSHIP TOPICS

Carlene Hart thanked everyone who donated the 72 pairs of socks which she took to the Fill the Bus event. Bob Farran also thanked all who contributed to the 108 jars of peanut butter which went to local food banks. Jasmine Waits expressed gratitude to ONE-PS for being instrumental to the success of the city's many special events.

CITY LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Mayor's Report by Jeffrey Bernstein acknowledged the unfortunate event at the Festival of Lights Parade and the expressions of concern for all involved in it. There are more events planned during the holiday season such as caroling, the Desert Winds Freedom Band playing on the Plaza, Santa at the Kimpton, Modern Men and Gay Men's Chorus, Village Fest becomes a holiday market, and the Musical Theatre University students performing at 6pm on the 13th/14th/15th in front of Forever Marilyn. All upcoming events can be found listed at palmspringsholidays.org. City council reached a settlement with the Section 14 Survivors in November. The agreement includes a 5.9 million dollar cash payment with reallocation of existing funds going towards homeownership and economic development. 20 million dollars of the funds gathered from the vacation rental tax will go towards affordable home ownership over the next 10 years. This will be done through a community land trust and assistance for first time home buyers. 1 million dollars will also be directed to Caravanserai to fund for-profit and nonprofit organizations for under-resourced and marginalized members of the community. The new Aids Memorial which will be installed in Downtown Park was also approved by council. New arts projects for Gateway, Baristo, Desert Highland, Victoria, and Ruth Hardy parks were also announced. Kalura Trattoria's patio needs to be relocated to meet exit requirements for the Plaza Theatre. The city will fund a permanent patio in front of the restaurant to replace the one in front of the theater. The unfunded reserve for CalPers will be paid down and be 90% funded by 2040 to improve the city's fiscal stability. An underground utilities ordinance was passed to allow neighborhoods, not necessarily NOrgs, to pay to have overhead utility lines buried. The upcoming council session will be the swearing-in ceremony for Naomi Soto in District 4 and David Ready in District 5. At that meeting Ron deHarte will become the 27th Mayor of Palm Springs and Naomi Soto will be Mayor Pro Tem. Groundbreakings occurred for the COD and the restart of construction for the Dream Hotel. The hotel will add 155 rooms and 89 condos/townhomes to the downtown area. Both projects are slated to open in 2027. Airport Master Plan meetings are continuing to be held. A compromise parking arrangement with a three-story building attached to the terminal and another two-story building at the south end of the airport ground winning consensus. A

community meeting on hate crimes with city staff was held recently. Police Chief Andy Mills outlined steps the department is taking to ensure the safety of all residents of Palm Springs. The Palm Springs International Film Festival will be welcoming Arian Grande, Nicole Kidman, Angelina Jolie, Selena Gomez, and Timothy Chalamet plus more stars. The Chick-fil-A is going to the Planning Commission tomorrow. The Destination PSP Holiday Open House and Toy Drive is Sunday from 3-6p to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs. Police Chief Andy Mills reported on the event that occurred at the Festival of Lights Parade. Before the parade started an officer lost control of his motorcycle and injured approximately 12 people including himself. The officer's hand was nearly severed but by modern medicine he still has use of it and the other injuries were released from the emergency room that night but for maybe two. The investigation of the incident is being conducted by CHP so that there is no influence from within PSPD. Pending the investigation the motor fleet has been grounded and there will be an internal administrative review. Once the review is completed and evaluated by Chief Mills and Scott Stiles it will be released to the public. An internal personnel investigation will also be conducted as well as a mandatory departmentwide risk management training. This information is also available on the city's social media sites. The parade was allowed to continue because the scene was secured and the transport vehicles for approximately 1,000 children in the parade were at the north end of the route. Additionally, there was no way to notify the 100,000 attendees of the reason for cancellation and manage the dispersal of that many people at one time. The department will take firm, serious steps to make sure nothing like this happens again.

City Manager's Report by Scott Stiles commended Police and Fire for their response and management of the parade incident. He also congratulated Jasmine Waits and her staff for their help immediately after the accident occurred. Scott also introduced the new Director of Parks & Recreation Nick Gonzalez. Nick was the director of the same department in Ontario. Palm Springs International Film Festival will be huge this year showcasing our community leading into Modernism Week with the Black History Parade/festivities following that. The fires in Malibu should make us all aware of brush conditions around our own homes and help the Fire Department effort to prevent wildfires. The south tower of the Thompson Hotel will open in early January and the restaurant is open to the public.

MONTHLY TOPICS

Brian Ramos, Little Beverly Hills NOrg Communications Officer, provided information as to how the organization stays in contact with residents and presents itself to the public. Resident info can be obtained by door-to-door contact, at events, and also FOIA request through the City Clerk in the case of short term rentals. Resident information can also be obtained from the HOA in condo/townhouse situations. The LBHNO website has information on its history, event calendar, volunteer opportunities, a blog, and a newly created digital FlipBook newsletter. In addition to the website the NOrg is also on Instagram and Facebook as a means of internal and external communication. Website publishing services are relatively inexpensive on an annual basis depending on the needs of the organization.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Board Election 2025 was conducted by Paula Auburn who made the motion to accept the slate as presented, 2nd by Lauri Svedberg and passed with none opposed nor abstained. Chris Ruetz also complimented Bob O'Neill and all the balloon wranglers from the parade.

CITY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Police Department Report by Lt Mike Villegas reminded everyone of the Shop with a Cop event at the Walmart on Saturday. This year \$10,000 was raised to help the children of the 30 families involved in the project. Lt Gus Araiza gave thanks to the Canyon Palms NOrg for their contribution and participation in the Pickleball Tournament as a way to fund the charitable events the Police Department sponsors. There are 2 new officers in the department, one graduated from the Police Academy and a lateral transfer from the Sheriff's Office.

Lt Frank Browning will be retiring at the end of the month and Lt Araiza will take over as South Area Commander until new assignments are made. Lt Villegas explained that the silver lining to the recent events and those prior for him is the outpouring of support this organization has shown to the law enforcement community. This is his last meeting as Department Liaison and he expressed his thanks and holiday wishes.

Fire Department Report by Capt Ron Skyberg expressed the solidarity of the support between the Police and Fire Departments. The Franklin Fire in Malibu is a reminder that Palm Springs is bordered by Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and fire season is all year long. Brush should always be cleared early and cleared often to stay safe. Toys are being collected at Fire Station 2 in collaboration with the Palm Springs Fire Foundation up to the 25th. Any donations after the 25th will be accepted and used for next Christmas. The Boys & Girls Club is one of the recipients and their event is being held on December 18th. Applications to join the Department are being accepted with testing to begin in February 2025.

Emergency Management Report announced a new CERT class in January 2025.

Desert Water Agency Report by Xochitl Peña introduced Victoria Llorca who is the Public Affairs and Conservation Director. She explained that the DWA Facilities Tour may become an annual event rather than the current spring/fall schedule. New state mandates require more staff time devoted to outreach and partnership opportunities to continue to comply with the regulatory targets. Pipeline replacement projects are continuing starting the second week in January in the Racquet Club Estates area and Historic Tennis Club plus downtown in February. Updates will be available at DWA.org/pipelines. The rebates and incentive program continues for appliances and fixtures. A reminder was also given to not put fats, oils, and grease down the drain during holiday cooking nor at any other time.

Sustainability and Recycling Report by Ben Villa announced the shredding event on January 11th at the Convention Center with pre-shredding at City Hall January 6th-9th from 8-5p. Pre-shredding is paper only while e-waste and bulky items will be accepted on the 11th. The community cleanup is back starting with James O Jessie community on January 25th and working south towards the rest of the city.

Palm Springs Disposal Service by Liz Hernandez gave a reminder that PSDS does collect Christmas trees. Removal of the base/ornaments and dividing the tree into 4 ft sections is requested then set it out on collection day for pickup. Call-in for the free 2 bulky items pickup per month is available.

Office of Neighborhoods Report by Denise Goolsby announced the Christmas Movie in the Park event on the 13th from 7-9p, the Friends of the Palm Springs Library Holiday Bazaar on the 14th from 10a-1p, Santa will be at Village Fest on the 19th from 6-9p, and Breakfast with Santa is on the 21st from 8-11a at the Leisure Center Pavilion. Denise thanked all for their amazing and inspirational volunteerism throughout the year. Surprise birthday greetings were extended to Denise on behalf of the ONE-PS organization.

PUBLIC COMMENTS were not made.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:03 by common consent of the body.