

Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs — ONE-PS
Minutes Draft
November 9, 2022
4:30-6:00PM
Pavilion, 401 S Pavilion Way

Minutes are in italics, attendance is at the end

Thank you to Robert Heinbaugh, Secretary of Upper West Side Neighborhood Organization for providing his detailed notes for his NOrg newsletter. These minutes are edited and revised versions of those notes.

Meeting began at 16:38

1. WELCOME

Peter Sipkins

Vice Chair Kathy Cohn conducted the meeting for chair Sipkins who was absent due to illness.

Approve Agenda

Because of a previous commitment for Councilmember/Mayor Lisa Middleton, her presentation occurred at the beginning. The summary of her presentation is under item 5.

Festival of Lights / volunteer Norgs

It was noted that additional volunteers are needed for the Festival of Lights and the sign-up sheet was distributed.

2. CONFIRM QUORUM

Denise Goolsby/other

Confirmed

3. Approval of Minutes of 10/11/2022-**ACTION ITEM** Don Barrett

Unanimously approved

4. Chair Comments and Announcements

Peter Sipkins

a) Introduction - Yvonne Wise, new Parks & Rec Director

Ms. Wise spoke briefly regarding her short tenure here in Palm Springs, as well as her hopes, desires, and commitment to the improvement of our parks and recreation facilities.

b) Approval and Welcome of Sunrise-Rafael NOrg **ACTION ITEM**

The application of Sunrise-Rafael was introduced by Denise, Bob Heinbaugh moved to accept Ardine Thompson seconded, it was accepted unanimously

c) Nominations Committee acknowledgment (see next)

d) Nominated and Outgoing Board Members

The Nomination Committee presented the slate of officers and at-large members for next year. The following individuals have been nominated along with their position:

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

It was noted that there are still opportunities for members to self-nominate. The election will be held during next month's meeting.

e) ~~Board meeting report~~

f) 2023 Brown Bags / location (Don Barrett)

Don Barrett stated the Brown Bag lunch in October hosted about 40 individuals who learned more about the composting issue. The Brown Bag lunches will resume in January at a site to be determined.

g) 2023 Retreat (Saturday, 01-28-2023)

Chris Ruetz stated that the 2023 ONE-PS Retreat will be held Saturday, January 28, 2023. The break-out concept and best practices issues will be the focus of the retreat. The location of the event is to be determined.

5. City Council

Lisa Middleton

Note this presentation occurred at the beginning of the meeting:

The Councilmember/Mayor Middleton began by expressing appreciation for the success of Pride Week, the high level of participation by ONE-PS

members and residents, and encouraged a standing ovation to the police force and associated personnel for their superb efforts in maintaining the safety of the entire event. Police Chief Mills reported to the Ms. Middleton that there were zero arrests during the event.

Ms. Middleton explained the subsequent election processes assuming the results are the same as the current reported figures. The County has only counted half the votes cast at this time, so results could be different. With Councilmember Holstege's current lead, there will likely be four new members on the City Council. Replacing Ms. Holstege will be discussed during the November 28 Council meeting. Council has some opportunities to fill the position. One is to appoint an individual to the Council. If that option is implemented, residents who have an interest in the seat, will submit their respective credentials, and the Council will hold public interviews then determine who will be appointed. Another option is to hold an election, the earliest possible date being in May 2023. This option provides for the Council to appoint an interim Council member until a permanent one is elected. Such an election will be exclusively a mail-in balloting procedure for District 4 residents only.

The change in Council membership will take place during the December 15, 2022 meeting.

Issues for the upcoming Council meeting (11/10) will include the Vacation Rental Ordinance. Ms. Middleton reviewed the existing conditions of the ordinance citing problem areas and specific concerns. She addressed staff input and a citizen's workgroup input, caps on the number or rental days, requiring owners to reside in their properties for a minimum number of days, and the concept of "Junior Permits". Such junior permits will allow low-cost permits for between six to eight times each year, especially during festivals such as Pride, Coachella, Stagecoach and the like. She also presented the concept of caps on the number of STVR in each neighborhood, using the neighborhoods identified by ONE-PS. She noted that it is illegal to convert apartments to rental units. There are exceptions for HOAs which will set their own rules. Applications are being processed in the order in which they have been received. When the STVR review was publicly announced, the City was deluged with applications for STVR permits. The Council will also consider terminating the application process either this week or permit them to continue until the scheduled deadline at the end of this month.

6. City Manager (interim)

Teresa Gallavan

Interim City Manager Teresa Gallavan reiterated Ms. Middleton's comments regarding the events of Pride Weekend. She commented on the fact that during the events, it was the first time in her public career that she helped unveil a "Drag Queen Crossing" sign; she also mentioned the pride in the library event. She also spoke to the STVR concerns coming before the City Council. Ms. Gallavan also cited the Council meeting on November 28 will be on a Monday, and the Agenda will include child care zoning concerns, sidewalk vending and food truck policies, and the Sustainability Director will speak to the Climate Change Policy. Ms. Gallavan also announced the hiring of David McAbee as Director of Public Works. She stated the Council will begin interviewing candidates for the City Manager position this month. In response to a question, Ms. Gallavan noted that she is not applying for City Manager and will be happy to return to her previous position as Assistant City Manager.

7. City Departments

Emergency Management

Danny Deselms

(not present due to family responsibilities)

Fire

Nathan Gunkel

Nathan Gunkel, Fire Department, spoke to the 1100+ calls for service the department has answered in the last month, noting that about 80% of those are medical. He also provided information on the recent swift water rescues the department managed, and spoke to the dangers of entering road water when it rains here. He urged everyone not to attempt to skirt the barricades positioned to keep drivers out and away from danger. He also addressed a question regarding the City of creating and supporting its own ambulance service, as often there is lag time for ambulance support arriving at a location when needed; he noted that all firemen are medically trained and thus patients are under care during the wait for an ambulance .

Police

William Hutchinson

Lieutenant William Hutchinson, Police Department, addressed the success of Halloween, Pride Parade, and the imminent Veteran's Day Parade thanking the community for their support in keeping everyone safe. He acknowledged the cooperation of the Joint Information

Center which alerts the SWAT teams and patrol officers of online threats. He also referred to a recent Crime Prevention Seminar where a small cadre of individuals presented concepts for reducing crime in the City. Next summer, about 300 criminologists will be present in Palm Springs digging for data on what attracts crime, what possibilities can be implemented to mitigate that crime, and associated community policing concepts. Each NOrg will be involved in a self-assessment as one way to participate in this event. The police department is looking into issues related to vehicle pollution such as loud engines, music, and exhaust gasses. What does this look like and what tools can be developed to reduce these issue concerns within the City?

Lt. Hutchison stated further that the state and county courts have released about 2500 individuals who had been facing proceedings. The huge back-log in the courts prompted the release of these persons, and the police department is looking at ways to maintain low crime rates herein.

He also spoke to correct confusion regarding the Surveillance Camera Registry created by the PSPD. The PD is NOT attempting to access any registered cameras' live capabilities. The PD only desires to have camera access after an event has occurred. Access is not limited to Ring cameras. Any home surveillance camera can be registered.

Sustainability

LP McCloy

LP McCloy, Sustainability Manager, expressed appreciation for the number of individuals who participated in the recent shredding event. The next one will be in January 2023. She also spoke to the Turf Conversion program where the City matches Desert Water Agency's \$3 per square foot for converting yards to less water-consuming sites, preferably desert landscaping. There is a \$5,000 cap match, but applicants can extend that knowing the extension is reduced to \$3 per square foot after the cap has been met. Applications on file are NOT grandfathered into the existing process, although that has not been ruled out officially. Applications should begin about December 1, 2022.

8. Veterans Day and Festival of Lights

Bob Farran

a. Modernism, Pride recap

Committee Chair Bob Farran expressed appreciation to Shann Carr for her exceptional service for Modernism Week. He also thanked the Pride group for their work.

9. Getting to Know the NOrgs (Rimrock)

Carlene Hart of the Rimrock NOrg introduced her neighborhood to the membership and stressed the value of NOrgs working with the city on various issues, describing her Norg's successes with the Canyon View housing project, the long-awaited flood control project to address flooding that had occurred in Safari Mobile Home Park, and the city's cooperation in dealing with problems from neighboring automobile dealerships. She brought along a gift basket and \$25 gift card that Vons had donated to ONE-PS in appreciation of Rimrock's ability to connect Vons with police officers to address problems raised by the unhoused in the shopping center. Ms. Hart also expressed appreciation to ONE-PS for creating volunteer opportunities for students from College of the Desert, who are required ten hours of community service work, and prefer to help with ONE-PS activities.

10. Standing Committee Chairs, Announcements Only

(See Website (ONE-PS.Org) for Written Reports)

Finance Tom Gardiner

Events Bob Farran

Code Enforcement/Public Works Don Barrett

Stated that CEPW would have its regular monthly meeting on 11/17

Neighborhood Support Chris Ruetz

11. Desert Water Agency Xochitl Pena

Xochitl Pena, Desert Water Agency, expressed appreciation to the City for matching grants for turf conversion.

11. Palm Springs Disposal Liz Hernandez

(no report)

12. Office of Neighborhoods Denise Goolsby

Denise Goolsby, Manager Office of Neighborhoods, stated she has produced her first Newsletter, and the responses have been positive. NOrgs are

encouraged to submit information about their respective activities to be included in the Newsletter.

13. Membership Discussion Topics Reps and Alts
(none)

14. Public comments (2 Minutes)
(email copy in advance to monthly@ONE-PS.org)

Ernest Cecena of Tahquitz Creek Golf stated that he was going to be a candidate for Council District 4, if Councilmember Christy Holstege wins an Assembly seat.

Vice Chair Kohn noted that other candidates are free to announce during the public comments.

15. Adjournment (18:10)