

Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs – ONE-PS  
Membership Meeting Minutes,  
February 8, 2022 5:30-7:00 PM

1. WELCOME Peter Sipkins

Chair Sipkins called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

The agenda was approved without objections.

2. TAKE ATTENDANCE/CONFIRM QUORUM Denise Goolsby or  
Kathy Cohn

Attendance was taken to confirm a quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes of 01/11/2022 - **ACTION:** Kathy Cohn

The Minutes were approved as posted without objection.

4. Chair Comments Peter Sipkins

Peter informed the members that Vice Chair Ted Janka will be moving to New Mexico, so he has resigned his positions as vice chair and chair of the Events Committee, effective 2/16/2022.

Peter reported that the board of directors voted for Jane Williams to replace Ted Janka as a Director-at-Large. Jane is a current member of the Neighborhood Support committee and a former director-at-large. Peter explained that the directors will elect a replacement for the vacated vice-chair position at the March BOD Meeting.

Peter introduced Joy Meredith Brown and April Gunkel, co-chairs of the ONE-PS/City Picnic committee, the picnic is scheduled for Saturday, 3/19/2022, 11:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. They both thanked Bob Farran for keeping them on task. They briefed the members on the plans for the return of the picnic after a 2-year hiatus. This year's added feature will be the recognition of city staff and departments for their steadfast service throughout the pandemic. They encouraged the NOrgs to sponsor a booth for \$35.00. They also announced that they need a NOrg to handle the registration and another to handle the dog costume contest. The Picnic flyer and Sponsor application are on the ONE-PS website.

5. City Council Lisa Middleton

Lisa thanked Joy, April, and Bob for their work on the picnic to recognize and celebrate after 2 rough years. She also commented on the celebrations and events during Black History Month. Lisa reminded the members that Dr. Martha Garcia, President/Superintendent of College of the Desert (COD) Rubin Perez, chair of its board trustees and staff are scheduled to address the PS City Council and respond to questions (this meeting with Council was subsequently canceled). Lisa stressed the importance of this opportunity to address the concerns of residents and businesses in the western region of the Coachella Valley. The stalled COD planning and development have frustrated taxpayers, given that they supported the bond election to fund the west valley campus in Palm Springs.

Lisa also urged the members to attend the listening sessions that Chief Mills will conduct next week in each district. (See Chief Mill's remarks below.)

Dennis Woods

The Council will also hold a public hearing on the redistricting maps for the City. Councilman Woods noted that the current districts are not balanced by population. There are several proposed maps that would remedy the unbalanced populations. They are posted on the City's website.

6. City Manager

Justin Clifton

City Manager Clifton said that moving forward with the purchase of the property for the Navigation Center and the rollout of the wrap-around services for the homeless/unhoused is a top priority. He said there will be continuous outreach to the Desert Highland Gateway Estates Neighborhood beginning next month. Martha's Kitchen will manage the Navigation Center and its programs. According to Justin, that organization has successfully managed the temporary shelter at the Methodist Church and services at the Boxing Club without causing negative secondary impacts on the surrounding neighborhood. He noted that the homeless issue is a dynamic situation, so various adjustments will likely be needed.

Justin also commented on the delayed release of Covid data by Riverside County. Over 100,000 backlogged cases in the county were just reported.

He also commented on the importance of the COD moving forward with the construction of robust facilities to enable the higher education capacity in the west valley region.

Justin called on **Chief Andrew Mills** to announce the meetings that will be conducted at 4:00 p.m. next week in each of the five Council Districts. Chief Mills announced that the goal will be to first hear from the community what they want the mission of the PS Police Department to be. A similar exercise will be conducted with the department. By April, Chief Mills intends to have identified priorities common to both the department and the community.

#### 7. City Employees and Departments\_

Danny De Selms (CERT) clarified the misreporting of the Covid data. Due to the surge of the omicron variant cases over the holidays, 110,654 were not reported until this week, thereby distorting the timing of the surge. The next weekly report should reflect a more accurate count.

Danny announced a new CERT class will be held April 8-10, 2022 with no cap on enrollment. He hopes for a class of 40-45, an increase of at least 10 peoples. Also, The Red Cross will resume its Smoke Detector Inspection program this month.

Nathan Gunkel (Fire Dept) reported that staffing is still a challenge resulting in a high rate of overtime to cover for ill and injured fire fighters. Seven positions were advertised this week. Nathan encouraged the members to call 911 if they see a fire in an open field. Be a good witness; note description of suspects and, if possible, stay near the fire until the department arrives

Lt. Gustavo Araiza introduced a different and more useful means for sharing crime data. Using graphics that showed the standard deviation, hot spots across types of crimes are easier to detect than they are when one looks at raw numbers over a 6-year period. He reported car theft as a hot spot. The cost of auto parts has surged, so many stolen cars are being stripped down and the parts sold illegally. Lt. responded to a concern raised by Deiter Crawford concerning increased homicides, eight in Desert Highlands. Lt. Araiza indicated that Lt. Frank Browning would be meeting this evening with that neighborhood.

#### 8. Food Waste Presentation

Tracy Sheldon, PS Sustainability and Recycling department, and Chris Cunningham, PS Disposal Services, provided a Power Point overview of how trash is currently handled. SB1383 requires changes to managing disposal of food waste, the primary source of methane gas. The City and PS Disposal are working together for implementation October 1, 2022. New equipment, trucks, and bins will be necessary. All residents in single family homes will have 3 bins, each with pictures to illustrate what goes into the brown/gray, blue, and green bins. More information will be available closer to the implementation date.

#### 9. Standing Committee Reports (See Written Reports)

Finance Tom Gardiner

The Six-Month Financials are posted.

Communications Charlie Roddy

The Talk of the Town programs were informative and drew notable audiences. The Communications Committee will be considering communication strategies that better serve both the virtual and in-person modes.

Events Ted Janka

Ted noted that this would be his last meeting. He thanked those who got him involved in ONE-PS. He encouraged folks to volunteer in events by contacting Events or using the volunteer form on the website. The Farmers Market is a standing booth event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month. The Black History Parade and Village will be Feb.26th. (Downtown Park). And of course the Picnic is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Code Enforcement/Public Works Don Barrett

Don announced that CEPW has begun posting a guide and summary of recent actions on the ONE-PS website.

Neighborhood Support

Peter Sipkins

Peter told Reps and Alts that to better support the NOrgs, the committee wants to have one director attend your NOrg's annual meeting. Please email Denise with the date, time, and location of your annual meeting. He also announced that recently we have received 3 inquiries from neighborhoods wanting to formally organize!

#### 10. Desert Water Agency

Xochitl Pena

Xochitl announce that DWA has a \$300,000 budget for residents' water conservation projects. Also, DWA is holding a hearing on their redistricting maps Feb. 9 at 6:00 p.m. Please find the details at DWA.org.

11. Office of Neighborhoods

Denise Goolsby

Volunteers needed to conduct the Census of the Homeless Community, Feb. 23. Meet at the PS Convention Center 5:30 A.M.

PS has received a large number of trees that will be planted throughout the city on Arbor Day. Contact Denise for details.

12. Membership Discussion Topics

Reps and Alts

Carlene asked about information and assistance for the Horizon Mobile Park located on leased land in her NOrg. The lease expires in 2023. The residents need guidance.

13. Public comments (2 Minutes)  
Good Meeting!

Cathy Liss thanked Steve, Ted, and Denise for their support in forming their NOrg.

14. Adjournment at 7:04 p.m.

Peter Sipkins