

Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs – ONE-PS
Membership Meeting, June 14, 2022
4:30-6:00PM

Minutes

Pavilion, 401 S Pavilion Way

Format notes:

Items that were on the agenda but not addressed are struck through

Summaries of presentations are in italics

Explanatory notes are in brackets []

Link for meeting [Materials](#)

1. WELCOME *started at 4:36PM* Peter Sipkins

Peter Sipkins announced that we were providing Zoom viewing of the meeting for those who were out-of-town. [No one used the Zoom]

Approve Agenda approved unanimously
2. CONFIRM QUORUM *confirmed* Denise Goolsby
3. Approval of Minutes of 05/10/2022 - **ACTION ITEM** Richard Allegra
approved unanimously
4. Chair Comments and Announcements Peter Sipkins
 - A. Meeting Times Survey Results

Peter Sipkins noted survey sent by Denise Goolsby, that the only strong approval was for meetings not to be at 8AM, roughly equal approval for 4PM or 5PM, that the board compromised with 4:30PM. Regarding where, very little approval for Mizell dining room, highest approval for Mizell meeting room and Pavilion, Board noted would be at Pavilion for this and July meeting [no August meeting]
 - B. College of the Desert - Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, 2 vacancies; Applications due 5:00 p.m. 6/30/2022

Kathy Cohn described the openings and the importance of the positions and how to apply for them.
 - C. Nominations Committee -

Peter Sipkins announced committee of Richard Bowman, Jim Knauss, Sid Craig, Russ Uthe, and Leslie Gardiner; Richard Bowman and Paula Auburn are co-chairs. [Leslie Gardiner did not join the committee]

D. Resume Brown Bag Program: Retreat Topics, Recycling, etc.

Peter Sipkins noted that we will be resuming the Brown Bags, the Board will choose topics based on needs noted in Retreat and upcoming issues.

5. City Council

Dennis Woods

Council Member Dennis Woods noted that Council will be approving the Budget in the 6/16 Council meeting, among the issues addressed will be \$3m measure J projects, that there is a surplus which will allow for some discretionary (one-time spending) and some bringing back of programs and rehiring staff. He noted the franchise [PSDS] agreement is up for review and there will be increased costs due to mandated addressing of composting to reduce green house gases. He also note plans for July 4th, that the laser light show of last year was not well-received and thus there will be a return of fireworks and a drone light show at the downtown park on July 2nd. He also described current issues related to handling the homeless and the need for the navigation center that will provide wrap-around services.

Questions from the audience included planning for the impact of the likely recession on the city budget, where there were currently overnight facilities for the homeless, and about a problem with SCE shutting down neighborhoods overnight for repair during the summer heat.

6. ~~City Manager~~

~~Justin Clifton~~

7. City Departments

Danny De Selms

Danny De Selms described the importance of cooling shelters, the difference between public and private cooling shelters, that this was pet preparedness month and to protect animals from the heat, and noted that those who wear masks outdoors in summer should use cotton, not N95, due to breathing problems in the heat. He also noted that a CERT course was planned for the coming weekend but may be canceled due to too few participants (due to heat).

~~Nathan Gunkel~~
PS Police

Lieutenant William Hutchinson described operation clean streets, a targeted approach used downtown, including service providers, to deal with regular offenders. He noted that sometimes the homeless are not moved because moving them disrupts their connections with service providers, they are ineligible to be moved, or don't want to move. Noted that the navigation center will provide more resources (including bed space) and will give the police more leverage to act by addressing, "how can we help get you off the streets." He did note that we are short on mental health and substance use providers.

He was congratulated by the department's quick response to the gun fire issue at McDonald's but noted that their response was helped by extensive cameras in the area and witnesses. There were also questions about whether there may be active shooter training at the convention center in the future and noted that Chief Mills was working in that direction. He was also asked about enforcement of speed limits and noted that there will multiple solutions to speed problems including changes in infrastructure.

Sustainability

[Covered by PSDS, noted further below]

8. Getting to Know the NOrgs (Will resume in September)

Desert Highland Gateway Estates

[Presented by Cynthia Sessions, see attachment]

Escena

[Presented by Ardine Thompson, see attachment]

Sunmor

[Presented by Richard Bowman, see Sunmor [website](#)]

9. ONE-PS Budget for 2022-23 (first reading)

Tom Gardiner

[Presented after Events presentation (see below), see the proposed budget in the [materials](#) for this meeting]

10. Standing Committee Chairs, Announcements Only
(See Website ([ONE-PS.Org](#)) for Written Reports)

Finance

Tom Gardiner

[See #9 above]

Events

Bob Farran

Bob Farran noted that the Events committee would be meeting on 6/15 to discuss preparation for the candidate forums, which will include forums for City Council seats as well as other local elections (e.g., DWA). He also announced that we had enough homes to do a Modernism home tour, which will bring us about \$10K in revenue, and he announced the other events we will be in.

Code Enforcement/Public Works

Don Barrett

[no report]

Neighborhood Support

Peter Sipkins

Peter Sipkins welcomed attendees who were new to the meeting. Peter Sipkins also noted that the Board had voted to give \$1000 in scholarships to summer camp for the children of a former Afghan translator who had evacuated Afghanistan for the U.S. and is living in Palm Springs.

11. Desert Water Agency

Xochitl Pena

Xochitl Pena turned the presentation over to her colleague Clark Elliott who presented on changes in water use due to the drought. He noted that we are now at a level 2 emergency which forbids daylight watering, places restrictions on overseeding, puts restaurant provision of water to customers as by request only, and will have penalties for businesses maintaining non-functional turf (the latter is enforced by the state).

In response to questions he stated that water wasters can be reported on the DWA.org [website](#), that the agency will work with HOA's to help them become more water efficient, and responded to concerns about water usage by forthcoming developments in other Coachella Valley cities.

PS Disposal

Liz Hernandez

Liz Hernandez described the changes that will be necessary for conforming to the new state standards on organic waste disposal.

12. Office of Neighborhoods

Denise Goolsby

[no report]

13. Membership Discussion Topics

Reps and Alts

Russ Uthe described concerns related to the golf course greens at Mesquite Country Club and at the former Bel Air Greens in Palm Springs, noting that due to ownership details the latter is likely to be developed, while the former might be converted to open space.

14. Public comments (2 Minutes)

[none]

15. Adjournment at 6:08 PM

Peter Sipkins