Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs — ONE-PS

**MODIFIED** Membership Meeting January 11, 2022

5:30-6:30 PM

Zoom

1. WELCOME Peter Sipkins

Chairman Sipkins called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. He noted the success and uplifting effect of the December in-person Membership Meeting held at the Mizell Senior Center. Peter noted and welcomed the large number of new guests. He did provide a brief history of ONE-PS to orient the new guests to the origin and purpose of the organization. The original city ordinance to establish ONE-PS was passed in 2005. Peter said that this evening’s meeting marked a milestone, because we will recognize the 50th neighborhood, El Dorado Palms Estates Neighborhood Organization.

 Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved without objection.

2. TAKE ATTENDANCE/CONFIRM QUORUM Denise Goolsby & Richard Allegra

 Reps. and alts. signed into the Chat as being present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes of 12/14/2021 - **ACTION ITEM**  Kathy Cohn

Hearing no objections, Secretary Kathy Cohn declared the minutes as posted to be approved without objection.

4. General ONE-PS Business Items Peter Sipkins

 A. Explanation of January Meeting format and agenda

Due to another surge in the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted via Zoom. The agenda has fewer than usual items, but the meeting was held to ensure the members are kept up-to-date on city concerns.

 B. Future Scheduling plans

At the December 2021 meeting, Peter had asked for input from the members about other possible meeting times. Peter reported that a majority of those who responded, wanted to continue with the current meeting schedule. Therefore, ONE-PS Membership Meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m., except for August when most of the City meetings are not held. The mode /venue of the meetings will depend on public health and safety conditions.

5. City Council Lisa Middleton

Mayor Lisa Middleton (a former chair of ONE-PS) congratulated the organization on reaching the 50th NOrg milestone. Shared that when she first became involved in ONE-PS there were 31 or 32 NOrgs. Mayor Middleton spoke to 3 issues:

1)There will be an important item before the City Council this Thursday, 1/13/2022. A fulfillment company is interested in constructing a very large facility within the PS City limits north of the I-10. Sales tax revenue to the City is estimated to be $30 million. Desert Hot Springs land is also being considered.

2) Another item will be the follow-up to the listening sessions conducted with residents about the evolving Strategic Plan. Prioritizing issues and addressing them first are key to delivering essential services. Part of this effort is intended to make Council meetings more efficient and productive.

3) The surge in the spread of the omicron variation is rampant. Lisa shared that she was vaccinated, boosted, and always wears a mask. Yet she tested positive for covid-19 last week and had mild symptoms similar to a cold. She reported that the City’s wastewater viral load is the highest ever. Hospitalizations have exceeded past records; and 90% of those hospitalized in Riverside County are unvaccinated. The County is ramping up testing. She advised to continue to take precautions.

Dennis Woods

Councilman Woods commented on the Mayor’s remarks about the importance of the development of the strategic plan. He urged the audience to follow the developments.

He also reported that the City is collaborating with Riverside County on a grant proposal to the State for funding to provide housing for the homeless.

6. City Manager Justin Clifton

City Manager Justin Clifton addressed the progress on the development of the strategic plan which will be a be reviewed at the 1/13/22 City Council meeting. The detailed plan will be included in the Council meeting packet. He shared an opening slide with the City’s mission statement the pledges to provide excellent and responsive public services. The remainder of his comments related to the need to determine priorities, establish work plans and timelines for the top priorities, and monitor the progress and effectiveness. The plan will guide the work of the Council for the next 1-3 years.

He also expanded on Mayor Middleton’s reference to more efficient Council meetings. By focusing on the pressing priorities identified through the strategic planning process, the meetings can be more efficient and effective in meeting the priorities. Including stakeholders in the work groups and work plans in advance of the full Council’s consideration, will allow all sides of an issue to be explored and hopefully resolved. Member Mike Guerre complimented the City manager on this approach to governance.

Clifton reported that the City and its finances are in good shape. Measure J funds are up. The biggest challenge is getting staff levels back up to pre-covid-19 levels during the workforce shortage.

7. Other City Employees & Community Services Representatives

 Gus Araiza – PSPD

Lt. Araiza posted crime stats in the chat. He echoed Justin’s comments regarding staff vacancies. In addition, there are 17 officers out due to the covid virus. Coverage is being met by officers serving extra shifts and expanded use of the Community service officers, especially for situations involving homeless individuals.Help is on the way with a lateral hire from LAPD and others entering the Academy.

Member Paul Hinrichsen said he is aware of increased cyber theft, especially among the elderly, whom he has observed are less technologically savvy. He suggested that the PSPD should issue a public service announcement alerting people to this situation.

 Xochitl Pena – DWA

Xochitl announced the Desert Water Agency will be holding public hearings on the revisions of their Division Boundaries based on the results of the 2020 Census. The virtual hearings are scheduled for January 26, 2022, at Noon and February 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. The final maps will be determined by April 17.

Water Counts Academy 2022 kicks off on Feb. 3. The Academy is designed for people who want a better understanding of water delivery in the desert and issues facing our area. The virtual academy consists of five Zoom sessions, from noon to 1:30 p.m., on the following Thursdays: February 3, 10, 17, 24 and March 3.

Visit CVWaterCounts.com/Academy to apply before January 21 for the February 2022 class. This educational program is FREE.

8. Recognition of El Dorado Palms Estates - ACTION ITEM

 Secretary Kathy Cohn announced that City Manager Justin Clifton had reviewed and certified the official boundaries submitted by the El Dorado Palms Estates (EDPE) neighborhood. It was moved and seconded to officially recognize El Dorado Palms Estates Neighborhood Organization as ONE-PS’s 50th neighborhood organization. Hearing no objections, the motion was unanimously approved. Welcome and congratulations, EDPE NOrg.

9. Standing Committee Reports (See Written Reports)

 Finance Tom Gardiner

 The Six Month Financials are posted on the website. The Finance Committee is seeking 1 or 2 additional members. The committee is in need of a person familiar with Quickbooks, the platform used to manage the financials. Contact Tom for more information.

 Communications Charlie Roddy

 (January TOTT Canceled) Charlie announced that TOTT will resume in February. The focus will be on the College of the Desert plans for the Palm Springs Campus. The committee plans to have speakers with varied points of view.

 Events Ted Jan

The ONE-PS & City of Palm Springs Picnic is scheduled for March 19 in Ruth Hardy Park. Plans are well underway. Due to the concerns related to the covid-19 surge, the ONE-PS Booth at the Farmer’s Market will not appear in January. The plan is to resume on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in February.

 Code Enforcement/Public Works Don Barrett

The Code Enforcement and Public Works will meet Wednesday, 1/19/22 at 10:00 via Zoom. It will meet in the odd months this year. Don announced that there will be a shredding and e-waste event Saturday, 1/15/22 from 8:00 a.m. – Noon in the City Hall parking lot. If you have more than one type of waste, keep them separated as there will be 2 different waste trucks.

 Neighborhood Support Peter Sipkins

Peter announced that committee members will continue to be assigned to each City District providing support to the NOrgs in their assigned District. The committee wants to visit Annual Meetings to get better acquainted with the NOrgs and better support them. Please let Denise or Peter know the date/time/location or virtual mode link for your Annual Meeting.

10. PS Neighborhood Involvement Denise Goolsby

Denise announced that the Homeless Point-in-Time Census scheduled for January 26 has been canceled due to the pandemic surge concerns.

Volunteers are needed on Arbor Day, March 12, 2022. The City received a grant from the state for 66 trees which will be planted between 8:00 a.m. and Noon. Contact Denise to volunteer. Bring shovels, picks, and gloves if you have them.

Don’t miss the Rock the Park tribute band concerts series in the new PS Downtown Park. The FREE concerts are the on first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Bring your chair and/or blankets. The first concert is a tribute to the Eagles.

11. Membership Discussion Topics Reps and Alts

12. Public comments (2 Minutes)

There was one public comment urging the City to step up addressing the homeless situation. The member of the public did not attend the meeting.

13. Adjournment at 6:39 p.m. Peter Sipkins