

Minutes (draft)
ONE-PS MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
9.10.2024
4:30-6:00
PALM SPRINGS POLICE TRAINING CENTER

CALL TO ORDER at 4:30 by Chris Ruetz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Chris Campbell, 2nd by Dan Gonnella passed with none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from 7.09.24

Motion by Chris Campbell, 2nd by Bob O'Neill passed with none opposed.

NEW VISITORS

Patty Marino, Vistas Las Palmas NOrg

CITY LEADERSHIP REPORTS

The Mayor's Report by Jeffrey Bernstein announced that firefighters from Palm Springs are assisting crews at the Line Fire. Tree trimming downtown has been delayed for reasons of safety, aesthetics, and wildlife habitat issues. The removal of the Measure J sunset clause will be on the November ballot. Measure J funds are 10% of the city budget and are necessary to secure the 30 year bonds to move forward on the library, convention center, and fire station projects. Information is available at YesonMeasureJ2024.com to endorse, support, and donate to the effort. There is no increase in the current tax rate and at least 60% of the funds are contributed by tourism. Total revenue is approximately 22 million dollars a year. The city funded 'Love Local Palm Springs' gift card program supports participating businesses during the summer months. The program allows participants to purchase gift cards of up to \$200 with the city contributing an additional 50% to the value. If the program is successful funds will be available to support a shop holiday effort. The new ordinance prohibiting encampments on public property within city limits goes into effect when the Navigation Center opens September 30th. The ordinance differs from other cities in that sleeping on public property is banned only if there are beds available. The tenant based relief program's 2 million dollar budget last year helped 450 families and individuals from losing their homes. The program may come back again this year. A rule passed allowing co-owned managed housing, such as Pacaso, allowing for 25 more homes in the city. Rules similar to short-term rentals will apply but have not been finalized for the 3 year program. The first joint meeting with the Agua Caliente Tribal Council in 6 years was held in July. Presentations included arts and culture, tax sharing, and Native American history curriculum in schools. The COD groundbreaking is still scheduled for November. The casino management degree program is the only one in California and the only one in the country to work in partnership with a local tribe. The Thompson Hotel will not open the north tower until the fire suppression system is operable in the south tower. Forever Marilyn will be relocated to Downtown Park due to the cost of ongoing litigation between PS Resorts and CReMa. Museum Way will still be vacated to create a pedestrian walkway. 6 million dollars was approved for pickleball courts in DeMuth Park. 2 million dollars is from Measure J and the rest is Quimby funds which are paid by developers to create open space. An ordinance was passed that allows a pet adopted out the by the Palm Springs Animal Shelter whose previous owner wants it back can deal directly with the new owner without the shelter being a mediator. Riverside County Public Health is providing most of the funding for Blue Zone in Palm Springs. The city will contribute \$60,000 a year for 3 years to participate in the program. A staff of four local residents will work to determine specific needs of our community to include the food desert in the northwest part of

the city. Healthcare for the less advantaged, social isolation, and shade are also issues to be evaluated by the program. An award of 1.6 million dollars was made to Desert Arc to do landscaping, maintenance, and trash removal work at the airport. This helps individuals who use the vocational rehabilitation services to live as independently as possible. The Prescott Preserve went before the Planning Commission for a minor modification to the plan in order to move forward with it. Requirements were added to the process but Desert Chapel and the HOA have appealed the decision which will be decided in a public hearing. Updates to the process for grant management and funds dispersal requirements are being made. Racquet Club and South Palm Canyon road reconfiguration public meetings are later this month. The last meeting to discuss downtown parking will be on Zoom at 7:30am on Thursday the 12th. The results will be presented to Council in October for decisions. The Chamber of Commerce Taste of Palm Springs and Business Expo is September 18th. The District 2 community meeting is at the Vista Del Monte School on Monday September 16th at 5:30pm.

City Manager's Report by Scott Stiles stated again that an engine company from Palm Springs Fire is assisting in the fight against the Line Fire for possibly 2 weeks. The city of Big Bear is considering potential mandatory evacuations and Palm Springs will support those efforts in any way we can. Vote by mail ballots go out on October 7th with drop off locations in the lobby at City Hall, James O. Jessie Desert Highland Community Center, and the Palm Springs Library. Voting locations on election day are at the DeMuth Community Center, James O. Jessie Desert Highland Community Center, and the Palm Springs Library. There is more information at EngagePalmSprings.com. Because of the polarized atmosphere around this election the PSPD is especially sensitive to any information concerning ill intent. The Navigation Center should be open at the end of the month.

MONTHLY TOPICS

Corrine Griswold provided an overview of the Gene Autry NOrg, the only NOrg named after a person. He was an actor, musician, and baseball team owner. The Anaheim Angels baseball team trained at the stadium in Baristo Park. Gene bought California's first Holiday Inn as a place to house the Angels during spring training starting in 1961. After changing hands a few times it is now the landmark Parker Hotel. In 1988 the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum was established. It has exhibits on the multiple cultures of the American West. Native Americans, Chinese and Japanese Americans, African American and Gay Cowboys, and more have all had their stories told. Through his movies, his music, and his philanthropy he personified his Cowboy Code as honest, brave, and true.

Patty Marino, the co-chair of the Vista Las Palmas Neighborhood Foundation, asked the ONE-PS Board to take action regarding the recent City Council action to reverse their decision pertaining to shared ownership. In March 2023 the City Council voted 5-0 to ban Pacaso's timeshare-style ownership model resulting in a cease and desist letter from the City Attorney. In the time since then all of the council members received donations from Brian Rix who is the lobbyist working for Pacaso. Last month the vote changed to 3-2 in favor of allowing up to 30 similar ownership homes. Letters written by residents of Vista Las Palmas, where 2 of the homes are currently located, and the ONE-PS Board went unnoticed. Palm Springs is the only city in California to allow this ownership model.

The Vista Las Palmas Neighborhood Foundation is now a 501c3 so political action is not possible. ONE-PS is the right organization to advance the interests of the neighborhoods as the most effective voice.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Don Barrett announced the ONE-PS Candidate Forum on October 5th at 1pm for Districts 4 and 5. It will be held at the DeMuth Park Community Center. Questions can be submitted on the ONE-PS website homepage and will be consolidated by the committee. It is preferred that all the questions be received by September 20th at the latest. There will be a short

forum for District 5 as there is only one candidate and an expanded District 4 timeline for the 5 candidates. There is a link on the website to volunteer if you would like to help out at the event. Removing the Measure J sunset clause will be on the ballot in November. Besides funding city improvement projects there are also funds for neighborhoods. The July meeting brainstorm session created a list of community initiated projects that now have a September 30th deadline to submit for the funds. The Measure J icon on the website will show the projects that were discussed at the last meeting. Elections for the next Board are upcoming and the nomination committee is headed by Richard Bowman. Tim Schoeffler provided an update on the Fall Home Tour. There are 5 homes this year, 2 from Vista Las Palmas, 1 from Little Beverly Hills, 1 from Historic Tennis Club, and 1 from Old Las Palmas. Tickets are \$100 and approximately half have been sold as of now. Each home needs 12 docents, 6 for the morning tour and 6 for the afternoon tour so volunteer if you can. Docents receive a free ticket for the tour that you are not working and an invitation to a celebratory afterparty including the homeowners. The event is Saturday October 26th. Bob O'Neill from Oasis Del Sol NOrg is the chair of the committee for the Festival of Lights Parade. If your NORG wants a balloon in the parade or if you want to wrangle one let Bob know.

CITY DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON NEW ITEMS

Police Department Lt Mike Villegas wished everyone fighting the multiple fires a safe return. The first Behind the Badge Open House will be on September 28th from 3-6pm at Police Headquarters. There will be interactive demonstrations from the different units within the department. It is being held instead of the National Night Out at Palm Springs Stadium. Sgt Miguel Torres gave an overview of the Crimes Against Persons Unit. The previously reported murder/suicide from June appeared to have been random and did not involve any relationship to a Palm Springs resident. The homicide in the downtown parking structure was gang related and the suspect with the murder weapon is in custody. The suspect in 2 sexual assaults at a Splash House event was taken into custody and linked to a previous incident.

Fire Depart Captain Ron Skyberg announced the 9/11 memorial ceremony at Station 2 starting at 8:30am. Emergency Management Director Danny DeSelms reported that the county has not yet requested assistance with shelters for evacuees.

Sustainability announced a shredding event in the Convention Center parking lot on October 19th from 8am-12pm. There will also be a pre-shredding event October 15th-17th at City Hall from 8am-5pm.

Xochitl Peña reported DWA will host a landscaper workshop to help contractors learn more about incentive/rebate programs and water regulations. The DWA Fall Tour of it's facilities will be November 13th. There is a morning and afternoon tour so sign up at DWA.ORG/tours. PSDS Chris Cunningham will be filling in for Liz Hernandez.

PUBLIC COMMENTS were not made.

ADJOURNMENT at 5:53 by common consent of the body.