

ITEM 5A

**Desert Community Energy Board
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2020
3:30 pm**



**City of Palm Springs Police Training Center
200 S. Civic Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262
760-346-1127 (CVAG)**

The audio file for this meeting can be found at: <http://www.desertcommunityenergy.org>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the DCE Board was called to order by Chair Kors at 3:36 pm at 200 S. Civic Drive, Palm Springs, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Councilmember Sabby Jonathan
Mayor Geoff Kors, Chair
Mayor John Aguilar, Vice Chair

Agency

City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Cathedral City

Others Present

Kathleen Kelly
Patrick Tallarico
David Freedman
Kim Floyd
Hector Sanchez Perez
Dave Powell
Paul and Zane Williamson
Michele and Jerry Johnson
Joseph Hummell
Fred Noble

City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
DCE Community Advisory Committee
Sierra Club
Lift to Rise
Desert Business Org

DCE Staff & Consultants

Tom Kirk
Katie Barrows
Shawn Isaac
Benjamin Druyon
Jeff Fuller, The Energy Authority
Jaclyn Harr, The Energy Authority

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – David Freedman commented on item 6C.

Joseph Hummell, resident and homeowner in Palm Desert, commented on item 6C. Fred Noble commented on the benefits of local control, choice, renewable energy and innovation.

4. **BOARD MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS** – Councilmember Jonathan reported on a January 9 study session on DCE at the Palm Desert City Council. Chair Kors requested an item on the next agenda about the Community Advisory Committee and a focus on outreach for Palm Springs launch.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Approve Minutes from Board Meetings of December 9, 2019**

IT WAS MOVED BY BOARD MEMBER SABBY JONATHAN AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR AGUILAR TO APPROVE THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2019. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

- A. **DCE Program Schedule and Activities Update** – Tom Kirk provided an update on the plans for DCE to start serving customers in Palm Springs in April 2020 with the 100% Carbon Free plan. A copy of the first enrollment notice was provided to Board members with a request for comments in the next day or two; these notices will go out in February in Palm Springs. It was also noted that Palm Springs launch related expenses will be tracked. He noted study sessions in Palm Desert and Cathedral City. Palm Desert discussed potential purchase of 100% green carbon-free power for municipal accounts.

DCE launched the Utility Discount Program to enroll more customers in low income programs on January 1.

- B. **Approve Desert Community Energy Rate Schedule** – Katie Barrows.

Katie Barrows provided a brief overview of the proposed rate schedule for DCE product offerings and rate information that will be available to customers on the DCE website and through the customer call center. The Board provided direction to staff to get input from the Palm Springs City Council on options for low income customers with regard to 100% Carbon Free and bring back a recommendation in February.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAIR KORS AND SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR AGUILAR TO SET RATES AT LESS THAN 10% ABOVE SCE'S DEFAULT RATE AND LESS THAN SCE'S GREEN RATE, AND THE DESERT SAVER RATE SET AT LESS THAN SCE'S DEFAULT RATE.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

Vice Chair Aguilar	Aye
Board member Jonathan	Aye
Chair Kors	Aye

- C. **Net Energy Metering Program for Desert Community Energy** – Shawn Isaac

Shawn Isaac described the basics of a Net Energy Metering (NEM) program for solar customers. He summarized options for the Board to consider. Chair Kors indicated that he would like to see DCE enroll NEM customers in 2020. It was determined that May is the best month to enroll customers.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAIR KORS AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER JONATHAN TO ENROLL NET ENERGY METERING/SOLAR CUSTOMER IN MAY 2020.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

Vice Chair Aguilar

Aye

Board member Jonathan

Aye

Chair Kors

Aye

D. Potential DCE Program Offerings – Katie Barrows

Katie Barrows provided an overview of some of the programs being offered by other Community Choice Aggregation agencies in the state, that could be offered by DCE in the future. Board members asked staff to explore grant opportunities for these programs. This topic will be discussed with the Community Advisory Committee and brought back at future DCE meetings.

7. INFORMATION

The following items were submitted for information only:

A. Attendance Record

B. Financial Report

C. Community Advisory Committee Report

D. CARE/FERA Program Update

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Fred Noble made a comment encouraging DCE to consider community solar. Joseph Hummell commented on Palm Desert Study Session.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next DCE Board meeting will be February 24, 2020 at 2:30 pm, in Palm Springs

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Druyon