

Desert Community Energy Board
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021
2:30 pm



Held via Zoom videoconference

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 Geoff Kors, City of Palm Springs, at 2:31 p.m. via Zoom videoconferencing, which was pursuant to Gov. Newsom's executive order governing how meetings are held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present

Councilmember Geoff Kors, Chair
Councilmember Rita Lamb
Councilmember Sabby Jonathan, Vice Chair

Agency

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

DCE Staff & Consultants

Tom Kirk
Katie Barrows
Valdemar Galeana
Erica Felci
Trisha Stull
Joanna Stueckle
Benjamin Druyon
Jaclyn Harr
Jeff Fuller
Don Dame

The Energy Authority
The Energy Authority
DCE Consultant

Others Present

Mark Rostafin
David Freedman
Kim Floyd
Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Middleton
Charlie McClendon
Jennifer Cusack
Ryan Domino
Ryan Baron
Two other individuals

Vesper Energy
Community Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee
City of Palm Springs
City of Cathedral City
Southern California Edison
LSL
BB&K

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair decided to take public comments on agenda items during each agenda item.

4. BOARD MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Katie Barrows reminded the Board that there was a closed session at the end of the meeting, and said separate Zoom logistics would be sent to Board members.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve Minutes from Board Meeting of December 21, 2021

B. Authorize the updating of the bank signature card to reflect the change in Director of Finance / Administration

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEBER LAMB TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

Councilmember Lamb	Aye
Councilmember Jonathan	Aye
Councilmember Kors	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. DCE Long Term Renewable Energy Procurement: Deer Creek Solar + Storage Project – Jaclyn Harr, The Energy Authority

Jaclyn Harr, of The Energy Authority, presented the staff report. She described the 20-year power purchase agreements negotiated with Deer Creek Solar I, LLC and the logistics of the solar + storage system. Member discussion ensued.

Chair Kors invited public comment. David Freedman, a member of the Community Advisory Committee, said he was part of the PPA review team. He encouraged the Board to approve the PPA with Deer Creek Solar I, LLC.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KORS TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-01, APPROVING A 20-YEAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH DEER CREEK SOLAR I, LLC, AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND/OR LEGAL COUNSEL TO MAKE MINOR MODIFICATIONS BEFORE EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENTS.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

Councilmember Lamb	Aye
Councilmember Jonathan	Aye
Councilmember Kors	Aye

B. Audited Financial Report, Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) 114 Letter and Report on Internal Controls for Fiscal Year 2019/20 – Valdemar Galeana

Valdemar Galeana introduced the annual audit and LSL auditor Ryan Domino. Mr. Domino described the audit process and shared that the audit resulted in an unmodified opinion. Member discussion ensued.

THE BOARD AGREED TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/20.

C. Update on DCE Program Activities – Katie Barrows

Katie Barrows updated the Board on DCE's recent and current activities, highlighting the signing ceremony for DCE's wind energy PPAs. Ms. Barrows also shared that the next Community Advisory Committee was scheduled for February 24, 2021. Member discussion ensued.

No action was taken on this informational item.

7. INFORMATION

The following items were put in the agenda packet for members' information :

- A. Attendance Record**
- B. Unaudited Financial Report for July 1 to December 31, 2020**
- C. Update on GRID Alternatives' Single-family Affordable Solar Homes Program**
- D. Regional Energy Network Update**

Chair Kors invited public comment. Mr. Freedman commented on item 7D, and said he was glad to see the REN training program.

Councilmember Jonathan suggested looking into a local banking option for DCE's banking needs.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jennifer Cusack of Southern California Edison said she was submitting a letter from SCE to be entered into the public record.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next DCE meeting will be held March 15, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code, the DCE Board adjourned to Closed Session at 3:36 p.m. for the following:

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation to the provisions of Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) – One (1) potential case

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) –
One (1) potential case

11. ADJOURNMENT

The closed session ended at 3:58 p.m. Ryan Baron of BB&K announced there was no reportable action taken during the closed session.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull