

Desert Community Energy Board
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 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
Mayor Raymond Gregory
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
Benjamin Druyon
Valdemar Galeana
Trisha Stull
Erica Felci
Oscar Vizcarra
Jeff Fuller
Jaclyn Harr
Don Dame

The Energy Authority
The Energy Authority
DCE Consultant

Others Present

David Freedman
Shelley Kaplan
Charlie McClendon
Patrick Tallarico
Erin Rode
Brad Anderson

Community Advisory Committee
Community Advisory Committee
City of Cathedral City
City of Palm Springs
The Desert Sun

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

David Freedman, Chair of the DCE Community Advisory Committee, commented on Items 6B and 6C. He stated that the CAC agreed with the staff recommendations on these items.

Brad Anderson, resident of Rancho Mirage, stated he was listening and wanted to have the chance to comment if desired.

4. BOARD MEMBER / DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Chair Kors thanked Katie Barrows for presenting a DCE update to the Palm Springs City Council at their recent meeting.

Ms. Barrows explained that DCE staff were sharing energy efficiency opportunities with DCE customers, including opportunities available to them through Southern California Edison. Ms. Barrows also recognized the one-year anniversary of DCE's launch in the City of Palm Springs, and shared program highlights and recognized Earth Day.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve Minutes from Board Meeting of March 15, 2021

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GREGORY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

Mayor Gregory	Aye
Councilmember Jonathan	Aye
Councilmember Kors	Aye

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. DCE Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget Preview – Don Dame, Energy Consultant

Don Dame, Energy Consultant, shared a broad overview of the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 DCE budget and asked for direction from the Board. Member discussion ensued, with the Board providing general direction to staff on costs that would be factored into DCE's Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget.

There was no action taken. DCE staff acknowledged the input and said it would be included in the budget, which will return to the Board in May for review and in June for adoption.

B. Carbon Free Subsidy for Low-Income Customers – Katie Barrows

Ms. Barrows provided an update on the Carbon Free subsidy that has been provided to CARE/ FERA customers. It was explained that the City of Palm Springs' Council was supportive of suspending the subsidy.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GREGORY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN TO SUSPEND THE EXISTING SUBSIDY PROVIDING DCE'S CARBON FREE ENERGY TO CUSTOMERS IN LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND MAINTAIN THESE CUSTOMERS AT THE DESERT SAVER RATE.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

Mayor Gregory	Aye
Councilmember Jonathan	Aye
Councilmember Kors	Aye

C. Environmental Content for Carbon Free Product – Jaclyn Harr, The Energy Authority

Jaclyn Harr, The Energy Authority, outlined the environmental content options and the price savings for each option. Member discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN AND SECONDED BY MAYOR GREGORY TO ADJUST THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTENT FOR THE CARBON FREE PRODUCT TO TARGET 100% CARBON-FREE PROCUREMENT WITH A RENEWABLE CONTENT TARGET OF NO LESS THAN THE ANNUALIZED STATE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO MAKE THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS WHEN PROCURING POWER.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

Mayor Gregory	Aye
Councilmember Jonathan	Aye
Councilmember Kors	Aye

D. SB 612 and Fair Access to Legacy Energy Resources – Katie Barrows

Ms. Barrows outlined SB 612 and its benefits to DCE Customers. Member discussed ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GREGORY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONATHAN TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL 612 AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR AND/OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SIGN LETTERS OF SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR ITS APPROVAL.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH 3 AYES.

Mayor Gregory	Aye
Councilmember Jonathan	Aye
Councilmember Kors	Aye

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 March 31, 2021**
- C. Update on DCE Program Activities**
- D. Bill Assistance Program for DCE Customers Impacted by COVID-19**
- E. Exploring Options for Local Battery Storage Projects**

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Brad Anderson discussed DCE's future membership and voting.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next DCE meeting will be held May 17, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Stull