

MAY 21, 2021



JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Geoff Kors, Chair City of Palm Springs

Gary Gardner, Vice Chair City of Desert Hot Springs

Ernesto Gutierrez City of Cathedral City

Greg Sanders City of Indian Wells

Waymond Fermon City of Indio

Linda Evans City of La Quinta

Jan Harnik City of Palm Desert

Charles Townsend City of Rancho Mirage

V. Manuel Perez County of Riverside

CVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Tabler, Chairman J.W. Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa

Rolf Hoehn, Vice Chairman Indian Wells Tennis Garden

Robert Del Mas, Secretary Empire Polo Club & Event Facility

Aftab Dada, Treasurer Hilton Palm Springs Resort

Bruce Abney Retired Hospitality Executive

Kate Anderson Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Rick Axelrod, M.D. Coachella Valley Economic Partnership

Lorraine Becker Cabot's Pueblo Museum

Celeste Brackley Ace Hotel & Swim Club

Tony Bruggemans Le Vallauris

Gary Cardiff Cardiff Limousine & Transportation

Jay Chesterton Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

Dermot Connolly La Quinta Resort & Club and PGA West

Tim Ellis Ellis Hospitality Services

Rob Hampton Palm Springs Convention Center

Todd Hooks Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Jerry Keller Lulu California Bistro Location: Renaissance Esmeralda Indian Wells 44-400 Indian Wells Lane Indian Wells, CA 92210 Regular Meeting Friday, May 21, 2021, 8:30am – 10:00am

		PRESENT	NOT/YTD
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS	Geoff Kors, Council Member, Chair	X	
	Christy Holstege, Mayor		
CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS	Gary Gardner, Coun. Mbr, Vice Chair	X	
	Roger Nunez, Council Member		
CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY	Ernesto Gutierrez, Mayor Pro Tem	Х	
	Mark Carnevale, Council Member		
CITY OF INDIAN WELLS	Greg Sanders, Council Member	Х	
	Dana Reed, Mayor Pro Tem		
CITY OF INDIO	Waymond Fermon, Mayor Pro Tem	Х	
	Elaine Holmes, Mayor		
CITY OF LA QUINTA	Linda Evans, Mayor	Х	
	Robert Radi, Council Member		
CITY OF PALM DESERT	Jan Harnik, Mayor Pro Tem	Х	
	Gina Nestande, Council Member		
CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE	Charles Townsend, Mayor Pro Tem		1
	Iris Smotrich, Council Member		
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE	V. Manuel Perez, Supervisor, 4th District	X (phone)	
	Steven Hernandez, Chief of Staff		
CVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROLL CALL		PRESENT	EXCUSED
Tom Tabler, Chair - J.W. Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa		Χ	
Rolf Hoehn, Vice Chair - Indian Wells Tennis Garden		Х	
Robert Del Mas, Secretary - Empire Polo Club & Events		Х	
Aftab Dada, Treasurer - Hilton Palm Springs Resort		Х	

CVB Board of Directors (continued)

Jay Mainthia Indio Super 8 and Suites

Michael McLean McLean Company Rentals

Allen Monroe The Living Desert

Lee Morcus (Emeritus) Kaiser Restaurant Group

Brad Poncher Homewood Suites by Hilton, La Quinta

Greg Purdy Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

Christoph Roshardt Renaissance Esmeralda Indian Wells

Tom Scaramellino Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa

Bob Schneider Palm Springs Power Baseball

Barb Smith Eventis Destination Services

Kelly Steward The Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage

Joe Tormey CSU San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus

Peggy Trott Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs

Doug Watson College of the Desert

Elie Zod Retired Hospitality Executive

Bruce Abney, Retired Hospitality Executive	Е	
Kate Anderson, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	-	
Rick Axelrod, Coachella Valley Economic Partnership	E	
Lorraine Becker, Cabot's Pueblo Museum	Е	
Celeste Brackley, ACE Hotel & Swim Club	X	
Tony Bruggemans, Le Vallauris	Е	
Gary Cardiff, Cardiff Limousine & Transportation	X	
Jay Chesterton, Fantasy Springs Resort Casino	X	
Dermot Connolly, La Quinta Resort & Club	X	
Tim Ellis, Ellis Hospitality Services	X	
Rob Hampton, Palm Springs Convention Center	X	
Todd Hooks, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	X	
Jerry Keller, Lulu and Acqua California Bistros	X	
Jay Mainthia, Indio Super 8 Motel	X	
Michael McLean, McLean Company Rentals	Е	
Allen Monroe, The Living Desert	X	
Lee Morcus (Emeritus), Kaiser Restaurant Group		Χ
Brad Poncher, Homewood Suites by Hilton, La Quinta	X	
Greg Purdy, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway	X	
Christoph Roshardt, Renaissance Esmeralda Indian Wells	X	
Tom Scaramellino, Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa	E	
Bob Schneider, Palm Springs Power Baseball	X	
Barb Smith, Eventis Destination Services	X(phone)	
Kelly Steward, The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage	X	
Joe Tormey, CSU San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus	X	
Peggy Trott, Kimpton Rowan Palm Springs	X	
Doug Watson, College of the Desert	X	
Elie Zod, Retired Hospitality Executive	X	

STAFF/ATTORNEY

Scott White, President and CEO Bill Judson, Vice President Finance and Administration Jeff Miraglia, Chief Brand Officer Colleen Pace, Chief Marketing Officer Andy Cloutier, Director of Human Resources

Stefanie Kilcoyne, Director of Operations
Davis Meyer, Partnership Manager
Gary Orfield, Director of Tourism Development
Revae Reynolds, Executive Administrative Assistant
Julie Sinclair, Director of Brand Communications

Lena D. Wade, Legal Counsel

GUESTS

Brooke Beare, City of Indio Katie Brown, PGA West Peter Freymuth, Palm Springs Airport Commission Stone James, City of Cathedral City Dennis Woods, City of Palm Springs

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Kors led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Chair Kors asked whether there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was confirmed as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This Public Comment period is for items that appear within the Consent Calendar or matters that are not listed on the Agenda.

Chair Kors called for public comments. There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

Mike McGuire, California State Senator, RE: SB 555: Local Agencies and TOT/Short-Term Facilitator/Collection

Senator Mike McGuire summarized the intent of his bill, SB 555. Cities and counties levy a bed tax on hotel stays, but few have agreements with the short-term rental companies. SB 555 provides an option for cities to delegate the collection authority to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) which would facilitate the collection and return the funds to the city. Senator McGuire also introduced SB 285, the California Tourism Recovery Act, which would require the California Travel and Tourism Commission to implement a program aimed at reversing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the California travel and tourism industry.

Q&A: White asked whether SB 555 would allow our Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) assessment to be included. McGuire is interested is talking more about crafting language to make this possible. Kors asked whether the state might want to keep the collections at some point in the future. McGuire responded that he came from local government and knows that bed tax is important and sometimes outpaces sales tax revenue for a city. He noted there is a clause in the bill that cities can opt out with a 30-day notice.

White thanked Senator McGuire for addressing the group this morning.

Erin Francis-Cummings, President & CEO, Destination Analysts, RE: Greater Palm Springs Sentiment Report and Uber Media Dashboards

Francis-Cummings summarized the findings of the survey her company completed regarding adult travelers in eight key markets. A total of 2,400 people were surveyed, 300 in each of the eight markets. The objective was to identify those with the greatest potential to be converted to a (Greater Palm Springs) visitor the soonest and to understand their emotional attachments. She noted that many of the New Yorkers have never been to Greater Palm Springs, but still feel an awareness and familiarity, probably due to the CVB's marketing efforts. Very few people rate the area as unappealing. She summarized her slides. Of note, the question rating our destination's attributes and the importance of these attributes to the respondents' destination selection are notably parallel. Deterrents to visiting include competition for attention from other destinations and respondents don't know enough about GPS yet. This data shows that San Diego is our strongest competitor. Interesting that the timing of travelers' next trip here would include the summer months. Roughly half said they would be traveling with someone under 17 years of age. Data includes preferred lodging, daily spend, length of trip, etc.

Tips on how to market to these respondents include using multiple channels and enticing videos.

Francis-Cummings described briefly the geolocation data analysis of GPS visitors that her company is also working on. She will have more conclusions to share at a later date, but the level of detail will be helpful.

Q&A: Harnik noted the respondents that were not excited to visit and asked what the explanation might be. Francis-Cummings offered to look more closely at the data, but supposed it had to do with competition from other destinations and not knowing enough about GPS. Connolly asked why those eight comparison cities were chosen. White responded that most of the cities were chosen based on the CVB's current marketing. White thanked Francis-Cummings for sharing these results and looks forward to the Uber data dashboards.

CVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CVB Board of Directors Only Vote)

Tom Tabler thanked Christoph Roshardt and the Renaissance team for hosting the meeting today and for all those who attended the Tourism Foundation fund-raising golf tournament yesterday.

He noted that the Chairman's Committee met a few weeks ago to review the Bylaws and the 2021-2022 proposed budget.

RESOLUTION NO. BOD 2021-001: UPDATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS BYLAWS

Tabler invited Legal Counsel, Lena Wade, to summarize the proposed changes to the CVB Board of Directors bylaws. Wade noted the changes primarily addressed the recent inclusion of vacation rentals in the TBID and increasing the board membership by four positions, to accommodate greater presentation from the vacation rental industry.

Tabler asked for a motion to approve the Resolution regarding the updated bylaws. Dada made the motion, seconded by Hoehn. There was no additional discussion. The Resolution was approved according to the following roll call vote:

Aye: Tabler, Hoehn, Del Mas, Dada, Brackley, Cardiff, Chesterton, Connolly, Ellis, Hampton, Hooks, Keller,

Mainthia, Monroe, Poncher, Purdy, Roshardt, Schneider, Smith, Steward, Tormey, Trott, Watson, Zod.

Nay:

Absent:

Abney, Axelrod, Becker, Bruggemans, McLean, Morcus, Scaramellino.

Abstain: 0

PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

Aftab Dada summarized the meeting of the Chairman's Committee which reviewed this proposed budget. White explained that this budget includes \$1.2 million in projected vacation rental revenue due to the new 1% vacation rental TBID which starts July 2021. The rest of the budget is very close to pre-COVID numbers.

Tabler asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget. Hoehn made the motion, seconded by Watson. There was no additional discussion. The budget was approved according to the following roll call vote:

Aye:

Tabler, Hoehn, Del Mas, Dada, Brackley, Cardiff, Chesterton, Connolly, Ellis, Hampton, Hooks, Keller, Mainthia, Monroe, Poncher, Purdy, Roshardt, Schneider, Smith, Steward, Tormey, Trott, Watson, Zod.

Nay:

Absent:

Abney, Axelrod, Becker, Bruggemans, McLean, Morcus, Scaramellino.

Abstain:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (JPA and CVB Board Vote)

JPA-CVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS JOINT MEETING MINUTES DATED MARCH 26, 2021 (all vote).

The JPA Executive Committee and CVB Board of Directors Joint Meeting Minutes dated March 26, 2021, were presented for approval. Chair Kors asked for a motion to approve. Evans made a motion to approve the minutes and Harnik seconded. There was no additional discussion. The minutes were approved according to the following roll call vote:

Aye:

Evans, Fermon, Gardner, Gutierrez, Harnik, Kors, Perez, Sanders, Brackley, Cardiff, Chesterton,

Connolly, Dada, Del Mas, Ellis, Hampton, Hoehn, Hooks, Keller, Mainthia, Monroe, Poncher, Purdy,

Roshardt, Schneider, Smith, Steward, Tormey, Trott, Watson, Zod.

Nay:

Absent: Abney, Axelrod, Becker, Bruggemans, McLean, Morcus, Scaramellino, Tabler, Rancho Mirage.

Abstain:

CONSENT CALENDAR (JPA Executive Committee Only Votes)

WARRANTS AND DEMANDS DATED MARCH 2021 AND APRIL 2021 (JPA only votes)

Chair Kors asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, Gardner moved to approve and Evans seconded, There was no further discussion. The Consent Calendar was approved according to the following roll call vote:

Aye:

Chair Kors, Vice Chair Gardner, Evans, Fermon, Gutierrez, Harnik, Perez, Sanders.

Nay:

0

Absent:

Rancho Mirage

Abstain:

JPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS (JPA Executive Committee Only Votes)

RESOLUTION NO. JPA 2021-003: UPDATED JPA BYLAWS

Chair Kors noted that the changes to the bylaws were necessary to reference the new 1% TBID for vacation rentals.

Kors asked for a motion to approve the Resolution regarding the updated bylaws. Harnik made the motion, seconded by Gardner. There was no further discussion and the Resolution was approved according to the following roll call vote:

Aye:

Chair Kors, Vice Chair Gardner, Evans, Fermon, Gutierrez, Harnik, Perez, Sanders.

Nay:

0

Absent: Rancho Mirage

Abstain: 0

PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

Evans noted that the proposed budget numbers are not much different from 2019, indicating a strong recovery. White acknowledged the extensive work of Bill Judson and his team during the budget development process. Kors asked for a motion to approve the 2021-2022 budget. Evans made the motion, seconded by Holmes. There was no additional discussion. The budget was approved according to the following roll call vote:

Aye:

Chair Kors, Vice Chair Gardner, Evans, Fermon, Gutierrez, Harnik, Perez, Sanders.

Nay:

0

Absent:

Rancho Mirage

Abstain: 0

CEO/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CVB UPDATE

Tourism Foundation

White reported there was good turnout for the Tourism Foundation golf event yesterday and thanked the JW Marriott Desert Springs for their in-kind contributions. There were 112 players, over \$30,000 was raised. This will become an annual event.

2020 Economic Impact Study

The CVB typically completes and economic impact study every other year, but made an exception for 2020 to quantify the impact of the pandemic. Compared to 2019, economic impact was down 52%, jobs were down 38%, the number of visitors was down 39%, day visitors were down 35%, and overnight visitors were down 44%.

Economic Impact of the Coachella Valley Arena

White reported that the proposed Coachella Valley Arena project will be reviewed by the County Board of Supervisors this coming Tuesday. If it is approved, it will bring an estimated 159 events per year, 1,572 new jobs, \$42 million additional income to local workers, \$11 million in state and local taxes and have an economic impact of \$141 million.

Summer Air Service

This coming summer, the destination will see a record number of seats in the market (2,611) as compared to 1,586 which was the previous record set in 2019. White and Orfield will meet with Southwest and American Airlines in Dallas in June.

Summer Chill 2021

Pace reported that the CVB's summer campaign includes a variety of platforms: Adara, Nativo, Pandora, Spa Finder, and more. The campaign is "Check in. Chill out." New videos capture the "chillosophy" theme. The CVB expects 1 billion impressions over the summer.

Desert Hills Outlets

The Desert Hills Outlets is a new media partner. The demographics of its patrons have shifted; many are drive-market customers.

Summer Co-op Partners

There are seven Partners in the summer co-op. Three new TV spots were shown: Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, The Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa, and Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa. The CVB also created three "brand" spots for different destinations.

<u>Summer Restaurant Pass – Bandwango</u>

The CVB created this restaurant campaign to run June through August. People can use offers, check-in, and win prizes. Restaurants can upload their offers. There are various marketing outlets being used to promote the program.

Convention Sales

Virtual FAM, May 11-13

Pace reported that the CVB hosted a virtual FAM last week with 75 clients over three days, involving nine Partners. Participants represented a variety of locations and provided very favorable feedback.

Convention Sales Campaign

The CVB had a soft launch of the sales campaign in April. The theme is "Meetings Mean More": More nonstop flights to Greater Palm Springs, More inspiration with unlimited outdoor space, etc. Platforms include Cvent, ASAE, CalSAE, ConferenceDirect, SmartMeetings, and more.

Bookings and Leads

The CVB is showing strong numbers for 2021 and especially 2022. Lead volume growth is 86% of 2019 levels. Pace summarized the breakdown by segment: 51% corporate, 30% association, 18% SMERF, and 1% government. Tentative room nights are also tracking strong for 2022.

Board Acknowledgements

White noted the board members with birthdays in May. Tabler noted two retirements beginning with Christoph Roshardt. Hoehn reported that he knows Roshardt is a fan of Roger Federer, so Hoehn has a tennis ball for him signed by the tennis star. Roshardt thanked everyone for their hard work and support of tourism in the destination. Tabler also acknowledged the retirement of Brad Poncher and noted his many contributions to hospitality in the desert and this board of directors. Poncher reported that he is not planning to leave the valley and will do some consulting.

Tabler also acknowledged Linda Evans' many years of leadership on the JPA Executive Committee and thanked her for her assistance and everything she does for tourism. Evans said she was originally assigned by her city council to be the representative on the JPA Executive Committee and she is grateful because she has learned so much. White noted that Evans has been a mentor for him and a leader in the community. A gift from the CVB will be delivered to City Hall. Kors noted that Evans' enthusiasm is an asset to every organization with which she is involved.

JPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and CVB BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATES

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

Rob Hampton – Palm Springs Convention Center. Hampton thanked Pace for the virtual FAM, including the trade show component. The Convention Center received two solid leads from the event.

Ernesto Gutierrez – City of Cathedral City. The new Agua Caliente Casino is open and doing well. An additional 13.5 acres south of the casino will be breaking ground soon with a new development. The amphitheater was used last evening for the first time and the City plans many more events for this space in the future. City Council recently approved three events: Balloon Festival, Taste of Jalisco and LGBTQ Days. Building in the City is booming. Developments include 60 units of low income, veteran housing, another 50 units and a College of the Desert facility.

Jan Harnik – City of Palm Desert. Harnik reported that she is working with CVAG and others on enhanced broad band service, focusing on underserved communities. The San Pablo project just received an award from the Southern California Association of Governments for sustainability. The Unite Palm Desert program serviced businesses and community members with millions of dollars, focused on construction projects.

Greg Sanders – City of Indian Wells. Sanders reported that he is pleased the tennis tournament is going to take place this fall. It will be beneficial for the valley.

Linda Evans – City of La Quinta. Evans reported that work continues to resolve obstacles with the Pendry and Montage projects. The City passed an ordinance to put a hold on any new short-term vacation rentals; they will retain the existing

rentals and allow renewal of those. The City is working hard to strike a balance between those who support and those who oppose vacation rentals in residential areas.

Waymond Fermon – City of Indio. Fermon reported that the City of Indio has a new city manager, Bryan Montgomery, who has some innovative ideas and has attended his first council meeting. The downtown area has momentum that started with the Food Park, which is expanding its hours of operation. The City is looking forward to the expansion of College of the Desert downtown which will open in the Spring of 2023. The Tamale Festival will return this year, Dec. 4 and 5. More developments include a brewery and tap room, coffee and pastry shops, as well. The City is collaborating with Goldenvoice regarding the music festivals set for next Spring.

Aftab Dada – Hilton Palm Springs. Dada reported that passenger traffic for Palm Springs International Airport was way up for April over last year. May is tracking at 88% of pre-COVID numbers.

Gary Gardner – City of Desert Hot Springs. Gardner reported that the City had a closing party for Desert X last week. Data indicates over 500,000 total site visits during the art event. The City is looking forward to welcoming Desert X back again in two years. Boutique spas are enjoying good bookings and many of them have been sold out on the weekends. The Planning Commission recently approved a new high-end RV resort near Two Bunch Palms. Hiking trail development continues with a potentially new trail in the hills directly above DHS. Gardner thanked the CVB and others working on the hiking map. Gardner suggested training sessions or FAMs for hotel concierge workers and visitor center staff so they are prepared when visitors ask about hiking opportunities. Gardner reported on the media coverage of canna-tourism initiatives on NPR and NBC. More coverage of the new spas and the Long Canyon Trail, which was featured in Outdoor Magazine. Finally, Desert Hot Springs is proud to host an Independence Day celebration this year on Friday July 2nd at Mission Springs Park. There will be food trucks, too, and all are invited.

Rolf Hoehn – Indian Wells Tennis Garden (IWTG). Hoehn reported that the tennis tournament is confirmed for October with specific dates to be announced soon. Hoehn announced that the World Team Tennis championship will be held at IWTG Nov. 13-29, 2021 in Stadium 2. The pickleball tournament moved to December 6-14, 2021. They are expecting 2,500-3,000 players. Also, a portion of the Ironman event will take place at IWTG December 5, 2021.

Geoff Kors – City of Palm Springs. Kors reported that Senate Bill 314 (regarding alcoholic beverages in licensed areas) emerged from the Appropriations Committee last evening and is headed to the Governor's desk in August. The City is moving through its budget process. Short-term vacation rentals had the biggest growth last year and provided \$13 million to the City. Village Fest resumes July 1. The Police Chief announced his retirement; he is leaving in three months. Kors requested a Resolution supporting Senate Bill 555 to be voted on at the next JPA Executive Committee meeting.

Robert Del Mas – Empire Polo Club & Event Facility. Del Mas reported that some events have resumed at the facility including a weekend art show that drew 5,000 people both days. There have been a variety of events booking the space and wedding interest remains very strong. The Tack Room Tavern remains busy.

G. Manuel Perez – Riverside County. Perez thanked the CVB for its role in support the CV Arena project. He also thanked Mayor Pro Tem Harnik and Mayor Kelley of Palm Desert for their leadership. The Arena will come before the Board of Supervisors this coming Tuesday for approval. Perez appreciates hearing about short-term rentals as this is also a topic of discussion at the County. He is forming an ad hoc committee to address STVR to create a strategy that makes sense for all. The existing County Ordinance 927 addresses short-term rentals.

Greg Purdy – Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Purdy reported that the Tram is open, but visitors are experiencing long waiting times for Uber and cab rides.

Jerry Keller – Lulu and Acqua California Bistros. Keller reported that Palm Springs is busy at all times of the day. The information in the consumer sentiment study shared today is very useful.

Allen Monroe – The Living Desert. Monroe announced the expected arrival of two rhinos in November. The new exhibit was developed during the pandemic.

Dermot Connolly – La Quinta Resort & Spa. Connolly reported stronger business recently. He has also noticed the Uber/taxi problem. In real estate, business is booming and listings are low because homes listed are selling quickly.

Tom Tabler – JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa. Tabler thanked the CVB and the Board for their efforts to support tourism. He noted that his resort is having trouble with sufficient staffing and wondered if there was a way to incentivize people to get back to work.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

Friday, June 25, 2021. Location: Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Prepared by:

Revae Reynolds

Executive Administrative Assistant

CVB Board of Directors Secretary:

Robert Del Mas

Approval Date:

June 25, 2021