

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Large Conference Room, City Hall

3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California 92262

BOARD MEMBERS:	Present This Meeting:	Present FY Year-to-Date:	FY: 2009/2010 Excused Absences:
John Gilmer, Chair	X	6	0
Barbara Marshall, Vice Chair	X	6	0
Thomas DeLeeuw	X	6	0
Sheila Grattan	X	6	0
Roxann Ploss	X	5	0
Brian Strahl	X	6	0
Sidney Williams		5	1

Staff Representatives:

Craig A. Ewing, AICP,
Director of Planning Services
Staff Liaison

Glenn Mlaker, Assistant Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gilmer called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Present: R. Ploss, B. Strahl, S. Grattan, T. DeLeeuw, Vice Chair B. Marshall and Chair Gilmer. Absent: S. Williams.
3. POSTING OF AGENDA: The Agenda was available for public access at the City Hall exterior bulletin board (west side of Council Chamber), City Clerk's office and Planning Services' counter on or before 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, 2009.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None reported.
5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Minutes from the November 10, 2009 meeting.

M/S/C (Grattan / Marshall, 6-0, 1 absent / Williams) To approve, minutes of November 10, 2009.
6. PUBLIC HEARING:
 - 6A. HSPB 72 (*Orchid Tree Inn*) – An application by the City of Palm Springs Historic Site Preservation Board for the designation of a Class 1 Historic Site at 261 Belardo Road, Zone R-3, Section 15.

Director Ewing requested that the item be continued to the meeting of January 12, 2010.

M/S/C (DeLeeuw / Marshall, 6-0-1; Williams absent) to continue the item to the Board meeting of January 12, 2010.

7. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL REQUEST(S):

- 7A. Case SI 09-140 / HSPB 22 (*La Plaza*) – Peabody’s Café for the placement of a new 4.87 square foot double sided illuminated sign with exposed neon accent pieces placed on the front façade located at 134 South Palm Canyon Drive, Zone CBD, Section 15.

Assistant Planner Mlaker presented the report. The Board discussed the sign’s design, color, and relationship to the La Plaza Theater.

M/S/C (Grattan / DeLeeuw, 5-1-1; Marshall opposed, Williams absent) to approve the sign as proposed, with final colors to be approved by staff and a sub-committee (Strahl, Grattan, Ploss). The final green color should be darker and muted.

- 7B. Case 3.3161 / HSPB 42 (*Wexler Steel Home*) – Brian McGuire, owner, requests approval for the addition of 3 block courses on rear property wall to a height of 8 feet due to grade difference located at 3125 North Sunny View Drive, Zone R-1-C, Section 2.

Assistant Planner Mlaker presented the report. Brian McGuire, applicant, described the project. The Board offered no adverse comments or concerns.

M/S/C (Ploss / Marshall, 6-0-1; Williams absent) to approve the wall as proposed, subject to staff’s recommended conditions.

- 7C. Case 09-115 / HSPB 53 – Chase Bank for the approval of one sign above the main entrance at the former Coachella Valley Savings, 499 South Palm Canyon Drive, Zone CBD, Section 15. (GM)

Assistant Planner Mlaker presented the report. Louis Worbey, sign program manager for Chase Bank (applicant) described the application, including the placement in the upper third of the panel, the brushed stainless finish and the LED back-lighting.

The Board discussed the project, including the use of up-lighting in front of the sign (behind the portico columns, and concluded that the proposal was an improvement over the prior, all-blue submittal.

M/S/C (Grattan / Strahl, 5-1-1; Ploss opposed, Williams absent) to approve the wall sign, subject to staff’s recommended conditions and the following additional

conditions:

1. The sign shall be mounted in the upper one-third of the panel of the main entry.
2. The sign finish shall be brushed stainless.
3. The sign shall be halo-lit with LED lighting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

8.A Work Program and Budget for 2009 / 10 - Update of Proposed Work Program.

At the request of the Board, an update on the status of the budget and of the plaques will be presented at the January meeting.

8.B Preserve America Community - Follow-up Opportunities

The Board agreed to create a sub-committee for the pursuit of grant opportunities offered by the Preserve America program. Chair Gilmer appointed the following Board members: Gilmer, Marshall, and Williams.

8.C Draft Brochure – Update

No report.

8.D Letter from Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce and PSEDC - Discussion

Staff sought comments from the Board regarding a letter from the Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Palm Springs Economic Development Council, and noted that the letter's authors were in the audience.

M/S/C (Grattan / Ploss, 6-0-1; Williams absent) to re-open public comments.

Valerie Zugates of the PSCC and Lyn Calderine of the PSEDC stated that the letter meant to seek clarification from the City on the definition and use of "historic districts", and offer some possible code amendments. They also stated that the Chamber and PSEDC have a sub-committee available to work with the Board on the matter.

Ron Marshall, of the Palm Spring Preservation Foundation, stated that there are benefits from the designation of an area as a historic district. He also mentioned that January 22 through 24 will be "Wexler Weekend" hosted by PSPF.

Chair Gilmer closed public comments.

The Board discussed the letter and matters related to historic districts, including the Mills Act and its impact on City revenues. The Board agreed to form a sub-committee to work with the Chamber and PSEDC. Chair Gilmer appointed the following Board members: Gilmer, Strahl, and DeLeeuw.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS:

9.A Las Palmas Business Historic District Committee - Update

No report.

9.B Public Outreach Committee – Update

Board member Grattan suggested that the Board begin by surveying itself of how the community perceives historic preservation. Chair Gilmer stated that a survey of the Board is being prepared.

10. STAFF & OTHER REPORTS:

Staff noted that the location of the Chase Bank (Coachella Valley Savings Bank) plaque has been tentatively set, subject to review by bank management.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Boardmember Ploss asked if attendance of Board members at parties was a violation of the Brown Act. Director Ewing replied that attendance at social events was not prohibited, but that Board members must not discuss Board business at such events.

Board Member DeLeeuw noted the work and coverage provided by Marcel Honoré of the Desert Sun.

Chair Gilmer asked that the de Brabant house be scheduled for the HSPB meeting in January. He also asked staff to check with the City Attorney on the limits of the Board in conducting outreach efforts, specifically to identify and educate property owners as prospective applicants for designation.

12. ADJOURNMENT: M/S/C (DeLeeuw / Ploss 6-0-1; Williams absent) The Historic Site Preservation Board adjourned at 9:55 a.m. to its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at 8:15 a.m., in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services