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CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

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	9	0
Barbara Marshall, Vice Chair	X	9	0
Thomas DeLeeuw	X	8	1
Sheila Grattan		8	1
Roxann Ploss	X	8	0
Brian Strahl		8	1
Sidney Williams	X	8	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: Chair Gilmer, Vice Chair B. Marshall, T. DeLeeuw, R. Ploss and S. Williams. Absent: S. Grattan, B. Strahl.
3. POSTING OF AGENDA: This 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. Tuesday, March 2, 2010.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments were offered
5. CONSENT CALENDAR:

M/S/C (Ploss / DeLeeuw, 5-0, 2 absent Grattan and Strahl) To approve minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting. Corrections:
 - A Capitalize Board member Williams’ position title at the Art Museum.
 - B Change Wexler “Weekend Brochure” to “Tribute Journal”
Board member Williams noted that the Pepper Tree Inn is a “contributing property” in the Las Palmas Business Historic District, but has been so significantly modified that it may not qualify under today’s standards.

DRAFT

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

(None)

7. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL REQUEST(S):

(None)

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

A Candidates for Historic Designation – Priority-setting

Chair Gilmer summarized candidate listings previously reviewed by the Board in 2007 and 2008. The Board discussed its current preferences and how to move more aggressively to designate properties.

M/S/C (Williams / Ploss, 5-0, 2 absent Grattan and Strahl) To establish the City Hall site amendment as the first priority for Board action.

Chair Gilmer established a sub-committee on the Stevens House consisting of Williams, Marshall and DeLeeuw.

The Board identified the following lists of candidate properties for initiation by the Board:

- (a) City Hall site amendment (already initiated),
- (b) Stevens Residence,
- (c) Del Marcos Inn,
- (d) Robinsons,
- (e) Professional Park on Civic Drive,
- (f) Palm Springs Unified School District Administration Building on Farrell, Raymond Cree School, and Palm Springs High School Auditorium,
- (g) L'Horizon Hotel,
- (h) Ocotillo Lodge

The Board noted the following applications anticipated from property owners or others:

- (a) Kocher-Samson Building,
- (b) Cary Grant Estate,
- (c) Wexler Residence.

B Preserve America Grant Opportunities - Update

Vice-Chair Marshall reported that first grant candidate would be the Las Palmas Business Historic District. She also noted that grant funds are at risk due to budget concerns in Washington D.C.

DRAFT

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS:

9.A Las Palmas Business Historic District Committee – Update

Board members DeLeeuw and Ploss reported that they have been reviewing City files, to develop an understanding of the District’s “contributing” and “non-contributing” properties. Board member DeLeeuw suggested that a new overlay be developed for mid-century modern properties.

9.B Public Outreach / Chamber-PSEDC Sub-committee – Update

Chair Gilmer reported that a follow-up meeting of the Board’s sub-committee (Gilmer and DeLeeuw) with representatives of the Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Palm Springs Economic Development Committee is being scheduled.

9. STAFF & OTHER REPORTS:

Director Ewing reported that the City Attorney finds no concern with Board members contacting property owners prior to the filing of an application for designation. However, once an application is filed, all ex parte communications should be avoided. Board member should disclose all contacts and should recuse themselves if either a possible violation has occurred or even if the concern is only the perception of the Board member’s involvement with a filed application.

Director Ewing noted that the Board’s meetings will be recorded but no longer broadcast live on cable television or broadband. A single, fixed camera is now being used to record all Boards and Commissions.

Director Ewing presented a staff memo regarding the Orchid Tree, including new Code Enforcement efforts to address property maintenance.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board member Ploss recognized Vice-chair Marshall’s work on the Modernism Fashion Show. She also noted in the latest Preservation Magazine how the Empire State Building is being brought up to “green” standards.

Vice-chair Marshall asked about the Planning Commission’s review of the City Hall parking lot. Director Ewing noted that the Planning Commission does not review projects for historic preservation, but for design and architecture review. Also, the Stay of Demolition adopted by the Board was not appealed; therefore, it is in effect.

DRAFT

Vice-chair Marshall asked about the status of plaques not yet installed. Director Ewing noted that the plaques for the Airport, the Casablanca Adobe and the Santa Fe Savings Bank are on order. Invernada and the El Paseo Building are available for installation. Staff will contact the owner of Invernada and place the El Paseo plaque on the next agenda to consider its installation or other options. The Board also indicated a desire for a plaque at the Royal Hawaiian Condominiums.

Vice-chair Marshall noted that the Sunmor Neighborhood is hosting a Home Tour on Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at www.sunmor-ps.com.

Board member DeLeeuw suggested that the old El Paseo plaque could be re-installed along with a new plaque. Director Ewing explained how staff approaches the preparation of plaque language and the placement of plaques.

Chair Gilmer noted the success of Modernism Week, including various events. Board member Williams reported an estimate of up to 15,000 people attending forty events, and that the impact of Modernism Week on the community will be reported to the City Council.

Chair Gilmer asked about the different treatment between the Carey-Pirozzi House and the City Hall parking lot. Director Ewing noted that the adopted Council resolution indicated that only the City Hall building was subject to Board review; he could not determine why a pool at the other property was submitted for review in 2005.

Vice-chair Marshall asked that the application for historic designation provided on the City's web-site be made "fillable" under a PDF format.

Board member Ploss provided a copy of an early survey of the Movie Colony district which provided a grading system for evaluating homes for possible designation, including types of structures, dates and other notations.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S/C (Ploss / DeLeeuw, 5-0, 2 absent Grattan and Strahl) The Historic Site Preservation Board adjourned at 9:15 a.m. to its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at 8:15 a.m., in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services