

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD

DRAFT

September 14, 2010 Meeting Minutes
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: 2010/2011 Excused Absences: |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| John Gilmer, Chair | X | 3 | 0 |
| Barbara Marshall, Vice Chair | X | 3 | 0 |
| Thomas DeLeeuw | X | 3 | 0 |
| Sheila Grattan | X | 3 | 0 |
| Roxann Ploss | X | 3 | 0 |
| Brian Strahl | X | 3 | 0 |
| Leo Cohen | X | 3 | 0 |

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

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gilmer called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Present: Chair Gilmer, Vice Chair Marshall, L. Cohen, T. DeLeeuw, S. Grattan, R. Ploss, and 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. Thursday, September 9, 2010.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
No public comments.
5. CONSENT CALENDAR:

M/S/C (Grattan / Marshall, 7-0) To approve minutes of the August 10, 2010 meeting, including corrections on pages 2 and 3 offered by Board members Ploss and Vice Chair Marshall.
6. PUBLIC HEARING:

HSPB 75 (*Cary Grant Estate; 928 Avenida Palmas*) – An application by Dr. Jane Cowles Smith for the historic designation of 928 Avenida Palmas, Zone R-1-C, Section 13.

Director Ewing summarized the staff memo and offered the draft resolution

prepared by the Board's appointed committee (Grattan, Marshall, Strahl), as well as an alternative resolution offered by the property owner. At the invitation of the Board, the owner provided clarifying remarks. Discussion by the Board included:

- Identification of property owner as "Dr. Jane Cowles Smith, Trustee for the Jane Cowles Smith Family Trust";
- Description as "faithfully restored" versus "faithfully restored to period"; and
- The issue of "renovation" versus "restoration" of the property,

M/S/C (Grattan / Strahl, 6-0; Ploss recused) To approve the draft resolution to recommend Class 1 historic designation, with the following changes:

- The second "WHEREAS" to be amended to read, in part, "...faithfully restored to period...";
- The fifth "WHEREAS" to be replaced with the language regarding property ownership offered in the draft resolution presented by Dr. Smith; and
- The add the following language to the end of Section 3:
"This property retains most of the original character-defining materials and details; in some cases replacements have been made based on historic photographs."

Chair Gilmer asked staff to send a copy of the final resolution to the Board.

Board member Ploss returned to the room.

7. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL REQUEST(S): None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

8A. HSPB 2 (*Welwood Murray Cemetery; 471 Chino Road*) Discussion of possible amendments to Class One Historic Designation.

Director Ewing summarized the staff memo and background information, also noting that this item was placed on the agenda at the request of Vice Chair Marshall.

Vice Chair Marshall noted the limited historic designation on the property, asked the Board to consider an expanded designation, especially for ground level headstones. At the invitation of the Board, Kathleen Jurasky, District Manager for the Cemetery, described the status of the headstones. Discussion by the Board and Ms. Jurasky included:

- The definition and maintenance of "upright" versus "ground level" headstones;
- The level of protection accorded the upright and ground level (including full-body) headstones by the Cemetery District;
- The history and operation of the Welwood Murray Cemetery; and
- Preserving specific elements versus the entire cemetery;

The Board considered initiating an application to amend the existing designation; however, no consensus was found to take such action.

9. STAFF & OTHER REPORTS:

Staff had no report.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board member Ploss expressed concern with the how recent applications for historic designation have been processed. She also noted that the “before” and “after” photos of the Tramway

Board member Cohen suggested a sub-committee to work on the historic preservation ordinance. Chair Gilmer noted that a committee is in place and will continue to work on developing an improved ordinance.

Vice Chair Marshall noted the following:

- The Preserve America sign is not yet installed, and asked about the status.
- The clock at the Cork’n’Bottle has been installed, and asked about the ownership status.
- Information provided by the Desert Water Agency does not provide much documentation of the Whitewater Mutual Water Company standpipes.
- The O’Donnell House has been submitted for the National Register of Historic Places and will be considered by the State Office of Historic Preservation.

(M/S/C/ DeLeeuw / Cohen, 7-0) To direct staff to prepare a letter to the State Office of Historic Preservation in favor of the O’Donnell House application.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S/C (DeLeeuw / Strahl, 7-0) To adjourn.

The Historic Site Preservation Board adjourned at 9:44 a.m. to its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2010, at 8:15 a.m. in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services