

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

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	2	
Brian Strahl, Vice Chair		1	1
Leo Cohen	X	2	
Thomas DeLeeuw	X	2	
Sheila Grattan	X	2	
Barbara Marshall	X	1	1
Roxann Ploss	X	2	

Staff Representatives:

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

Glenn Mlaker, Assistant Planner

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Gilmer called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
 2. **ROLL CALL:** Present: Ploss, Marshall, Grattan, DeLeeuw, Cohen, Chair Gilmer.
Absent: Vice-chair Strahl.
 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. on Wednesday, August 3, 2011.
 4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Marco Rossetti, 622 N. Palm Canyon Dr. (Alcazar Palm Springs) presented a proposal for signs on the former Peppertree Inn, noting that the application has been submitted for review by the HSPB in September.
 5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes from the July 12, 2011 meeting.

Board member DeLeeuw noted a correction on page 1 and asked that the conditions recommended by the AAC for items 7A and 7B be listed in the minutes. Chair Gilmer asked that the correct officers be reflected on future minutes and agendas. Board member Marshall noted her abstention as she was absent from the July 12 meeting.

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Motion by Ploss; second by Grattan; vote 5-0-1-1 (Marshall abstain; Strahl absent), to approve the minutes of July 12, 2011, subject to the identified corrections.

6. PUBLIC HEARING: None

7. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL REQUEST(S):

7A. Case 3.2089 MAA / HSPB 45 (Grace Lewis Miller House) – Catherine Meyler, owner, for the conversion of a 400-square foot garage to living space and the construction of a 440-square foot carport located at 2311 North Indian Canyon Drive, Zone R-2, Section 3.

Assistant Planner Mlaker summarized the staff report. The Board asked about

- The 2006 approval of a similar project
- The conformance of the proposed carport with current codes

Doug Hudson (project architect) described the property's history, the proposed project, the reasons for the proposal and how the design features relate to the existing building. He noted that the new carport is based on the carport designed for the Raymond Loewy house. Catherine Meyler (property owner, applicant) read two e-mails in support of the project (Steven Leet and Dr. Raymond Neutra). The Board confirmed with the applicant:

- The condition of the existing carport;
- The height of the new carport roof fascia;
- The provisions for roof drainage of the new carport;
- Provisions for protecting exposed wood elements;
- Provisions for exterior lighting;
- Circulation from the house to the converted garage;
- The reversible nature of the enclosure of the converted garage; and
- The use of boulders to surround and screen the proposed carport

Motion by Grattan; second by De Leeuw; vote 5-1-1 (Ploss opposed, Strahl absent), to approve the project, subject to a twelve (12) inch maximum height of the carport roof fascia, or approval by staff in consultation with the HSPB Chair.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS:

8.A Las Palmas Business Historic District Committee – Update

Board members DeLeeuw and Ploss summarized the most recent work of the Committee.

8.B Public Outreach Committee - Update

Chair Gilmer had no new information on this Committee.

9. STAFF & OTHER REPORTS:

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Director Ewing reported that four historic markers have been fabricated and are available for installation. Chair Gilmer appointed a committee (Grattan, Ploss, Cohen) to identify locations for the markers. The committee will also design an unveiling event for the new markers. He also confirmed that a quorum will be available for the September meeting.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board member Ploss discussed the creation of a new historic district for the Las Palmas residential neighborhood. The Board also discussed other potential districts, including the Historic Tennis Club Neighborhood, Vista Las Palmas and The Mesa. The Board considered that such initiatives are best developed from within the neighborhood and suggested that Board members seek out local residents who are willing to take the lead on creating historic districts.

Board member Grattan asked about a joint meeting with the City Council. Director Ewing indicated that he is not aware of any Council – Commission / Board joint meetings scheduled at this time.

Director Ewing suggested the Board revisit the list of individual properties that are not currently designated but are worthy of the Board's initiative.

Board member Marshall confirmed with staff that the marker for the Chase Bank (Coahcella Valley Savings and Loan) is still pending. She also suggested that the Board focus on a work plan for this year, and volunteered to develop a potential list of properties for the Board's consideration in September. Ms. Marshall also offered to bring sample design guidelines for review by the Board on the October agenda. Director Ewing suggested that the Board might instead review existing designated properties and, where needed, establish more clear statements of historic characteristics.

Finally, Director Ewing noted that the City Council will hold a hearing in September on the Board's recommendation to designate the City Hall site as a historic resource. He also noted that the City has withdrawn the Architectural Review application for the Welwood Murray Memorial Library, and believes that the City now intends to work with the existing structure.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Grattan; second by Gilmer; vote 6-0-1 (Strahl absent), to adjourn the Historic Site Preservation Board at 9:45 a.m. to its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 8:15 a.m., in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services