

DRAFT

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

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: 2011/2012 Excused Absences:
John Gilmer, Chair	X	5	2
Brian Strahl, Vice Chair	X	6	1
Thomas DeLeeuw		6	1
Sheila Grattan	X	7	
Roxann Ploss	X	7	
Barbara Marshall	X	6	1
Leo Cohen	X	5	2

Staff Representatives:

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

Glenn Mlaker, Assistant Planner
David Newell, Associate Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gilmer called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Present: Ploss, Marshall, Grattan, Cohen, Vice-chair Strahl, Chair Gilmer.
Absent: DeLeeuw
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 Thursday, January 5, 2012.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None reported.
5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Minutes from the December 13, 2011 meeting.

Ms. Ploss noted on Page 4, Item 8.c that the Palm Springs Unified School Building being referred to is the former PSUSD building located on Farrell.

Ms. Marshall noted that the Role Call listing was not shown.

Motion by Ploss; second by Marshall; vote 5-0-1-1 (Gilmer abstain, DeLeeuw absent), to approve the minutes of December 13, 2011, as amended.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

7. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL REQUESTS

7A. HSPB 54 / Case 3.963 – Santa Fe Federal Savings Building – Palm Springs Art Museum for paint color review of exterior building columns; and design, materials, and colors for trash enclosure as conditions of approval at the Edward Harris Center located at 300 South Palm Canyon Drive, Zone CBD, Section 15.

Assistant Planner Mlaker presented the staff report. Chris Shanley and Christian Santos of Marmol and Associates, representing the applicant, noted:

- Relocation of the trash enclosure to the northeast corner of the site;
- Existing trash enclosure to be demolished was not original to building; and
- Paint color of steel columns to match original 'champagne bronze'

The Board confirmed:

- Location and design of the trash enclosure;
- The proposed column color matches the original color.

Motion by Marshall; second by Cohen; vote 6-0-1 (DeLeeuw absent), to approve the request, subject to forwarding to staff the color name and number of the paint for the columns.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.A Case 3.3549 SFR – 287 W. Racquet Club Road. Request to allow a demolition permit for a Class 3 single-family dwelling and guest house located at 287 W. Racquet Club Road, Zone R-2, Section 3.

Vice-chair Strahl indicated that he had a potential conflict of interest on this matter, recused himself and left the room.

Director Ewing presented the staff report. Danny Grathwohl of Lyle Commercial, and Tod Davidson, Mirage Developers, representing the property owner, noted:

- Mr. Bren owned the house from December 1935 to April 1942, when he sold it to George Hogue, a vice-president of the J. C. Penny Company.
- Mr. Bren married actress Claire Trevor in 1948, several years after selling the subject property.

The Board discussed:

- The 'demolition by neglect' of potentially significant properties;

- Other ownership information, including the original owners Frank Shields, a prize-winning tennis player, and Rebecca Tenney, beginning in 1936; and later ownership by Clarence Brown, film director of Greta Garbo.
- The building's architecture as a 'weekend cottage', as envisioned by Hollywood.

Motion by Grattan; second by Cohen; vote 4-1-1-1 (Ploss opposed, Strahl recused, DeLeeuw absent), to not issue a Stay of Demolition on 287 W. Racquet Club Road.

8.B HSPB 78 – Del Marcos Hotel. Discuss background information for application to designate property as historic resource, located at 225 W. Baristo Road, Zone R-3, Section 15.

Director Ewing presented the staff report. The Board discussed:

- The hotel's recognition by the Southern California Chapter of the AIA in 1949;
- The significance of William Cody as a regional architect of note; and
- Robert Imber as a local source of information.

The Board agreed that the information presented was sufficient to proceed with the nomination hearing.

8.C Resolution Recommending the City Council adopt the Secretary of Interior's Guidelines for Historic Preservation.

Director Ewing presented the staff report, and expressed his concern regarding the recommendation to the City Council of a 175-page guideline for historic properties. The Board discussed:

- How to use the guidelines in the review of historic properties;
- Use of the standards, extracted from the entire document;
- How to distinguish among "preserving", "rehabilitating", "restoring" and "reconstructing", as defined by the Secretary of Interior.
- Other cities that have adopted the Secretary of Interior standards
- Use of other resources to review existing designated properties

The Board requested staff to investigate the experiences of other cities which have adopted the Secretary's standards.

8.D Discussion of Outreach Letter and Candidate Properties

Director Ewing summarized recent Board discussions on candidate properties and communicating the Board's interest in designation. The Board discussed:

- Staff contacting Riverside County staff assigned to historic preservation regarding potentially significant County sites in the City; and
- Sending a letter to the Palm Springs Unified School District seeking their support for designation of significant District sites.

The Board requested staff to contact Riverside County and Palm Springs Unified School District staff about potential historic designation.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

9.A Public Outreach Committee – Update

Board member Ploss summarized the work to date, including a hand-out of the properties located in the Las Palmas Business Historic District. The Board discussed several of the properties in the District, including the accuracy of address numbers, current remodeling activity and the potential for historic designation. The Board agreed to review the list individually and forward any comments and edits to staff.

10. STAFF & OTHER REPORTS

Director Ewing noted that the City Council meeting of January 18, 2012 will include a continued public hearing to act on the Board's recommendation to amend the historic designation of the Palm Springs City Hall to include the parking lot and landscaping. The Board asked about the Orchid Tree Inn, and the Director had no new information. The Board asked about the Welwood Murray Memorial Library, and the Director indicated that exterior repairs to the roof and windows are in process and that the City Council has authorized asbestos and lead abatement, as well as plans for electrical and HVAC improvements.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board member Marshall noted that trash around the Welwood Murray Memorial Library remains a visual and odor problem, and that vagrants have taken to camping around the library.

Motion by Grattan to adjourn. Motion died for lack of a second.

Board member Cohen noted that Davey's Hide-away had closed.

Board member Ploss noted that the strip mall north of the Santa Fe Federal Savings building has lost a number of tenants.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Cohen; second by Strahl; vote 6-0-1 (DeLeeuw absent), to adjourn at 10:47 a.m. to the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at 8:15 a.m., in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services