

DRAFT

**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 14, 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		5	3
Brian Strahl, Vice Chair	X	7	1
Thomas DeLeeuw	X	7	1
Sheila Grattan	X	8	
Roxann Ploss	X	8	
Leo Cohen	X	6	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:** Vice-Chair Strahl called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Present: Ploss, Grattan, DeLeeuw, Cohen, and Vice-chair Strahl.
Absent: Chair Gilmer
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 Tuesday, February 7, 2012.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes from the January 10, 2011 meeting.

Motion by Ploss; second by Cohen; vote 4-0-1-1 (DeLeeuw abstain, Gilmer absent), to approve the minutes of January 10, 2012 as submitted.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 6A. HSPB 78 - An application by the City of Palm Springs, requesting the Historic Site Preservation Board to recommend to City Council designation of 225 W. Baristo Road "The Del Marcos Hotel" as a Class 1 historic site.

Director Ewing presented the staff report. The Board asked staff about the need to protect the lot (entire project site), not just the building or landscaping. The Director indicated that any new construction would be subject to HSPB review as provided by condition no. 2 of the draft resolution. Landscape changes are not proposed to be subject to HSPB review.

Vice-chair Strahl opened the public hearing.

Patrick McGrew noted that additional information should have been included in the report to the Board and indicated that he would forward his report. He supported the designation.

See no other speakers; Vice-chair Strahl closed the public hearing.

The Board asked if an application for designation should be filled out. The Director noted that when the Board initiates the designation process, an application is not prepared. He also noted that the Board decides when it has sufficient information to forward a recommendation. The Board discussed that additional information can be appended to the file that can be used in future actions.

Motion by Cohen; second by Grattan; vote 5-0-1 (Gilmer absent), to adopt the draft resolution no. HSPB 78, as submitted.

Director Ewing noted that in visiting the hotel, he spoke with the manager who expressed support for the designation.

7. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL REQUESTS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.A Case 3.3453 – A request to allow a demolition permit for a Class 3 single family dwelling located at 1076 El Alameda Drive, Zone R-1-C, Section 11.

Assistant Planner Mlaker presented the staff report. The Board asked about the size of the house based on the information presented by the applicant.

Vice-chair Strahl invited the applicant to speak to the Board. Lance O'Donnell, representing the applicant, indicated that the house had been expanded and

modified from its original 800 square feet to nearly 2,000 square feet, and these additions were unsympathetic to the original house. He showed images of the proposed replacement dwelling, indicating that some of the mature landscaping will be preserved. The Board discussed the loss of Spanish Colonial and other older homes in the neighborhood. The Board also asked the applicant about preserving the barrel tiles; Mr. O'Donnell indicated that the building's materials would be re-purposed where possible.

Motion by Grattan; second by Cohen; vote 5-0-1 (Gilmer absent), to decline to issue a Stay of Demolition and allow the structure to be removed.

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

The Board agreed to postpone this item until the next meeting with the Chair will be present.

8.C Discussion of Outreach Letter and Candidate Properties

Director Ewing summarized recent mailing to the Palm Springs Unified School District, and the preliminary response from Julie Arthur, District staff. He requested that the Board identify one of its members to make a follow-up call to Ms. Arthur. The Board selected Chair Gilmer to call Ms. Arthur.

8.D Discussion of the Placement of a Booth at the PSNIC picnic event.

Board member Ploss asked the Board to consider hosting an information table at the PSNIC picnic on Saturday March 31, 2012 at Ruth Hardy Park. The Board discussed the benefits and logistics of hosting a table or booth:

- Joining the Sustainability Commission table vs. having a dedicated HSPB table;
- The hours would be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with additional time for set-up and tear-down;
- Staff indicated that materials could be provided, including pamphlets, application forms, enlarged photographs, the 2004 historical properties survey, and other items;
- Reaching out to former HSPB members to help host the table.
- Providing cookies or other snacks.

Board member Ploss agreed to coordinate set-up of the table and hosting for the first hour. Board member Grattan agreed to host in the last hour and complete the teardown. Staff will provide the materials and photos for the event.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Vice-Chair Strahl invited Mr. McGrew to speak to the Board. Mr. McGrew discussed events associated with Modernism Week, including a Retro Martini Party at the Maranz House in Rancho Mirage, and the dedication of a star for William F. Cody. He also presented his report on the Kocher-Samson Building and asked the Board to

consider initiating the designation process. He also noted that the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation will be submitting additional designation reports to the Board for consideration. Vice-chair Strahl asked that staff place the Kocher-Samson Building on the next agenda.

9.A Las Palmas Business Historic District Committee - Update

Board members Ploss and DeLeeuw stated that there was no new information to report this month.

Vice-chair Strahl invited Patrick McGrew to offer comments. Mr. McGrew noted that the Desert Spanish Journal includes 5 pages on the Old Las Palmas Business Historic District, including historic images and background studies on the contributing structures.

Board member Grattan left the meeting.

9.B Public Outreach Committee - Update

Director Ewing noted that the public outreach report under Item 8.C (above) would be the report, with no new information.

10. STAFF & OTHER REPORTS

Director Ewing noted that Chris Menrad has picked up the marker for his home (1070 E. Apache Road) and will host an unveiling of the marker at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 20th. An Open House will be conducted from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. with a \$35 admission.

The Director also noted that the City Council will conduct a public hearing at its meeting of February 15, 2012 to consider the Board's recommendation to designate the landscaping and parking lot of City Hall.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board member Cohen asked about the location of the Menrad marker.

Board member Ploss noted an article in *Preservation* magazine on protecting downtowns. She also asked that the Charlie Farrell house and guest house (Tachevah and Via Miraleste) be placed on the next agenda for initiation of historic designation.

Vice-Chair Strahl commented on Barbara Marshall's four years of service on the Board, recognizing her willingness to volunteer extra time on behalf of the Board's work. On behalf of the Board, he thanked her for her service.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by DeLeeuw; second by Cohen Strahl; vote 4-0-2 (Gilmer and Grattan absent), to adjourn at 9:24 a.m. to the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 8:15 a.m., in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services