

DRAFT

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 11, 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: 2012/2013 Excused |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Absences: | | | |
| John Gilmer, Chair | X | 3 | |
| Thomas DeLeeuw | X | 3 | |
| Lee Glenn | X | 1 | 2 |
| Sheila Grattan | X | 3 | |
| Patrick McGrew | X | 3 | |
| Roxann Ploss | X | 3 | |

Staff Representatives:

Craig A. Ewing, AICP, Director of Planning Services Glenn Mlaker, Assistant Planner
Staff Liaison

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair DeLeeuw called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

1. **ROLL CALL:** Present: Ploss, McGrew, Glenn, Gilmer Vice-chair Grattan, and Chair DeLeeuw
Absent: none

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, September 4, 2012.

Chair DeLeeuw introduced Lee Glenn at his first Board meeting, and also acknowledged the events of September 11, 2001.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ron Marshall, Palm Spring Preservation Foundation, encouraged the Board to move forward with the JW Robinsons building designation application, notwithstanding the lack of owner support.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Minutes from the August 14, 2012 meeting.

Board member Ploss noted the correct spelling of Susan Worswick. Vice-chair Grattan asked that the names of the Chair and Vice-Chair be corrected, and Chair DeLeeuw noted that the language on Page 10 corrected.

Motion by Ploss; second by Gilmer; vote 5-0-1 (Glenn abstain) To approve the minutes of August 14, 2012, as corrected.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

7. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL REQUESTS: None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.A Case 3.3580 An application by Barry "Scott" Barkley, owner, to demolish the house, pool and related structures at 829 North Patencio Road, a Class 3 historic site.

Ken Lyon, presented the staff memo, including a site visit by members of the Board. The Board discussed:

- Current conditions of the property
- Additions to the original structure
- Repurposing materials demolished from the structure,
- The design and depth of the pool.

Board member McGrew read a statement into the record regarding the history of the site, the prior owners and the building's similarity to Cliff May-designed homes. He asserted that the house might qualify as a Class One historic property.

Motion by McGrew; second by Glenn; to establish a 120-day Stay of Demolition to allow investigation of the property for possible designation. The Board discussed the motion:

- The design of the fireplace,
- The house's architectural significance,
- The owner's involvement with the property,
- The feasibility / viability of restoring the property,
- The Board's purview over future development,
- The potential for additional information being discovered about the site.

Vote on motion: 3 to 3 (Gilmer, Grattan, Ploss opposed). The motion failed and the Stay of Demolition was not adopted.

The Board recessed for a short break.

8.B Discussion of Data-bases on Historic Properties

Board member McGrew presented data-bases of historic and potentially historic properties, and offered suggestions for maintaining such lists going forward. The Board discussed:

- Reconciling multiple lists developed in the City
- Developing point systems for evaluating properties,
- Improving the accuracy of existing lists,
- Improving public access to historical information,

The Chair appointed a sub-committee (Glenn, McGrew and Ploss) to analyze and develop additional data-base information and identify a method to prioritize potential properties. A limited-purpose work plan is needed first to assure the sub-committee is not subject to the Brown Act.

8.C Discussion of Rules for the Transaction of Board Business

Board member McGrew proposed that the Board consider adopting a history of a building prior to recommending designation of a property – a two-step process of review. The Board discussed:

- How to use a two-step process within the Ordinance
- The consistency of Board statements over time
- Use of a complete application for the Board's statement
- Elements of an appropriate Board statement / recommendation

Motion by McGrew; second by Grattan; vote 6-0 That the HSPB divide its nominations deliberation as follows:

1. Adopt an official building history report based on the application, including an executive summary, and
2. Adopt a resolution of recommendation.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS:

9.A Las Palmas Business Historic District Committee – Update

Board member McGrew that the project is progressing and that the committee will report next when the project is completed.

9.B Public Outreach Committee – Update

Board member Grattan reported that she is connecting with local media about publicizing historic preservation, including stories and endorsements from owners of designated properties. She also discussed obtaining information about the history of the local water companies. Board member McGrew noted that a Mills Act contract has been executed within the Royal Hawaiian Estates and could be another success story to be publicized.

10. STAFF & OTHER REPORTS

Director Ewing noted the Council's approval of the Mills Act at the Royal Hawaiian Estates involved a unique arrangement involving the unit owner, the HOA and the City. He noted that the October agenda could be extensive, with several nominations before the Board.

Mr. Ewing also asked the Board about its approach to the JW Robinsons building considering the owner is not in support of the application. Board member McGrew asked if the nomination is subject to the 45-day approval deadline of the Municipal Code. Mr. Ewing indicated that a City-initiated application is not subject to any time limitations. The Board discussed how to address the owner's opposition to the application and concluded that the nomination should precede, but that a letter from the Chair is sent inviting the owner to the meeting.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board member Ploss asked about non-permitted work on Class 1 sites. Mr. Ewing responded that the non-permitted fencing at the Cary Grant estate is being abated with the City's approval. Any non-permitted work is a violation of the City's code.

Ms. Ploss also noted that an old photograph of the Charlie Farrell house is featured in the September issue of Desert Magazine. Mr. Ewing noted that "Lucky Star" (1929) will be shown on Turner Classic Movies on October 9, 2012.

Board member McGrew noted that a list of movies associated with Palm Springs is available on the web; Ms. Ploss noted that the web is incomplete.

Board member Grattan reported on her communication with Katie Ruark of the Desert Water Agency, including the Agency's 50-year anniversary book and materials.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Grattan; second by Gilmer; vote 6-0 To adjourn the meeting to the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, at 8:15 a.m., in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services