

DRAFT

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 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:
Thomas DeLeeuw, Chair	X	7	
Sheila Grattan, Vice Chair	X	7	
John Gilmer	X	5	2
Lee Glenn		4	2
Patrick McGrew	X	7	
Roxann Ploss	X	7	

Staff Representatives:

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

Glenn Mlaker, Assistant Planner

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair DeLeeuw called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Present: Ploss, McGrew, Gilmer, Chair DeLeeuw
Absent: Glenn, Grattan
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, December 4, 2012.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.
5. PUBLIC HEARING:
 - 5A. Case HSPB 86 – An application by Eric Ellenbogen, owner, requesting the Historic Site Preservation Board recommend to the City Council designation as a Class 1 historic site the single family dwelling at 611 N. Phillips Road (“Abernathy Residence”).

Board member McGrew notified the Board that he had a conflict of interest related to the case, would recuse himself and exit the room. The Board was left without a quorum for the item and it was continued to the meeting of January 8, 2013.

- 5B. Case HSPB 87 – An application by Barbara Black, owner, requesting the Historic Site Preservation Board recommend to the City Council designation as a Class 1 historic site the single family dwelling at 1320 E Tamarisk Road (“General Houses, Inc. Palm Springs Model Home”).

Chair DeLeeuw asked that this item be continued so that a site visit could be arranged for Board members. He asked that a site visit also be arranged for the prior item. The Board discussed previous visits some members have made to the site and also asked that future applications have site visits scheduled prior to public hearings.

Director Ewing presented the staff report. The Board asked about staff’s recommendation to include the finding related to periods of history

Chair DeLeeuw opened the public hearing:

- Ron Marshall, Palm Spring Preservation Foundation, expressed support for the application and noted that the house will be included in a PSPF tour of steel houses.

(Board member Grattan arrived.)

- Barbara Black, property owner, expressed support for the application, noting that she has occupied the house for 50 years. She welcomed the Board to tour the property.

The Board discussed:

- Scheduling a site visit,
- Adding to the record information about architect Black who owned the property

Motion by Grattan; second by Gilmer; vote 5-0-1 (Glenn absent) to continue the matter to the meeting of January 8, 2013, with direction to staff to arrange for site visits prior to the next meeting.

- 5A. Case HSPB 86 – An application by Eric Ellenbogen, owner, requesting the Historic Site Preservation Board recommend to the City Council designation as a Class 1 historic site the single family dwelling at 611 N. Phillips Road (“Abernathy Residence”).

With the arrival of Board member Grattan, Chair DeLeeuw returned to this item. Board member McGrew recused himself and left the room.

Director Ewing presented the staff report. The Board discussed including the parking area and landscaping in the designation

Chair DeLeeuw opened the public hearing.

- Ron Marshall, Palm Spring Preservation Foundation, expressed support for the application, noted that the building might be William Cody’s best residential design, and noted the carport installation as well as the property owner’s support.

The Board discussed the solar panel installation already permitted. Director Ewing noted that a new type of solar “blanket” will be the main dwelling which could be a model for future projects.

Motion by Grattan; second by Ploss; vote 4-0-1-1 (McGrew recused, Glenn absent) to continue the matter to the meeting of January 8, 2013, with direction to staff to arrange for site visits prior to the next meeting.

In response to a question from Board member Grattan, Director Ewing stated that the Board may wish to consider a future condition on historic designations requiring solar “blankets” unless waived by the HSPB.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

6A. Theft of Historic Markers

Board member Ploss noted that four markers were stolen from the American Legion Hall building on N. Belardo Road. She reported that Sign-a-Rama has offered to replace the smaller memorial markers. While the City did not pay for the marker that recognized the historic designation, she asked if the Board was interested in replacing it. Director Ewing stated that the Board could replace the marker out of its budget, noting that a new marker would not include the relief of palm trees and mountains found on the old markers. He also asked if new descriptive language conforming to the Board’s protocols should be developed.

Board member Grattan was concerned about stolen markers generally and whether the Board should set a precedent for replacing them. She also asked about insuring or physically securing the markers. Board member Gilmer noted that a determined thief will steal a bronze marker notwithstanding Board policies. Board member McGrew suggested that enameled metal or other lower value materials might be more appropriate.

Motion by Ploss to purchase and install a new marker for the American Legion Post based on the Board’s adopted protocols, with text to be determined by a Board sub-committee. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Board member Gilmer asked staff to provide reports on the status of designated properties that could have markers and on the budget. Board member McGrew asked staff to research the price of enameled metal. He confirmed that the Board uses aluminum markers for modern buildings, which could be considered for all properties. Director Ewing noted that the circumstances related to the American Legion Hall building made it a particularly attractive target, and that future markers will be installed with consideration for security as well as visibility.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Board member McGrew summarized some of the research work being undertaken by the data-base committee and asked that the item be calendared for the January meeting.

8 STAFF & OTHER REPORTS:

No report.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board member Ploss asked about the Las Serenas and Community Church properties. Director Ewing noted that there was inquiry by the new owner of Las Serenas, but no contact regarding the church. Ms. Ploss also asked about the nominations for the Charlie Farrell houses, which are expected to be brought forward for Board action in January or February, 2013

10. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Grattan; second by Ploss; vote 5-0-1 (Glenn absent) to continue adjourn the Historic Site Preservation Board Meeting at 9:17 a.m. to its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 8:15 a.m., in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.

Craig A. Ewing, AICP
Director of Planning Services