



# CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SERVICES

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 13, 2014  
**To:** The Historic Site Preservation Board  
**From:** Ken Lyon, RA, Associate Planner *Ken Lyon*  
**Subject:** Case HSPB 83 – The Palm Springs Racquet Club  
Investigation for possible Class 1 Designation

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At the March 2014 HSPB meeting, the board directed staff to contact the owner of the Palm Springs Racquet Club (Olivia Communities, Inc.) to arrange a possible site visit in conjunction with the board's initiation and investigation of the site for possible recommendation to the City Council for Class 1 historic designation. (This investigation was initiated by the board in May of 2012).

Attached is correspondence from the owner indicating that at this time, they would prefer not to pursue historic designation for the Palm Springs Racquet Club and thus have respectfully declined the City's request for a site visit. Although owner support and participation is not a requirement of the City's Historic Preservation ordinance for Class 1 designation, staff believes a cooperative effort and support of any historic designation recommendation always makes for a stronger recommendation to the City Council.

I have forwarded to the owner, Mills Act information and the materials prepared by staff since December 2013 on the evaluation of the site for eligibility for possible Class 1 historic designation.

At this time, staff recommends the HSPB conclude its investigation on possible designation of the Racquet Club and direct staff to retain the information in the HSPB case file on this property. Once the owner has completed the current capital improvements at the site, the board may wish to initiate outreach to the owner again. At that time, the Board may determine whether wishes to re-open the nomination and make a recommendation to the City Council or take no action.

Staff is seeking direction from the Board on how it wishes to proceed.

**Attachment:**

Mueller to Lyon e mail dated May 5, 2014

**Cc** Olivia Communities – Claire Lucas  
Michael Mueller, Consulting Architect

## Ken Lyon

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**From:** Ken Lyon  
**Sent:** Monday, May 05, 2014 11:57 AM  
**To:** 'Michael R. Mueller'  
**Cc:** clucas47@aol.com; judyd@olivia.com  
**Subject:** RE: HSPB 83 PS Racquet Club - HSPB requested site inspection  
**Attachments:** Mills Act Frequent Questions.pdf

Thank you for your notice Mike, I'll advise the HSPB accordingly and recommend that the file be closed until after the current project is nearing completion at which time the City and the owner(s) can further explore possible historic designation benefits and implications.

In the meantime, if further questions arise about opportunities for historic tax credits or Mills Act contracts for historic properties, I remain available and have included a FAQ on it.

### Ken Lyon, RA

Associate Planner  
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"Make no little plans,  
They have no magic to stir men's blood  
And probably won't be realized.  
Make big plans  
Aim high in work and in hope,  
Let your watchword be order,  
And your beacon beauty"  
Daniel Burnham, Architect and Planner

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**From:** Michael R. Mueller [<mailto:mike@muellerdesigninc.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 05, 2014 11:40 AM  
**To:** Ken Lyon  
**Subject:** Re: HSPB 83 PS Racquet Club - HSPB requested site inspection

Dear Mr. Lyon,

As Architect for The Racquet Club-I have spoken to the owners and we at an agreement to HOLD OFF on any Historical Evaluation for this property until we have outlined exactly what the program will be for all structures and that we have gone through the submission through the permitting process. We are of course very Historic Minded of this Property and its Historic Significance to the City of Palm Springs-but feel it is premature to meet on site or to start any registration process for this property. We will contact you directly when we reach that moment in time.

Most Respectfully,

Mike Mueller  
Architect

On Apr 16, 2014, at 8:59 AM, Ken Lyon wrote: