




**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SERVICES**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** January 14, 2009  
**To:** Planning Commission  
**From:** Craig A. Ewing, AICP, Director of Planning Services   
**Subject:** Architectural Advisory Committee: Appointment of Landscape Architect

---

On August 13, 2008, the Planning Commission declared a vacancy for a landscape architect on the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) and directed staff to post the vacancy as required by law. On October 7, 2008, the vacancy was posted by the City Clerk. Since the vacancy is reserved by Ordinance to a California licensed landscape architect, staff obtained a list of such persons who reside in the Coachella Valley and mailed to the Notice of Vacancy to this list.

At the meeting of December 10, 2008, the Commission reviewed the applications of two qualified candidates – landscape architects Rob Parker and James von Stein. The Commission directed staff to arrange for interviews with the candidates, to be conducted by a Commission ad hoc sub-committee of Chair Hochanadel and Commissioners Caffery and Ringlein. On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the ad hoc committee conducted interviews, discussed the two candidates and concluded that they would recommend Mr. Parker to Commission for the AAC appointment.

**Recommendation**

Staff is seeking the Commission's appointment to the vacant position on the AAC. The Commission's ad hoc sub-committee may wish to provide comment on their recommendation prior to the appointment.

cc: Applications from Rob Parker and James von Stein  
Notice of Vacancy



City of Palm Springs  
Commission/Board Application

Office of the City Clerk  
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
TEL (760) 323-8204  
FAX (760) 322-8332

Reserved Filing Stamp  
**RECEIVED**  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS  
2008 OCT 17 AM 8:34  
JAMES THOMPSON  
CITY CLERK *[Signature]*

**PLEASE NOTE THIS INFORMATION IS A PUBLIC RECORD**

All applicants must be residents and registered voters in the City of Palm Springs. The City Council will consider the information and the following factors in the selection process: background, education, and experience to demonstrate knowledge and sound judgment; social, ethnic and cultural diversity in commission membership and attendance at commission meetings prior to being interviewed.

Name of Commission/Board Applying For: Architectural Advisory Committee

Name: Rob Parker  
Home Address: 71329 San Geronimo Road  
City, State, Zip: Rancho Mirage CA 92270  
Home Telephone: cell 619.549.9571 Work Tel: 760.568-3624  
Email Address: Rob@RGA-PD.com

Length of Residence in Palm Springs: 0 Registered Voter in P. S? NO

Occupation: Landscape Architect

Employer: RGA Landscape Architects Inc

List the most recent meetings of the Commission you have attended:

Local Reference (Name and Telephone): Chris Mills WWCOT 320-1709

Education:  
BLA SUNY ESF 1988

Describe your knowledge of the functions and regulations of the Commission:

I was a member of the AAC in the past and understand the function of the commission is to review development + architectural/landscape plans for conformance with city requirements, aesthetics and appropriateness for Desert conditions.

Please outline your Background, Work Experience, and Civic Involvement:

Registered Landscape Architect State of CA 5219

Member and consulting landscape architect to the following HOA Architectural Advisory Committees.

- Mirada, Rancho Mirage
- Bighorn Country Club, Palm Desert
- The Tradition, La Quinta
- The Hideaway, La Quinta
- Andalusia @ Coral Mountain, La Quinta

RBA is also the consulting landscape architects to the City of Indian Wells - and has done work for Palm Springs, Palm Desert + Rancho Mirage.

What specific attitudes, skills, expertise and cultural diversity do you think you have to enhance the work of the Board or Commission:

One of my best attributes is being able to see both sides of a development or architectural issue and reach a compromise solution that meets the needs/goals of both the City and the developer/Architect.

What specific issues or problems face the board or commission. Do you have any suggestions to address those issues or problems.

It has been my personal experience that the Design review process is often drawn out and comments seem arbitrary and often are not constructive to reaching the goal of having an approved project.

**SUBMIT APPLICATION BY**RECEIVED  
DATE: 11/04/2008 PALM SPRINGS

2008 NOV -4 PM 2:16

**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS  
BOARD/COMMISSION APPLICATION FORM**JAMES THOMPSON  
CITY CLERK

Please be aware the submitted information IS a public record. ■ indicates required field.

Name of Board or Commission

on which you would you like to serve? Architectural Advisory Committee

■ Name: James von Stein

■ Address: 2683 North Via Miraleste, Palm Springs, CA

■ Zip: 92262

Registered Voter?

yes

■ Home Phone: 760.218.0945 Office Phone: 760.568.5009

Length of Residence in Palm Springs: 4.5 years

Email Address: jvons@aol.com

Employer: Self Employed

Occupation:

Landscape Architect CA-4112, NY-001424-1, American Society of Landscape Architects member Business owner, Pride Piper of Palm Desert, Inc. www.pridepiper.com

Local Reference:

Name: Ken Lyon, City of Palm Springs Planning Servi Phone: 760.322.8364

Regarding the commission you are applying for, list dates of its most recent meetings you have attended.

None as of todays date, 11.4.2008

The following information will be used by the City Council, and/or a subcommittee thereof, to select final applicants to be interviewed by the the City Council, in making recommendations to the Mayor for appointments.

**FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

*Resident & registered voter in Palm Springs*  
*Background, education, experience to demonstrate knowledge and sound judgment*  
*Social, Ethnic and cultural diversity in commission membership*  
*Attendance at commission meetings prior to interview*

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**  
 (Do not attach additional materials)

## Education:

Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture, College of Engineering, BSLA, 1986

## Background/Work Experience/Civic Involvement

Travel study of to India, architecture and social development, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, 1984. Public streetscape revitalization/ historic review for downtown commercial district. Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center, Columbus, Ohio, 1984-86. Site planning and environmental impact studies for large scale residential development. Stanley M. Hunts Associates, Southport, CT, 1986-88. Public park restoration and revitalization focusing on New York City Parks Department. Bruce Kelly/David Varnell, New York, NY, 1988-90. International resort planning and development. LDI International, Sydney, NSW, Australia, 1990-92. Marketing, Director of Marketing, Data Broadcasting Corp, New York, NY 1999-2001. Private Practice, landscape architect, 1992-2008

## Describe your knowledge of the functions, regulations and procedures of the commission which you would like to serve.

Reviewing all commercial/ industrial, government, professional, and hillside development to assure that the development(s) and it's structures are in relationship, scale, and context with the immediate neighborhood/ community of Palm Springs. A focus on the use of colors, materials, function of the structure, and landscape material to compliment Palm Springs and any historic elements that may exist.

## What specific attitudes, skills and expertise do you think you have to enhance the work of the commission?

My experience working as a site planner/landscape architect working with architects, environmentalist, traffic engineers, hydrologist, local planning commissions, and special interest groups, always working within a sustainable scope of planning and design. I would like to offer this vast range of experience/ skill sets to the greater good of Palm Springs.

## What specific issues or problems face the board/commission? Do you have any suggestions to address those issues or problems?

Sustainability appears to be a growing concern in most cities across the country. Palm Springs is posed to take a leadership role in sustainable direction in planning and development. Experience individuals can prepare for the next few years, decade, and beyond with leadership qualities.

## Additional qualifications for the Rent Control Commission are:

- a) applicant may not be a landlord or tenant subject to the rent control ordinance;*
- b) must submit a verified statement as to present holdings and interests in real property in the City.*



# City of Palm Springs

Office of the City Clerk

3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way • Palm Springs, California 92262  
Tel: (760) 323-8204 • Fax: (760) 322-8332 • Web: [www.palmsprings-ca.gov](http://www.palmsprings-ca.gov)

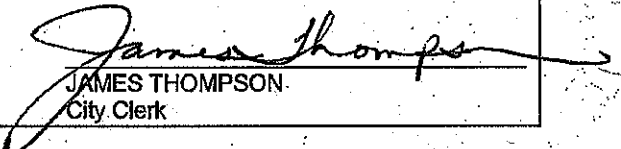
## NOTICE OF VACANCY ARCHITECTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Planning Commission is currently accepting applications for a California Licensed Landscape Architect for the Architectural Advisory Committee. Persons interested may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (760) 323-8204.

State of California )  
County of Riverside ) ss.  
City of Palm Springs )

### Affidavit of Posting

I, James Thompson, City Clerk of the City of Palm Springs, California, hereby certify this Notice of Vacancy was posted on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, in accordance with established policies and procedures.

  
JAMES THOMPSON  
City Clerk