

**HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting of July 5, 2022**

(The subject meeting was conducted via teleconference pursuant to Assembly Bill 361)

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chair Hough, Vice Chair Nelson, Members Hansen, Miller, Rosenow, Kiser.  
Absent: Member Rose.  
Staff Present: Principal Planner/HPO Ken Lyon, Deputy City Manager Flinn Fagg, AICP.

**REPORT OF THE POSTING OF AGENDA:** The Agenda was available for public access at the City Hall exterior bulletin board (west side of Council Chamber) by 6:00 pm on Thursday, June 30, 2022, and posted on the City's website as required by established policies and procedures.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

Motion by Rosenow, seconded by Miller, to accept the agenda as presented.

AYES: Hansen, Hough, Miller, Nelson, Kiser, Rosenow  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Rose  
ABSTAIN: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Steve Vaught, speaking in support of Villa Roma as a historic district.

Mr. McGann, Mr. Danny Ary, Ms. Mary Class, Mr. D. Grimm, Ms. Adrienne Sardelli, Ms. Pam Hannah, Mr. Phillip Hart, residents at Villa Roma, and Mr. Gary Johns spoke in support of Villa Roma as a historic district.

**1. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**1.A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: JUNE 7, 2022**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the Historic Site Preservation Board Minutes of June 7, 2022.

Motion by Hansen, seconded by Miller, to approve the Historic Site Preservation Board Minutes of June 7, 2022.

AYES: Hansen, Hough, Miller, Nelson, Kiser.  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Rose  
ABSTAIN: Rosenow

**2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** (none.)

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)**

**3.A. AN APPLICATION BY THE VILLA ROMA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION OF “THE VILLA ROMA GARDEN HOMES” LOCATED AT 2500 SOUTH SIERRA MADRE, (MASTER APN #512-120-070), CASE HSPB #140 (KL).**

Staff Lyon summarized the board’s action is to adopt an alternative resolution reflecting its findings and support of recommending designation of the Villa Roma Garden Homes by the City Council.

Member Kiser asked if historic districts carry the distinction of Class 1 or 2 (Lyon replied no.)

Member Hanson expressed that the draft resolution does not reflect her opinion on the case. The historic resource report and the City’s context statement are sufficient to make findings as a garden apartment complex. She opined the individual buildings do not need to be evaluated for conformance with the ordinance’s criteria. She stated all buildings, all carports, etc. contribute to the significance of the district.

Vice-chair Nelson concurred with Member Hansen’s comments and that Villa Roma is significant as a garden apartment complex.

Staff Lyon stressed each element that the Board asserts is “contributing” must meet the criteria findings of significance.

Member Nelson asked why each building needs to be evaluated. (Lyon explained the new revised ordinance requires it.)

Staff Lyon shared proposed alternative criteria findings developed by Member Hansen.

Member Kiser expressed difficulty in taking action based on the information presented and discussed.

Chair Hough commented she could not support the Roman-themed statuary and objects as historic. (Member Hanson opined that the statuary doesn’t need to be found to be historically significant.)

Member Nelson discussed character-defining features and alterations that have occurred at Villa Roma noting he does not believe they are substantial enough to disqualify them from being deemed contributing.

Member Miller recommended that the three different entry rooflines be mentioned as character-defining.

Member Hansen suggested all structures in the proposed district be deemed “contributing”, clarifying that the replacement “Venus” would not.

Member Nelson suggested light sconce replacements should reflect the period. (Vaught noted the units that appear to have original light fixtures were identified in the report.)

Chair Hough asked who will be revising the design guidelines (Lyon explained the applicant would do so.)

Motion by Nelson seconded by Hansen, to reject the draft resolution developed by staff and to revise the findings and conditions on the draft resolution as discussed for approval at the next board meeting and forward the matter to the City Council with conditions.

AYES: Miller, Nelson, Hansen, Hough, Kiser.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rose,

RECUSED: Rosenow.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **4.A AN APPLICATION BY DAVID HOWARD AND AN LY, OWNERS, FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF “THE HUTCHENS RESIDENCE” LOCATED AT 1177 EAST MESQUITE AVENUE (CASE HSPB 144) (KL)**

Motion by Kiser seconded by Rosenow to receive the historic resources report dated February 2022 and direct staff to arrange site visits and schedule a public hearing for the board to consider the application.

AYES: Miller, Nelson, Hansen, Hough, Rosenow, Kiser.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Rose

#### **5. DISCUSSIONS:**

##### **5.A. 2022 PRESERVATION MATTERS SYMPOSIUM (Hough)**

Symposium: Subcommittee for 2023 Preservation Matters is Hansen, Nelson and Hough.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Member Nelson asked for follow up on 359 Valmonte Norte and Bank of America ATM screen and adjacent blue tile.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS:**

Staff Lyon updated that Valmonte Norte was processed as a violation and the applicant paid a fine. Regarding Bank of America the screen is in process and repaint of the grey color to a darker tone.

He updated concerns about blight on the Orchid Tree site and reported a site inspection with the Building Official and the property owner to further address removal of blighted conditions on the site.

He updated the board on a staff approval of a C of A for new rooftop mechanical screening at the Robinson's Department Store for a tenant improvement.

He updated the Board on finish issues on a new handrail at the Welwood Murray Memorial Library.

Deputy City Manager Fagg thanked the board members for their participation at the meeting with the City Council and boards and commissions noting the Council's intent to reduce boards to 5-member bodies will be done by attrition.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Historic Site Preservation Board adjourned to its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., in the Large Conference Room at City Hall.