




CITY OF PALM SPRINGS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SERVICES
MEMORANDUM

Date: September 9, 2009
To: Planning Commission
From: Edward O. Robertson, Principal Planner 
Subject: Architectural Advisory Committee: Appointment of new AAC Members

The Planning Commission's ad hoc sub-committee of Chair Hochanadel and Commissioners Tracy Conrad and Bill Scott conducted a series of interviews to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Jim Cioffi. The sub-committee interviewed five candidates for the vacant position on May 7th, 12th and 18th, 2009.

Since the resignation of Mr. Cioffi, another vacancy has occurred with the appointment of Mr. Doug Hudson by the City Council to the Planning Commission. With this development, there are now two vacancies in the AAC.

Staff is seeking the Planning Commission's appointment to the vacant positions at today's meeting. The Commission's ad hoc sub-committee may wish to provide comments on their recommendation prior to the appointment. Staff is also requesting the Commission to consider adding one more alternate member to the AAC to fill in for one of the current alternate members' long absence from the meetings.

Below is the list of the six candidates that were interviewed by the sub-committee; the Commission could fill the two vacancies from this list or give staff other directions.

1. Ana Marie Escalante Lentz, AIA
2. B. Maria Song
3. James R. Harlan
4. James Von Stein
5. Patrick W. McGrew
6. William G. Kleindienst

Attachments:

- Candidates applications

SUBMIT APPLICATION BYRECEIVED
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS
DATE: 02-06-2009

2009 FEB -6 PM 2: 38
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 like to serve? ■ Name: ■ Address: ■ Zip:

Registered Voter?

■ Home Phone: Office Phone: Length of Residence in Palm Springs: Email Address: Employer: Occupation:

Local Reference:

Name: Phone:

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

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:

Masters of Science in Architecture, California Polytechnic University Pomona Bachelors of Science in Architecture, Albert Einstein University, San Salvador, El Salvador

Background/Work Experience/Civic Involvement

I have previously served as a member of the Palm Springs AAC from 1995 until 2000. I am the Founder of Escalante Architects, based in Palm Springs. Escalante Architects emphasizes historic preservation in all applicable projects. Recent projects include, Palm Springs Visitor Center (adaptive reuse and expansion of the former Albert Frey Tramway Gas Station), St. Theresa Preschool (Adaptive Reuse of a former convent originally designed by William F. Cody), and the conversion of the former College of the Desert Library into the "Justin & June Hilb Student Center", adaptive reuse of a partial section of a Lloyd Wright building into an optometric clinic and retail store. I was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the AIA/C. Ms. Escalante's term as a member of the AIA Board of Directors runs through 2010. My duties at the AIA include setting policy as a member of the board, professional development, continuing education, as well as providing mentorship and leadership to emerging architects.

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

Working in Palm Springs, I have ample experience in historic preservation. I have worked on the restoration of the Orbit Inn. I appreciate and understand the works of Richard Neutra, Albert Frey, Don Wexler and E. Stewart Williams. As a student, I had the opportunity to work on the Neutra Archives at Cal Poly Pomona. As a professional, I have worked with the city's planning, building and community development staff on multiple projects. My experience also includes five years of service to the city as a member of the Architectural Advisory Commission. As a practicing architect based in the City of Palm Springs, I have presented numerous projects to the Planning Commission and City Council. I understand that the AAC serves as a technical advisory commission to the Planning Commission. I have benefitted personally and professionally from my 20 years of residency in Palm Springs.

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

Through my work as the Founder of Escalante Architects, I have experience in every step of the development process, including site assessment, site selection, architectural design, environmental planning, entitlement processing, permit processing, public hearing representation, construction administration, construction management, interior decoration, landscape design and construction on a range of turn key projects. Ms. Escalante was formerly an Adjunct Professor of Architecture at College of the Desert. Ana Escalante is also on the Board of Directors of Aim for the Restoration of Hope-Uganda ("AROH"). AROH provides service to orphans and widows, victims of the AIDS epidemic in Uganda, East Africa. Through my experience as an architect, I have come to believe that I have a moral obligation to serve my community. My personal philosophy is that community service is the most noble opportunity any licensed architect should pursue.

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

Palm Springs is the "Vatican" of California Modernism, a repository of priceless architectural works from the 20th century. Palm Springs is recognized around the world for its many mid-century architectural masterpieces, as well as some of the most important examples of early 20th Century Spanish architecture. The history, climate and economic conditions of the time created opportunities for young architects to engage in the creation of a new paradigm in architecture. Downtown economic revitalization is a key issues facing the City. The City can provide a range of incentives to assist business in locating in the city's core. I would like to have the opportunity participate in the city's renaissance and work with the city in advising the Planning Commission and City Council. I believe that it is my professional duty to apply my skills to improve the quality of life in Palm Springs. Lastly, I believe that design matters. As I recently read, good design is more than aesthetics, it is good business.

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.

SUBMIT APPLICATION BY

RECEIVED
DATE: 02-27-2009 PALM SPRINGS

2009 MAR -2 AM 9:51

**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 like to serve? Architectural Advisory Committee

■ Name: B: Maria Song

■ Address: 235 Cheryl Way

■ Zip: 92262

Registered Voter?

yes

■ Home Phone: 760-902-5028

Office Phone: 760-323-4990

Length of Residence in Palm Springs: 10 years

Email Address: Maria@interactivedesigncorp.com

Employer: Interactive Design Corporation

Occupation: Architect and Company Partner in charge of production and finance

Local Reference:

Name: Reuel Young, AIA

Phone: 760-323-4990

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

March 2006

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:

Bachelor in Architecture in California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, 1994

Background/Work Experience/Civic Involvement

Borned in Seoul, Korea. Immigrated to Buenos Aires, Argentina at the age of 6 with family and completed my primary and part of secondary education. Immigrated again with family to United States at the age of 13. Worked in architecture in projects involving such as child care centers, low income housing, custom homes, tract homes, urban development projects, etc. Volunteer as leader in churches for Korean Americans and Mission Trips to Peru and Mexico.

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

After the presentation(s), the ACC members discuss the design of the project. Discussion should be limited to the issues relating to the context, site plan, massing, architectural and landscape design philosophy and execution. The goal of the discussion should be to identify the issues (general) or elements (specific) that are not compatible with the overall design quality sought by Palm Springs as evidenced by prior approvals by the PC and CC. Such design quality should not be a matter of preferred personal aesthetic or a stylistic ideology. Rather, the discussion should be directed toward how well (or poorly) the proposed design addresses i. physical context (does it fit and does it make a positive contribution to the public realm), ii. sustainable design (solar, water management, material), iii. characteristics of the proposed design vocabulary (proportions, scale, details)

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

Attitudes, skills and expertise: a. Attitude: Generally, I seek to listen carefully to what the project applicant intends. I try to understand what he/she wants to accomplish, and then to identify what appear to me to be inconsistencies between stated goals and the exhibits. b. Skill: I am a licensed architect who has prepared contract documents and performed contract administration on a wide range of project types: community buildings, affordable housing, custom homes, commercial buildings. The design of these projects range from contemporary (including "modernist"), Spanish mission revival, turn-of-the-century (1900's) brick, and rehabilitation. c. Expertise: LEED AP; partner in architectural firm; communication with client and other design professionals; patience.

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

Inevitably there will be biases expressed or inferred, and there is no denying that design critique is subjective. But it should not be arbitrary or idiosyncratic. While personal preferences may offer insight into the weakness of a design, there is a danger that committee members will want to re-design the project or force criteria on the project that are not inherent in the proposed project. Deep philosophical differences may exist, and, at the discretion of the chair, could be briefly stated, but ultimately, the discussion needs to result in a concise and clear critique of the project within its own stated program as the project relates to the design and physical context within which it will exist

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.*

SUBMIT APPLICATION BY

RECEIVED
DATE: 01-06-2009

2009 JAN -6 AM 9:13

**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 R Harlan

■ Address: 432 South Monte Vista Drive

■ Zip: 92262

Registered Voter?

yes

■ Home Phone: 310 625 2598

Office Phone:

Length of Residence in Palm Springs: 8 years

Email Address:

jimharlan@aol.com

Employer:

self employed

Occupation:

Architect

Local Reference:

Name:

Doug Hudson

Phone: 760 320 4898

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

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:

Bachelor of science in Architecture , USC. 1981

Background/Work Experience/Civic Involvement :

o Registered Architect . 1985-present o Principle of JRH Architects 1989-present o Participant in the USC School of Architecture Mentor Program. 2006- present o Member HTCNO 2007- present o Board member and President of Park South Condominium HOA 2001- present o Instructor at UCLA Extension Design Program 1990-1993 o Member of OPCO- Ocean Park Community Organization 1981-1983

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

As a practicing architect, I have working familiarity of Design Review Boards. I have worked with review boards across Southern California in conjunction to my architectural submittals. Of course, I also have 25 years of experience working and understanding building codes and restrictions.

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

I believe that it is my duty as an architect and a citizen to give back to society. In participating on the AAC board, I would fulfill that need. My wish to help is also a selfish one, because of my deep fondness of my adopted city. Palm Springs has such unique natural and built beauty, I wish to be a part of its future by protecting and guiding its growth. The AAC is a perfect outlet to help given my Architectural background and skill

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

Although Palm Springs is known for its exemplary Mid-Century and Spanish architecture, its image at present seems to be unclear. I believe that there is a recent tendency for development to emulate design styles more appropriate to the valley cities to the east of us, Palm Springs has it's own unique identity and urban fabric which should be reinforced and enhanced.

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.

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 like to serve?

■ Name:

■ Address:

■ Zip:

Registered Voter?

■ Home Phone:

Office Phone:

Length of Residence in Palm Springs:

Email Address:

Employer:

Occupation:

Local Reference:

Name:

Phone:

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

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:

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SUBMIT APPLICATION BY

DATE: 03-13-2009

**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS
BOARD/COMMISSION APPLICATION FORM**

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

Name of Board or Commission

on which you would like to serve? Architectural Advisory Committee

■ Name:

Patrick W McGrew

■ Address:

674 South Grenfall Road

■ Zip:

92264

Registered Voter?

yes

■ Home Phone:

760 416 7819

Office Phone:

760 416 7819

Length of Residence in Palm Springs: 5 Years

Email

Address:

pmaa@sbcglobal.net

Employer:

self

Occupation:

Architect

Local Reference:

Name:

Doug Hudson

Phone:

310 936 3111

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

March 9, 2009

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:

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Oklahoma, 1965.

Background/Work Experience/Civic Involvement

I am currently a licensed architect (semi-retired) who has practiced in California since 1965. In addition to that work, for 14 years, under four Mayoral administrations, I served as Chair of San Francisco's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Based upon that civic involvement, I have extensive experience in the conduct of public hearings, and have learned first-hand how best to mediate disputes between competing interests, while being mindful of the interests of the city.

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

I have read the background materials available on the city website, and the relevant sections of the Municipal Code regarding the AAC. Additionally, I have observed and/or participated in several of their hearings. I also have a good comprehension of how the Committee interfaces with the Planning Commission, and a reasonable working knowledge of both the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order which might be helpful in the conduct of public meetings.

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

In my years as Chair the San Francisco Landmark Board, I also served as on the Design Review Committee of that Board whose function was to offer advice and guidance to project sponsors when faced with changes to historic resources, or when developing new structures with an historic setting. Often, project sponsors were simply unaware of simple guidelines that, once applied, could speed their project through the process while minimizing or resolving conflict. I believe that this experience would add an important element to the AAC's review process.

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

In late 2008 I was active with an ad-hoc committee of concerned citizens who have met with the Director of Planning and the President of the Planning Commission to discuss and hopefully resolve some issues that the community has raised with how the AAC functions. Issues discussed focused on how to encourage meaningful public input; the conduct meetings in compliance with the Brown Act; improvements to the City Website concerning the keeping and posting of Agendas and Minutes and the development of AAC by-laws that would define and facilitate the election of officers, term limits, conflict of interest resolution. As voiced by at least one member of the AAC, I think the city would benefit from televised hearings of the AAC, and would work towards seeing if that could be accomplished.

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.

SUBMIT APPLICATION BY

RECEIVED
DATE: 03-31-2009
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

2009 APR -1 AM 10: 26

**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: William G. Kleindienst

■ Address: 651 Paseo El Mirador, Palm Springs, CA 92262

■ Zip: 92262 Registered Voter? yes OK

■ Home Phone: 760-831-6777 Office Phone: 760-969-4424

Length of Residence in Palm Springs: 32 years

Email Address: wildo009@aol.com

Employer: WWCOT/Mills ARCHITECTS

Occupation: Registered California Architect LEED-AP

Local Reference:

Name: Chris Mills Phone: 320-1709

Regarding the commission you are applying for, list dates of its most recent meetings you have attended.
none

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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:

B. Architecture

Background/Work Experience/Civic Involvement

Community Founding President: Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Desert Palm Springs Boys and Girls Club
Desert Hospital: Palm Springs in Action 21 Club Construction Sub-Committee United Way of the Desert
Schools PSHS: Senior Class Homecoming Float coordinator (18 years) Shared Decision Making Council
CREATE Restructuring Committee Campus Design Committee Inter-Racial Study Group PSUSD "Meet of
Champions" track meet announcer Library PS Library Board of Trustees Riverside County Library Task Force
White House Conference on Library & Information Services, CA State Chairman Parades: Founder and
Chairman Festival of Lights PS Homecoming Parade Palm Springs Veterans Day Parade

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

Former member of the AAC, City Councilmember and Mayor.

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

1) Ability to read and understand architectural drawings. 2) Knowledge of the PS Ordinances and Zoning. 3) Experience in committee work. 4) Extensive meeting experience. 5) Able to work with the public/developers in open meeting settings. 6) Love Palm Springs.

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

Facilitate quality architectural design in keeping with the directives of the City Council and Planning Commission.

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.