

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION
CITY OF PALM DESERT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

March 25, 2025, 12:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioner James Blakeley, Commissioner Dean Wallace Colvard, Commissioner Michael McAuliffe, Commissioner James McIntosh, Commissioner Francisco Sanchez, Chair John Vuksic

Absent: Commissioner Nicholas Latkovic

Staff Present: Principal Planner Carlos Flores, Principal Planner Nick Melloni, Associate Planner Kenny Taylor, Recording Secretary Melinda Gonzalez

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Architectural Review Commission was called to order by Chair Vuksic on March 25, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. in the Development Services Conference Room, City Hall, located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California.

2. ROLL CALL

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Vuksic opened and closed the public comment period for Non-Agenda public comment. No public comments were provided.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by: Commissioner Colvard

Seconded by: Commissioner McAuliffe

The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

4.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by: Commissioner Colvard

Seconded by: Commissioner McAuliffe

Approve the Minutes of March 11, 2025.

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

5. CONSENT ITEMS HELD OVER

None

6. ACTION CALENDAR

6.a CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A DESIGN REVIEW FOR A FAÇADE MODIFICATION TO AN EXISTING RETAIL STOREFRONT FOR WHITE HOUSE BLACK MARKET AT 73061 EL PASEO SUITES 6&7

Associate Planner, Kenny Taylor, narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the item and responded to Commission inquiries. David Fletcher, Property Owner Representative, was present in person. David Davis with Dale Gardon Design, Landlord Architect, and Jason Hunt with Abbot Studios, Tenant Architect, were present via Zoom.

Chair Vuksic opened the public comment period and invited the applicant to speak. David Fletcher, Property Owner Representative, David Davis with Dale Gardon Design, Landlord Architect, and Jason Hunt with Abbot Studios, Tenant Architect, introduced themselves and answered questions from the Commission.

With no other members of the public wishing to comment, Chair Vuksic closed the public comment period. Discussion on the item ensued with Commissioners providing comments on the project.

Motion by: Chair Vuksic

Seconded by: Commissioner McIntosh

Motion carried to approve Case No. MISC25-0004, with the following conditions:

1. The trim detail above soffit shall be removed.
2. The material board shall be updated to reflect "Flamed Absolute Black" for the granite tile material (Number 4).

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

6.b CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A DESIGN REVIEW TO MODIFY A FOUR-STORY STAYBRIDGE SUITES HOTEL LOCATED AT 74755 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE

Chair Vuksic advised the Commission of his need to recuse from this item as his firm is the Architect on this project and left the conference room.

Principal Planner, Carlos Flores, narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the item and responded to Commission inquiries. Nicole Williams with Prest Vuksic Greenwood Architects, Applicant, was present via Zoom.

Vice Chair McIntosh opened the public comment period and invited the applicant to speak. Nicole Williams with Prest Vuksic Greenwood Architects, Applicant, introduced herself and answered questions from the Commission.

With no other members of the public wishing to comment, Vice Chair McIntosh closed the public comment period. Discussion on the item ensued with Commissioners providing comments on the project.

Motion by: Commissioner McAuliffe

Seconded by: Commissioner Blakeley

Motion carried to approve Case No. MISC25-0008 as presented, subject to the following conditions:

1. Design is subject to review and approval of precise grading plan.
2. Final construction documents shall be reviewed by ARC subcommittee for conformance with the design review.
3. Applicant shall provide a paint sample for P5 Metallic Rust Iron Custom Mix finish during ARC subcommittee review of final construction documents.

RECUSED (1): Chair Vuksic

Motion Carried (5 to 0)

Chair Vuksic rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the item.

7. REPORTS & REMARKS

7.a ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Colvard reported the following updates for the Cultural Arts Committee:

- "Rising Inversion" will be installed at Ironwood Park at a cost of \$100,000.
- Due to the rising costs of iron, steel, and general materials the budget for the "Dueling Palms" sculpture will increase \$106,000 with a total cost of over \$200,000.

Upon inquiry, Principal Planner Flores provided the following updates:

- The department has received grading submittals for the Vesta Apartment project.
- Palms Community has submitted for construction permits which are currently under review. They have also submitted their final subdivision map which will need to be approved.
- Millennium Apartments is currently under construction.
- Agate Apartments have been fully constructed.
- The Phase 2 map for the Explore project was recently approved through City Council. They have completed mass grading and submitted their application for precise grading. All entitlements have been approved for this project.

7.b CITY STAFF

Principal Planner, Nick Melloni, provided the following updates:

- The General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report went before the Planning Commission at their last meeting and the Commission approved a recommendation to the City Council to submit the annual report to the State. This report will go before the City Council at their next regular meeting.
- On Thursday, March 27, 2025, a study session will be held with City Council regarding the Hillside Objective Design Standards which will include the consultants, John Kaliski Architects, who will be preparing the design standards.
- On April 10, 2025, a study session will be held with the City Council regarding the Unified Development Code.

In response to inquiries regarding the anticipated completion date for the "Millennium Park" and if staff will be revisiting the Short-Term Rental ordinance, Principal Planner Melloni stated he would reach out to the appropriate staff to provide an update on these topics at a later ARC meeting.

7.c ATTENDANCE REPORT

The attendance report was provided with the agenda materials. The Commission took no action on this item.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Architectural Review Commission adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Gonzalez, Executive Administrative Assistant
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Carlos Flores, Principal Planner
Secretary

APPROVED BY ARC: __/__/2025