



May 19, 2014

Mayor Steve Pougnet
City of Palm Springs
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

*Re: City Council meeting
May 21, 2014
Agenda Item 1.C.*

Subject: Welwood Murray Memorial Library

Dear Mayor Pougnet,

We ask that that you deny the appeal which intends to over-turn the recommendations made by the city's Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB) on May 13, 2014.

The recommendations made by the HSPB are thoughtful and reasonable. Furthermore, the recommendations speak directly to the importance of the authenticity of the library's original design. The HSPB is consulted regarding the interior design elements of city-owned historic buildings for good reason—in the city process they are frequently the sole advocates for historic authenticity.

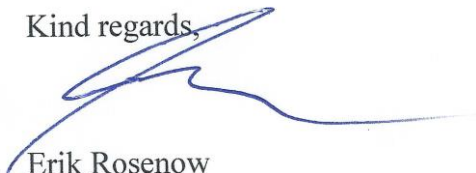
With so few vintage photographs of the Welwood Murray Memorial Library (WMML) you would think we would be grateful for the few design clues available. However, the opposite seems true. Instead of the elegant, simple, era-appropriate chandelier that appears in vintage photos, we are offered “something else” by the designer. Further, a wholly gratuitous motif, with no historic basis, is integrated into the library design apparently to show us the designer is “designing something.”

While it is unfortunate that the input of the HSPB on the interior design elements of the historic library were solicited at this late date, that is a failure of the city process, not the HSPB. Though the staff report asserts that “all the stakeholders” were consulted, shouldn't the city's HSPB be given the same deference as any one of these stakeholders? And why were they not consulted? Fortunately, this oversight can be remedied as the HSPB recommendations should not result in any significant increase in the cost of the project nor result in any significant delay.

We ask, on behalf of our membership and the heirs of Dr. Welwood Murray, that you enthusiastically support the HSPB's recommendations so that this last piece of an authentic rehabilitation can be accomplished.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact us at (760) 837-7117 or info@pspreservationfoundation.org.

Kind regards,



Erik Rosenow
President