

YOUR VOICE

Welwood Murray Memorial Library

Preservationists deserve credit for a new plan

While Palms Springs certainly deserves a “Thumbs Up” for funding the restoration of the Welwood Murray Memorial Library, the editorial staff neglected to give due credit to the local preservation community, which helped to achieve that happy result.

Three years ago the city proposed an ill-conceived renovation of this historic treasure, which would have included a partial demolition of the building's historic fabric. The Palm Springs Preservation Foundation energized the community to protect the building from harm and was chiefly responsible for changing the city's injurious remodel.

Finally, it was the foundation that first pointed out the shortcomings of the original program (an expensive, staff-intensive, lending library) and suggested the far more imaginative programs (local history and architectural tourism-oriented) now envisioned for the building. All of this was well-chronicled in your previous coverage of the story, but should have been acknowledged in your editorial.

— Ron Duby, Palm Springs