

EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES INC
Form 8-K
November 04, 2015

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): November 3, 2015

EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	1-11718 (Commission File No.)	36-3857664 (IRS Employer Identification Number)
Two North Riverside Plaza, Chicago, Illinois (Address of principal executive offices)		60606 (Zip Code)

(312) 279-1400
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement material pursuant to Rule 14a14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement material pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFE 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers

On November 3, 2015, the Board of Directors of Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc. (NYSE:ELS; referred to herein as “we,” “us,” and “our”) increased the size of our Board by one director and elected Mr. Tao Huang to fill the vacancy created by the increase in the number of directors.

Mr. Huang, age 52, is a founder and managing partner of Range Light, LLC, an investment firm. He was previously the Chief Operating Officer of Morningstar, Inc., a leading independent provider of investment research, from October 2000 until his retirement in December 2010. Mr. Huang spent almost 20 years with Morningstar, taking on increasing levels of responsibility from his start as an entry level technical programmer. He was named Director of Technology in 1992 and Chief Technology Officer in 1996; he started Morningstar’s International Operation in 1998, and was promoted to Chief Operating Officer in October 2000. Mr. Huang is a director of Armstrong World Wide Industries, a leading building materials company since 2010, Principal Mutual Funds, an asset management firm since 2013, and SMS Assist, L.L.C., a property management company since 2012.

Item 8.01 Other Events

On November 3, 2015, our Board of Directors also discussed our annual common dividend policy at today’s Board meeting. After discussion, our Board approved setting the annual dividend rate for 2016 at \$1.70 per common share, an increase of \$0.20 over the current \$1.50 per common share for 2015.

Our Board of Directors also declared the fourth quarter 2015 dividend of \$0.375 per common share, representing, on an annualized basis, a dividend of \$1.50 per common share. The dividend will be paid on January 8, 2016 to stockholders of record on December 28, 2015. Our Board of Directors also declared a dividend of \$0.421875 per depositary share (each representing 1/100 of a share of our 6.75% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Stock) (NYSE: ELSPrC), which represents, on an annualized basis, a dividend of \$1.6875 per depositary share. The dividend will be paid on December 31, 2015 to stockholders of record on December 11, 2015.

This report includes certain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. When used, words such as “anticipate,” “expect,” “believe,” “project,” “intend,” “may be” and “will be” and similar words or phrases, or the negative thereof, unless the context requires otherwise, are intended to identify forward-looking statements and may include, without limitation, information regarding our expectations, goals or intentions regarding the future, and the expected effect of recent acquisitions on us. These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to:

- our ability to control costs, real estate market conditions, the actual rate of decline in customers, the actual use of Sites by customers and our success in acquiring new customers at our Properties (including those that we may acquire);
- our ability to maintain historical or increase future rental rates and occupancy with respect to Properties currently owned or that we may acquire;
- our ability to retain and attract customers renewing, upgrading and entering right-to-use contracts;
- our assumptions about rental and home sales markets;
- our assumptions and guidance concerning 2015 and 2016 estimated net income, FFO and Normalized FFO;
- our ability to manage counterparty risk;
- in the age-qualified Properties, home sales results could be impacted by the ability of potential home buyers to sell their existing residences as well as by financial, credit and capital markets volatility;
- results from home sales and occupancy will continue to be impacted by local economic conditions, lack of affordable manufactured home financing and competition from alternative housing options including site-built single-family housing;
- impact of government intervention to stabilize site-built single family housing and not manufactured housing;
- effective integration of recent acquisitions and our estimates regarding the future performance of recent acquisitions;
- the completion of future transactions in their entirety, if any, and timing and effective integration with respect thereto;
- unanticipated costs or unforeseen liabilities associated with recent acquisitions;

- ability to obtain financing or refinance existing debt on favorable terms or at all;
 - the effect of interest rates;
 - the dilutive effects of issuing additional securities;
 - the effect of accounting for the entry of contracts with customers representing a right-to-use the Properties under the Codification Topic “Revenue Recognition;”
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the outcome of pending or future lawsuits filed against us, including those disclosed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, by tenant groups seeking to limit rent increases and/or seeking large damage awards for our alleged failure to properly maintain certain properties or other tenant related matters, such as the case currently pending in the California Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District, Case No. H041913, involving our California Hawaiian manufactured home property, including any further proceedings on appeal or in the trial court; and other risks indicated from time to time in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

These forward-looking statements are based on management's present expectations and beliefs about future events. As with any projection or forecast, these statements are inherently susceptible to uncertainty and changes in circumstances. We are under no obligation to, and expressly disclaim any obligation to, update or alter our forward-looking statements whether as a result of such changes, new information, subsequent events or otherwise.

We own or have an interest in 387 quality properties in 32 states and British Columbia consisting of 143,895 sites. We are a self-administered, self-managed real estate investment trust ("REIT") with headquarters in Chicago.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.

By: /s/ Paul Seavey
Paul Seavey
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Date: November 4, 2015