

RACQUET CLUB ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Reported by Ron Oliver,

Communications Director and Man About Town.

January 9, 2010.

The monthly meeting of the RCENO was brought to order at 10:10 am by BOA member Rick Vila, in the elegantly appointed Alexander home he shares with his husband and RCENO member Ken Lyon. Other BOA members in attendance included Nat Gazzano, Ney Fonseca, Scott Kennedy, Lauren Scarbro, Joseph May and your Reporter, Ron Oliver.

Other RCENO members in attendance included: Donna Chabon, Leigh Frost, Kurt Beabes, Douglas Eden, Bart Groendycke, Carmen Shelton, Billy Dykes and Bob Merliss.

With a quorum present, we continued full steam.

Minutes from the last meeting were unavailable, but will be emailed to the BOA for approval and subsequently posted on the Racquet Club Estates website.

The first item of business was an update on our “Blade Street Sign” saga. Rick Vila explained that the wrong brackets had been ordered by the City department in charge of such things, leading to yet another delay. But the new brackets have been ordered and the new signs are to be installed soon on every street corner in the Racquet Club Estates.

Early reviews of the signs from the residents of the neighborhood have been positive.

BOA Treasurer Dean NiCastro reported on the RCENO's bank balance; currently at FOUR THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DOLLARS and THIRTY FIVE CENTS (\$4880.35).

BOA member Ney Fonseca gave a report on the PSNIC (Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee)'s latest meetings, including the election of new chairperson KEVIN TOWNER. He also mentioned a new system for PSNIC information, a website with direct links to the city website, which your Reporter has posted on the latest email to the membership.

Ney also discussed a new neighborhood organization bordering our region, the Vista Norte Neighborhood Organization, south of Escuela, as well as the PSNIC Retreat, happening on Saturday February 6th, 2010 at the Four Seasons Resort, information on the PSNIC website.

Once again Ney encouraged everyone to take the "CERT" – Community Emergency Response Training – course, to help out during crisis or emergency situations in our city.

Ney mentioned an upcoming article in THE DESERT SUN newspaper featuring our Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood; this Reporter will send an email link to this article to the membership when it is published.

Ney also discussed his new business venture, a Ballet Course he's teaching here in Palm Springs, which will prevent his involvement in the monthly meetings for the next few months. This Reporter finds Mr. Fonseca's presence at the meetings to be delightfully enriching and terribly entertaining, and while we hope his new venture is a marvelous success, we do look forward to his return on Saturday mornings.

Rick Vila discussed the opening on the Board of Advisors of the RCENO, which came about with Nikki Randolph's resignation due to business obligations. RCENO member Ray Trim put himself forth for consideration. Ray's dedication to the organization and his experience was discussed and, after a nomination and seconding of same, Ray was unanimously – and enthusiastically - elected to the Board of Advisors.

Welcome Ray!

This Reporter presented RCENO member Amy Gray's proposal for the RCENO to create "No Soliciting" signs to put up in homeowners' windows; no one in attendance expressed interest or concern in this matter, and it was set aside.

The general issue of security in the neighborhood was brought up by RCENO member Kurt Beabes, who has experienced some trash can stealing and observed some small time drug deals occurring in his area. He mentioned difficulty in getting police interest in the situation and it was agreed among the BOA that we would resend the Police contact numbers – specifically for our neighborhood point man, Officer Mike – to the membership.

RCENO member Lauren Scarbro suggested having police invited to our meetings at least once per year. Ney also mentioned the monthly police meeting at City Hall. Anecdotal discussion ensued regarding various problems in the neighborhood and finally it was suggested by Rick Vila that we invite a member of the police department to our March meeting and discuss these issues.

We moved onto a discussion of upcoming HOME TOUR, to be held February 14th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Committee members Nat, Scott and Ney have been in charge of the event this year and gave a report on their progress.

Nat motioned for a preapproval of \$2500 (TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS) for Home Tour expenses, including food, promotion etc. After a brief breakdown of the proposed expenses, Rick seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rick passed the RCENO's "Office Max" discount card to Scott Kennedy for use.

Further discussion continued with Ray Trim volunteering to organize Home Docents; Donna Chabon agreed to take care of a listing in the Desert Sun; Rick will write and deliver a Press Release for the event; the desire to have a "celebrity" guest at the reception, to be held at the M Modern Gallery (Racquet Club and Palm Canyon Drive) was discussed with this Reporter suggesting he would attempt to dig through his address book and find someone.

And finally, to finish the discussion, RCENO member and renowned photographer Kurt Beabes was "volunteered" to photographically record the event for posterity.

Once again, the sales of RCENO T-shirts was discussed; although available on our website, it has been considered that we order a selection to sell on-site at events such as our picnic and the Home Tour. Donna Chabon will investigate possibilities with the local ARC Industries branch.

The Home Tour discussion closed, Rick asked for New Business.

The Desert Art Museum is featuring a lecture on the work of Alexander Homes' Architect William Krisel, January 23rd, 2010.

Scott Kennedy voiced concerns about the lights on the back parking lot/tennis court area of The Riviera Hotel; the harsh

lighting is bleeding into his back yard and obstructing the views of the night time sky, contrary to City Code. He is calling Code Enforcement for a second time.

Donna Chabon suggested that The Riviera Hotel's lobby lighting looked rather like a bordello, and wondered if anything could be done. The assembled membership had no suggestions and most disagreed with Ms. Chabon's assessment. (This Reporter wonders how familiar our darling Ms. Chabon IS with the lighting of a bordello?)

RCENO BOA member Joseph May mentioned a concern about the dying landscape along the failed PALERMO development, adjacent to our neighborhood; he will follow up with a call to the City's Code Enforcement department.

RCENO member Ken Lyon mentioned that the San Rafael Development – reported in earlier RCENO meeting minutes as the 3130 Project – is continuing along slowly through the approval process, but still nothing has happened to suggest the development will happen. The Developers have not made “significant” changes and the Planning Commission still has the option to “pass” on the project, but as of this reporting, the 3130 is status quo with a continuance for consideration moved to an uncertain “future” date.

The next RCENO BOA meeting will be held February 6, 2010, at a location TBA.

Rick Vila made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Scott Kennedy seconded and the meeting wrapped up at 12:00 noon.