

RACQUET CLUB ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

February 12, 2011 Meeting.

Minutes

Your Reporter, Ron Oliver.

Another exciting monthly meeting of the RCENO was brought to order at 10:15 a.m. by Board President Rick Vila. The meeting took place in the glorious home of BOA member Robert Perry and his partner Dennis Vasquez (they may even be married, but as Your Reporter was raised to be polite and not ask prying questions, he shall just assume they're living in sin and leave it at that...)

Rick made introductions of the Board Members present (including Barbara MacCarillo, Ray Trim, Bob Merliss, Robert Perry, Lauren Scarbro, Joseph May, Dean NiCastro, Scott Kennedy and Your Reporter) to the various homeowners, docents and volunteers who were participating in the annual Home Tour Event.

A very special guest at this meeting was neighbor and RCENO member Dan Westfall, caretaker of one of our local celebrities, "CHEETA", the ape from several of the classic "Tarzan" motion pictures. A stop at Cheeta's residence, sanctuary to several other retired show biz primates, is an added value to this year's Home Tour and all were very excited to hear about Dan's fine work on his "roommates'" behalf.

A selection of vintage Automobiles, graciously displayed by their owners at the various homes on the tour, was an extra bonus for ticket holders discussed by RCENO member Ken Lyon, who also gave us a preview of the speech he planned to present at the Home Tour Reception, to be held, as last year, at the M Modern Gallery.

There were several other RCENO members in attendance as well as a smattering of new members, but as Your Reporter was working hard enough as it was to keep up (and after all, he DOES have other things to do you know!!!) he did not get all of their names. He apologizes and promises to do better in his next life.

As the afore-mentioned event was occurring a scant one week later, the focus of the meeting was primarily Home Tour related but Your Reporter shall spare you all the tedious details of table-wrangling, umbrella-buying and tourist-hustling that took up the majority of the meeting. You can trust him, it made the average Congressional Hearing look like "Lord of the Dance".

Suffice to say, as this is written, the 2011 RCENO Home Tour is a very happy memory; a massive success, sold out again, and even the weather, a storm of biblical proportions which had threatened to wash us all away for days, magically co-operated; the rain stopped precisely at the beginning of the tour and stayed away

until the final canape was devoured at the reception.

"Thank yous" are of course in order, but they will have to wait until the March meeting to be recorded.

A ten minute recess followed the conclusion of Home Tour Discussion, to allow those not interested in other RCENO business to escape. The rest of us, Your Reporter included, were trapped like rats; we continued the meeting.

BOA Member and Treasurer Dean NiCastro reported that the RCENO bank account currently has a balance of \$10,049.44. A wave of general smugness washed over the room as we feel quite proud of ourselves, being one of the most successful Neighborhood Organizations in the entire city of Palm Springs.

It was agreed that a general inventory of minutes for the last several months of meetings would be posted on the RCENO website. It was also agreed that January 2011 and these February 2011 minutes would be approved at the March 2011 meeting.

The PSNIC (Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee) Report was presented: highlights of this included:

1) an upcoming "Edible Garden Tour", Feb. 26th, 2011. Tickets \$15.00

2) the Pentathlon World Cup needs volunteers for the Palm Springs leg of the event: go to [ymstrauss@aol.com](mailto:ymstrauss@aol.com), [www.usaworldcup2011.org](http://www.usaworldcup2011.org), or [www.pentathlon.org](http://www.pentathlon.org) for more details.

3) February is Black History Month; a brief discussion ensued as to whether or not RCENO should participate with a float - ie: Robert Perry's car and a couple of us waving banners. Not much traction on this one, and the idea died on the vine.

4) Palm Springs Police Department has a page on Facebook, with up to date reports on crime activity in the city - go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), type in PSPD or Palm Springs Police Department.

5) speaking of which, a new police chief is being chosen by city committee -- given that the last one stepped down after what some perceive to be a rather scandalous misuse of his power, we look forward to seeing who steps up to the plate next.

A discussion ensued regarding the ill-fated "Palermo" development, a large dusty money pit in the ground north of Francis Drive that somehow managed to throw up a couple of well-intentioned "modern homes" - inhabited by what certainly must be equally well-intentioned "modern homeowners" - before the Developer/Carpetbagger folded his tent and left town. A movement is afoot - apparently spurred on by The City of Palm Springs - to offer the beleaguered residents of this ghost town membership in

the Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization.

The general consensus, informal but vociferous, from the BOA and RCENO members present was a polite: "no, thanks very much."

Your Reporter suspects we've not heard the end of this.

Your Reporter then offered a report on the much-loathed Cell Phone Tower currently looming over our local Vista Del Monte Elementary School; some feel it is a health hazard to the teachers and students of the school, others feel it is simply an eyesore which was put up against residents' wishes.

In any event, a meeting was held at City Hall to discuss it, with both sides offering evidence and "experts" to back up their opinion.

Your Reporter attended the meeting, and presented a brief precis of same to the BOA and RCENO membership; his impassioned presentation (which some likened to Ms. Julia Robert's Academy Award Winning Performance in "Erin Brokovich"!) was cut short -- yes CUT SHORT!!! -- by that hot-headed, impetuous firebrand, BOA Member Ray Trim.

Mr. Trim suggested that discussion of the issue be tabled for the next meeting -- apparently matters of greater importance, like how many paper plates should be purchased for the reception, say, or who would be taking care of the "booties", took precedence over Your Reporter's possible Pulitzer Prize.

With that, Your Reporter sulked awhile and Rick moved to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting will be held March 12, 2011 at This Reporter's home. Mr. Trim will not be getting refills on his mimosas.