

**Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization
Minutes of March 10, 2012
BOA Meeting @ the home of Rick Vila & Ken Lyon
By, Joseph May**

Welcome and Introductions

Rick Vila called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Other board members present were Robert Perry, Dean Nicasastro, Barbara Maccarillo, Joseph May, Scott Kennedy, Bob Merliss, Donna Chaban-Delmas, and Terry Towne.

Financial Report

Dean reported that we have \$27,923.94. Reports filed with the IRS cost \$100. He still has several checks to write reimbursing individuals for expenses related to the home tour. He urged anyone with outstanding receipts to please turn them in to him as soon as possible. Dean announced that Vista Del Monte finally cashed our check.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve. Next month we need to approve both February 2012 and March 2012 minutes. In addition they will need to be posted on our website.

Officer Reports

There were no officer reports.

City of Palm Springs' Vicky Oltean reference Victoria Park

Palm Springs Youth Soccer League wants to use Victoria Park on Saturdays from 8:00 to 11:00AM. Questions were asked about painting lines and putting up goals, Donna said she would find out more. The group was generally okay with the idea. We felt that the more people that are in the park makes for a safer park and a better sense of community. It will be the city's responsibility to notify the neighbors about this use for the park, not ours.

Update on undergrounding overhead utility lines- Ken Lyon

On March 10, 2012 Ken had a meeting with Southern California Edison and the Palm Springs Public Works Director (Dave Barakian) about the undergrounding of overhead utility lines. Here is a summary of that meeting:

1. Past Experience. As of this date, no neighborhood in the Coachella Valley has taken on and completed an undergrounding project.
2. Other Neighborhood Actions. Araby Cove and Deepwell neighborhood organizations have studied undergrounding in 2007, but due to high costs, they scrapped plans to proceed in any way.

3. Rough Costs Costs per household in 2007 for Deepwell were estimated at between \$30,000 and \$40,000 to remove the overhead lines, relocate them to the street and bury them (see next item for costs NOT included).
4. Costs NOT Included: The above-noted costs do not include trenching and reconnecting utilities at each home and each meter – this estimate is just to move the lines from the back side to the street side. Also does not include restoring landscape and hardscape on each lot meter upgrades, etc. .
5. Other Added Costs Most homes will require full upgrades of the panel and meter to contemporary standards in order to be connected to new underground lines and rerouting the feeds from overhead masts to underground conduit, out to the street.
6. Funding A means of funding this type of project could be establishment of what is called a “Community Facilities District” (CFD). This involves the City issuing bonds and financing the cost of the undergrounding project. “Liens” are placed against each household and payment over 15 or 20 years is added as a “tax” on each homeowner’s property tax bill. A CFD requires 2/3rds affirmative vote of all homeowners in the neighborhood. This approach would add roughly \$100 per month or more to each homeowners’ property tax bills (in addition to the individual cost per home for reconnecting from the main in the street to the home meter, phone box, and cable box.)
7. Timeline The project would involve several steps and take several years:
 - a. Neighborhood should do survey to get interested homeowners to “sign on” as being interested.
 - b. Edison and other utilities (Verizon, Time Warner) do preliminary design and develop rough estimate of costs.
 - c. City Public Works would coordinate the overall project (also involves trenching in the street and replacing asphalt, curbs, sidewalks, bidding, contracting, scheduling, etc.)
 - d. Public Works prepares project report and estimates for City Council to vote to agree to pursue the project, agree to financing and bonding, etc.
 - e. Coordination with every home on details of reconnection and scope of work must be delineated.
 - f. Competitive bidding for contractors to do the work.
 - g. Coordination throughout neighborhood (street by street) for construction/implementation.
8. “Opt out” Those neighbors who do not wish to participate would cause those streets to not be able to move forward. Conversely, the project may be able to be phased on a “street by street” basis, if certain entire blocks would “sign on” and participate in agreement on costs and disruption.
9. Summary Extremely high costs and difficulty in coordinating project details on every lot have cause most neighborhood organizations to not pursue efforts to underground (“I guess those wires don’t really look THAT bad...”)
10. 20A Funds and Measure J Funds There are special funds that are collected as part of everyone’s utility bills for large undergrounding projects (Fund 20A), however these are used for undergrounding on major thoroughfares as a “public benefit” project; projects such as a neighborhood undergrounding project would not be eligible for such funds. There has also been discussion about allocating

Measure J funds, however seems unlikely given how many other “competing” demands will be on those funds.

After hearing this report the group felt that perhaps the power lines didn't look so bad. The question did come up about the practice of “dual poling” where Southern California Edison repairs poles by replacing only part of the pole and connects it to the older pole. Ken said he will look into this.

2012 Home Tour Debrief

It was a fantastic success. Robert reported that he had been receiving e-mails from participants stating that they loved it. Donna reported that Docents also have been talking about what a great time they had. She said everyone worked very well together. All agreed that Connie Stevens made a wonderful addition to the reception. Ken reported that people remarked at how incredibly organized our tour was. Many stated that our home tour stood out among others held during Modernism by our organization and friendly and happy people working it. All in all it was unanimous that our fourth annual tour was extraordinarily successful but we all agreed that there are improvement that we can make for next year.

Bob suggested that we tighten up our schedule with *MModern Gallery*. He pointed out that it wasn't open when they said it would be open. Scott found it a problem that he couldn't deliver the wine the night before because of events that night. He also said that it was a problem returning the un-used wine. Barbara said that we should adjust the food order for next year so there isn't so much waste. Terry suggested that we have custom labels on the water we pass out. She said that we would have to drive to the plant in Riverside to pick them up. Dean volunteered to do that. Donna wants to make sure we order T-shirts well ahead of time. She also pointed out that docents need to arrive at their assignments earlier to avoid homeowners opening their houses too early. Rick suggested that we only place booties at the homes where they are needed thereby eliminating the tedious task of distributing them at check-in. Ken wants to include more fun facts in the brochure and asked Scott if he could find some. Finally Robert said that he was going to start working early on securing Barbara Eden as our celebrity guest next year. There was consensus that we must start planning much earlier next year.

Barbara and Terry volunteered to see what they could do to convince Modernism to allow us to be on their site for the date that we want next year. That date would be February 16, 2013.

BOA Meetings Hosting Schedule for 2012

Here is the hosting schedule for our meetings for 2012:

- April 14 - Bob Merlis
- May 12 - Vista Del Monte
- June 9 - Terry Towne
- July - Dark, no meeting
- August 11 - Joseph May
- September 8 - Rick Villa
- October 13 - Picnic and general membership meeting
- November 10 - Lauren Scarbro (tentative)
- December 8 – Ron Oliver (tentative)

PISNC Picnic

This year's event will take place on Saturday, March 31 at Ruth Hardy Park. Set up is at 9:00AM and Joseph and Robert volunteered to set up. The items needed are at Donna's house. Several members stated that they would be attending and could sit at our booth throughout the day. Our raffle items will be t-shirts.

PSNIC Report

On March 8 Donna attended the PSNIC meeting. Here is her summary of that meeting:

MARCH 8, 2012 PSNIC REPORT

1. CVAG desert cities bike and low speed EV path
Georgia from Clean Cities is working on charging stations
2. March 31 Picnic
 - a) We need to get our \$25 check in for our booth
 - b) Each NORG is allotted \$150 per year for various things like mailings. Do we wish to donate our \$150 to the picnic budget? The budget this year is \$6,000, and 500 to 600 people are expected to attend. **Note our board voted to contribute our \$150 allotment to the picnic budget**
 - c) Set up time for our booth on March 31 is as early as 8 a.m.
 - d) Who will staff our booth?
 - e) Do we have volunteers to help PSNIC's general set up at 8 a.m.?
 - f) There will be a TESLA vehicle at the picnic to demo electric cars.
3. April 21 Mayor's Race for Health
EAA is having a table, next to Clean Cities
Does RCENO wish to have a booth? No charge for this

4. David Ready – Measure J Funds

a) NORGS need to submit their Measure J funds request ASAP (like by March 25) to Kevin Towner, President of PSNIC, and cc Lee Bonno for PSNIC. PSNIC will present one list representing all the NORGS that wish improvements.

b) Parks (Vicki Oltean) says our dog enclosure is still on the table. Do we want to ask for Measure J funds for this? Other improvements? Underground utilities?

c) new park (B of A) will be ready in 60 days.

5. Jail proposal is coming back – Council and PSNIC re-publishing objection letters.

6. Guest Speaker Fire Chief Scott Ventura

a) CERT Training – see flyer. Please scan and send out to neighbors.

b) Would RCENO be willing to pay the \$50 fee each for 2 people to attend?

c) Maintaining empty lots in fire season; each NORG? Or PSFD?

d) Checking on neighbors after disasters (earthquake, windstorms)

e) May 17 is the Chamber of Commerce Police & Fire Recognition Luncheon at the Riviera Resort.

7. ONI Report –

Lee Bonno reports that we now have 31 neighborhoods. 15 have blade signs.

There are new, larger brackets with better bolts. Call Lee Bonno.

8. Animal Shelter – need check for \$2,500 (pledged), city will provide blade sign

and . . . Trio is now open for lunch; “phenomenal” menu

Donna said that she had to bring our “wish list” of projects for Measure J funds. The group quickly generated a list of three items but the were not voted on:

1. Dog park in Victoria Park
2. Undergrounding of utility lines
3. Landscaping of median strip on Avenida Caballeros and Racquet Club.

Elections May Meeting

Our general membership meeting will be on May 12. Joseph will do the paperwork with PSUSD to secure the Multi-Purpose Room at Vista del Monte. Rick will send out a list of board members who are up for election. We will plan the meeting in April.

Wrap up pending business i.e. tax forms/donation to Animal Shelter/blade

Tax forms- done

Donation- done

Blade Signs- some are missing, Scott will inventory neighborhood

New Business/Projects/Q&A/Other

The question came up about the status of us becoming an historic district. A committee will be established and Scott will spearhead that initiative.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Addendum to minutes submitted March 26, 2012:

Lauren's report

Total T-shirt sales were a quantity of 67 for **\$1,340 of revenue**. Details of the 67 qty sales are as follows:

- 55 sold at check in, 12 at reception (good set up with check in line in front of tshirt table!)
- Scoop neck style by color, 16 blue, 18 orange, 4 black (only because limited avail, would have sold more if had them)
- Scoop neck style by size , 9 Medium, 11 Large, 8 X-Lrg, 10 2XL
- Ladies Vneck style were only available in large, so no size breakout.
- Ladies Vneck Style by color, 12 turquoise shade, 11 black and 6 orange
- Comps that I handled (by request) from the sales table inventory:
 - 2 orange (I did not record the size for some reason) scoop style to Steve Young, from his Picnic \$150 membership
 - 1 X-Lrg Blue scoop to the Limo Driver for Connie Stevens
 - 1 Orange Med Scoop to Trisa Bregman at the reception via Scott Kennedy, she was a docent volunteer with him at the reception
- My feedback from the comments at the table for future buys:
 - V Neck ladies were very popular, especially the turquoise shade which sold out VERY quick.
 - We needed V Neck Ladies in medium. The large was too big for many of the woman that wanted it but too large. A few of "those" size zero's came by as well looking for small!
 - We only had black in 2xl and ladies lrg vneck and had lots of requests for it, so order more black in variety of sizes
 - Men were interested in the vneck style, but needed a "non ladies" version of it (it is "shorter" than a man's tshirt)
 - Positive feedback that we had the 2xl size available.

I will return the unsold t-shirts back to Donna next time I am out in Palm Springs. (Steve was wondering if at the City PSNIC picnic, if we ask for a donation instead of "selling" them (which isn't allowed) if that would be "skirting" the prohibition of selling items at the picnic. (Last year we

had quite a few people wanting to buy them, and I almost took them to the trunk of my car or something to secure the transaction, but fearful Lee had some undercover picnic police, I suppressed my urge to sell, sell, sell))

- And on another topic, ticket sales at the door: **Joseph May & Ron Oliver collected**

\$1,150 at the door (23 walk in sales).

- Rick, Ken and I counted all the cash (witness count/counter count, etc), and Saturday late afternoon, Dean came by my home and collected the **\$2,490** in cash from me (Door ticket sales and t-shirt sales) for deposit today (banks were closed yesterday).

Comments/Suggestions I heard for future consideration:

- Sell a "VIP" version of our home tours, with a personal "docent" guide. No check in line, tells them about the homes and neighborhoods as he/she guides them, and pre-admission ½ early at the reception to avoid food/drink lines and get a better glimpse of the art at the gallery. They suggested \$100 per person, includes a t-shirt. Concern would be insurance if the docent drove them or if we used a classic car to drive them between homes. Limit availability.
- Drop price of ticket back under \$50 (like \$45)
- Everyone loved the "passed" cocktails/wine, etc., it was a very nice touch.
- My guests thought if we ever get short on houses or come up short one year, that six homes would be plenty and we don't really need 7.
- The bags were a hit, nice touch, as was the water. (But at almost \$5, not sure we would want to "offer" if we dropped down the ticket price?)
- We ran out of booties during check in. Not sure why we were short, but did not have enough for each ticket holder.
- There was a little confusion about "comps" (shirts, home tours). Either we need a point person we can all refer to for comps or we need something published to all of us what is and isn't comp'd and who is and isn't comp'd ... I had a few "issues" with tshirt comps (home owners (S. Young) asking for their tshirts) as well as John Shields (Nat's partner) on Friday night (@ Nat's pop up gallery show) not thinking they were comp'd, but surely Nat was, but maybe not? Maybe he just forgot to tell John (who I told to come by the school and we would take care of Nat/him, hope I wasn't out of line, but don't think they came?!)
- One of the car owners (Bill) told me that Sunmoor (sp?) had also approached him about putting his car on their tour, but he told them he was "sticking" with RCENO. I thought that was nice of him.
- The policeman at the reception has a large custom built home available for "events" if we are looking for something in the future for anything. Donna knows him/aware of it. I have his business card someplace, just not sure where at the moment.

I thought you all did a fantastic job for another successful event! Everyone appreciates our homes so much and the effort we make to open the neighborhood to them.

I have a CD of photo's from this years tour/event taken by my house guest. Let me know who to get it to if we want them posted anywhere. I also have a few video's on my iphone (someone tell me how to send and I will, I am technically challenged) of speeches at reception & limo arrival that Steve shot if wanted.

Thank you everyone, it is a pleasure working (and more importantly, being neighbors) with all of you! Lauren