

**Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization
Board of Advisors Monthly Meeting
April 10, 2010.
Minutes Recorded by Ron Oliver**

Things got off to a roaring start at 10:10 am, as BOA member RICK VILA welcomed everybody, including BOA members Dean NiCastro, Ney Fonseca, Ray Trim, Nat Gozzano, Joseph May and Scott Kennedy, as well as your Reporter to the gracious home of BOA member-in-attendance Lauren Scarbro at 896 E. Racquet Club Road, Palm Springs.

(Special mention must be made of the wonderful snacks laid out by Madame Scarbro – the things she can do to a strawberry must be seen to be believed!)

There were over a dozen RCENO members in attendance, with many familiar faces from the neighborhood; this Reporter is remiss in not listing their names, but they know who they are – although they may not know how very much we appreciate their support. Thank you one and all!

Ney Fonseca reported on the recent activities of the Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee, including –

- the recent Sunmor Estates Home Tour;
- an upcoming “Books and Badges” fundraising event pitting teachers against police officers in a charity basketball game (Mr. Fonseca is very community minded and should be applauded for his passionate interest in our men in uniform);
- an “E-Waste” shredding event at the local Lowe’s hardware barn;
- new city landscape rules requiring drought tolerant desert plants for new construction and development;

- a new telephone number for reporting (i.e.: ratting out) water running in the streets, evidence of faulty irrigation systems on residential and business properties - (760) 323-7971
- the City of Palm Springs' annual budget is looking very grim, with further cuts to services sure to come;
- the annual Palm Springs Neighborhood Organization Picnic will be held May 1st, 2010 at Ruth Hardy Park;

With his report completed, Ney then reluctantly announced he was going to have to resign from the Board of Advisors at the end of this term, due to increasing professional commitments.

While we are delighted that he will continue to attend meetings whenever possible, we are saddened to have lost him as a Board Member and thank him for his extraordinary service to the community, as well as to the selection of stylish Tank Tops he wore to our various events.

It was therefore acknowledged that there is an official opening on the Board of Advisors. This led to discussion regarding term limits, re-elections and various other by-law issues. Ray Trim and Rick Vila have formed a subcommittee to create a proposal for changes to the RCENO bylaws and will report to the Board at the next meeting.

BOA member and financial coordinator Dean NiCastro reported that the RCENO bank account currently holds **\$15,482.67 (FIFTEEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY TWO DOLLARS AND SIXTY SEVEN CENTS)**. As was noted later by Rick Vila, this is a remarkable accomplishment for such a young organization and by any measure the RCENO is the most successful such group in the city of Palm Springs.

Rick Vila then introduced two gentlemen, Steve Roberts and Lauren Something-or-Other from a company called COMMUNITY DYNAMICS, a real estate development firm, who made a presentation regarding their proposed – and hotly debated – mid-income housing project, slated for 3130 N. Indian Canyon Drive.

This condo development has been under close scrutiny for several reasons, including residence density, lack of community facilities (i.e.: a swimming pool) and its close proximity to the historic Wexler Steel homes on the adjacent street.

(Your Reporter has some rather strong opinions about this project which, in the interest of journalistic integrity, he shall not share here; suffice to say he found the two representatives of Community Dynamics to be very polished and well spoken and should he ever be in the market for reptile oil he will know exactly where to go.)

With the presentation out of the way, the meeting continued with Rick announcing a date change for the semi-annual meeting of the RCENO; previously to be held May 8th, it has been moved to May 22, 2010, with the location moved to Vista Del Monte Elementary School.

A mailing will be designed by Nat Gozzano, sent out by USPS (paid by the City of Palm Springs as part of the annual Neighborhood Organization operating budget), and Your Reporter will do various email “blasts” to the membership to encourage attendance.

Lauren Scarbro motioned to spend up to \$500.00 on an order of official Racquet Club Estates T-Shirts. There have been

quite a few requests over the past year for these shirts at our picnic and home tour events, so the idea of having a selection on hand to sell was popular with the Board. Rick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Rick then asked for suggestions regarding how to spend the money raised by the RCENO during our various events. Suggestions followed:

- Nat suggested some sort of monument plaque or sign in Victoria Park regarding the historic importance of the neighborhood;
- Lauren suggested producing a “reality TV” show of the area, focusing on some of the more historic or interesting homes, and selling it as a DVD at next year’s home tour;
- The oft-mentioned “Dog Park” run, installed in Victoria Park;

But the real winner in the suggestions category had to be RCENO member Robert’s idea to contribute some money to the local public school, Vista Del Monte, in order to pay for much needed school supplies, support after-school programs and replace worn out or broken mechanical items such as coffee makers, microwaves etc.

This marvelous notion was met with considerable excitement by all, and Robert and Joseph formed a subcommittee to investigate further, to report back to the board at the General Meeting in May; possibly even bringing the school’s Principal Joseph Scudder along to discuss.

(This surely ranks as one of the first times in history when anybody has been happy to have a meeting with “the Principal”.)

Conversation then veered off into further thoughts of fundraising possibilities for the Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization;

- tours of the “Stars Homes” in the area;
- maps of the historic “Star Homes”, including properties owned at one time by Clark Gable, Steve McQueen, Howard Hawks and others;
- coffee mugs and key fobs in the shape of our much-loved “Blade Signs”;
- “Blade Signs” themselves for sale;

This list will be presented at the semi-annual General Meeting for further discussion.

BOA member Scott Kennedy suggested further investigation into the designation of the Racquet Club Estates as an “historic district/neighborhood”; this met with much interest from all and Scott will explore the possibilities further, reporting back at the next meeting.

And of course, what would a RCENO Board of Advisors meeting be without our monthly Coyote Warning from our beloved Scott Kennedy? Once again he reminded us that these demonic beasts are roaming the streets like door-to-door vacuum salesmen, their only goal being to devour household pets as if they were canapés.

We must be forever vigilant. Keep watching the roads, my friends. Keep watching the roads.

And with that, Rick Vila moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 pm. Passed unanimously and we all ventured out into the Saturday afternoon sun, to spend another magnificent day in paradise.