

Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization

General Membership Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2009

The meeting commenced at 9:30 AM at the Fire Station at the NWC of Racquet Club Road and Via Miraleste.

The following BOA members were present: Rick Vila, Dean Nicastro, Scott Kennedy, Nat Gozzano, Ron Oliver, Joseph May and Timm Fryman.

Twenty-eight (28) residents signed-in.

Lee Husfeldt from the City of PS Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) and John Bonno were also in attendance.

Rick Vila opened the meeting by welcoming the general members. He introduced current BOA members who were in attendance. Rick gave a brief overview of the inception of RCENO, one of 23 officially recognized neighborhoods in the City of Palm Springs.

Minutes of the April 2008 RCENO General Membership meeting were approved.

Rick gave a summary history of RCENO's accomplishments over the past year:

- The October 2008 first RCENO picnic at Victoria Park celebrating the 50th anniversary of the development of the Racquet Club Estates neighborhood.

- The February 2009 Mid-Century Modern Homes Tour held during Modernism Week which featured tours of Alexander, Meiselman and Wexler homes and a hosted reception with architects Wm. Krisel and Donald Wexler in attendance.

- The awarding of a \$1,000 grant recognizing RCENO's website which was originated, designed and developed by Nat Gozzano. (www.racquetclubestates.com)

- The development of a working relationship with members of the Palm Springs Police Department assigned to the Racquet Club Estates "beat".

Dean Nicastro reported that RCENO has a cash balance of \$9,553.66 to date. This represents proceeds from membership dues, raffle ticket sales, grants/awards, home tour ticket sales minus expenses associated with the production of the money-making events. A copy of Dean's summary budget is attached and/or can be obtained by emailing rcenorg@gmail.com

Rick thanked all active members for their dues/monetary contributions as well as their volunteer participation in RCENO activities/events during the past year.

Nat Gozzano presented 3 design ideas for the RCENO blade signs which the organization plans to purchase (\$80.70@) and which the City will install for free. The blade signs will identify the area as “Racquet Club Estates” and will sit atop specified street signs in the area. The blade sign program is part of a city-wide plan involving all 23 city-recognized neighborhoods.

There was much discussion about design options. Ultimately, the group agreed that the font should mimic the font used in original RCE printed materials from 1959 and which is similar to the font used on RCENO t-shirts. The group also decided that the color of the signs should be brown to match the color of signs used in national parks and to contrast with the green used in the existing street signs.

Nat will post a newly designed blade sign on the RCENO website (www.racquetclubestates.com) where all interested residents can see and vote on the final design choice.

Elections for Board of Advisors were held. Statements by two candidates who were unable to attend were read by Rick Vila. All other candidates introduced themselves and told why they would like to serve on the RCENO BOA.

The following 7 residents were re-elected to the RCENO BOA: Rick Vila, Dean Nicasastro, Ron Oliver, Joseph May, Scott Kennedy, Nat Gozzano and Nicki Randolph. The following 2 residents were newly elected to the RCENO BOA: Ney Fonesca and Lauren Scarbro. Election of Officers will be conducted by the BOA at their next regularly-scheduled meeting.

Following the election, members in attendance were given the opportunity to speak and/or present ideas or areas of interest that RCENO might involve itself with moving forward:

- Donna Chaban reported that she has been working with Sharon Heider of the City’s Parks Dept. on creating a dog run at Victoria Park for use of area residents. Any and all residents interested in working with Donna on this project are welcome. Please email [rcenorg@gmail](mailto:rcenorg@gmail.com) expressing your interest and RCENO will forward your contact information on to Donna.

- Donna also voiced concern about helping needy neighbors/homeowners with general clean-up/maintenance of their homes.

- Is there any interest in a neighborhood wide Garage Sale??

- Photo-voltaic grants for residential installations of solar panels paid by a special tax on affected properties.

- Under-grounding of utilities. Estimated cost would be \$30,000-40,000 per home just to relocate power lines and NOT including fencing/landscaping; possible financing by assessment district requires 51% vote of property owners with 20-30 year

amortization via property taxes. The City has received some funds from SCE for undergrounding of utilities on major streets.

- Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Response
- Neighborhood Watch
- Better communication thru increased membership/obtaining email addresses from residents and/or USPS mailings. (Lee Husfeldt reported that the City may be able to absorb the cost of one general mailing per year.)
- Review and updating of RCENO by-laws via a By-Laws Subcommittee
- Having more than one general membership meeting per year possibly with a meeting/picnic sometime in October 2009.
- The formation of a Subcommittee to address the needs/concerns of Absentee and Part-time Homeowners.

Rick ended the meeting by stating that the success of any of these ideas/concerns/ suggestions depends on the PROACTIVE PARTICIPATION of residents and the general membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05AM.