

Racquet Club Estates  
Board of Advisors Meeting  
July 11, 2009

Minutes

Meeting commenced at 10:08 a.m. at the lovely home of Board Member Lauren Scarbro. She served the most exquisite berries and cream and some lemonade which, while it did not contain gin as this Reporter had hoped, was wonderful nevertheless.

Present at the meeting: Board Members Rick Vila, Lauren Scarbro, Scott Kennedy, Nat Gazzano, Ron Oliver, Ney Fonseca, Dean NiCastro.

Also present, various members of the Neighborhood Organization, all suitably attired and looking well rested even at the early hour.

Board Member Rick Vila introduced the newly elected Board Members to all. This Reporter expected at least a standing ovation, but none was forthcoming. The meeting continued.

Board Member Scott Kennedy brought up for discussion the Via Miraleste Sidewalk project, constructing a sidewalk along the east side of Via

Miraleste which, in his opinion, has a “random, messiness” in its design. Lauren Scarbro asked if it was a done deal, and Scott said he would pursue further and hoped that the RCENO could, as a group, be involved in future similar construction in the neighborhood. To wit, he proposed sending a formal letter from RCENO requesting to be kept more informed regarding such matters.

Rick thanked him for keeping an eye on the project.

RCENO member Todd Husted passed out business cards for his new “house watching” business.

The new Blade Signs were discussed. Nat showed a drawing of the sample of the new sign which has been ordered and will be presented to the Blade Sign Committee for approval. It was hoped that the signs would be installed in time for the annual Fall RCENO picnic in October 2009.

Discussion of the new Indian Canyon/San Rafael development at 3130 N. Indian Cyn Rd (hereafter referred to as 3130) began with Rick recusing himself from the discussion as he is married to City Planner Ken Lyon, constituting a possible conflict of interest.

The Planning Commission of Palm Springs was to meet on July 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2009 to approve the project.

Letters were read from several neighbors whose property abutted against the proposed site of 3130, and who were against either the design of the development or the development itself. One of these homeowners was in attendance and stated his opposition on the grounds of lack of privacy and destruction of sight lines on his property.

Possible solutions to the problems were discussed, including working with the developer in *a quid pro quo* fashion. A lively discussion ensued wherein sides were taken, chairs were thrown and fisticuffs ensued...(please note this last sentence is a complete fabrication, but Your Reporter felt these Minutes were getting awfully dull.)

In fact, a lively discussion DID ensue, regarding how the Board could determine a unified point of view on the matter, and it ended peacefully with the Board taking a vote on what action to take on the 3130 issue.

Lauren made a motion to the Board suggesting a letter be drafted to City Hall asking for a delay of the public hearing to allow for further investigation of

the development, as well as to allow for residents of the neighborhood to submit their opinions about the development. 3 “yea” votes – Ron Oliver, Nat Gazzano and Lauren Scarbro. 2 “nay” votes – Scott Kennedy and Dean NiCastro, 2 abstained – Rick Vila and Ney Fonseca.

Motion passed.

Rick recapped the action to come: Lauren would draft the letter on behalf of the RCENO requesting the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting be delayed, Scott would form a subcommittee to stay on top of the situation and Ron would conduct an “email blast” to the Neighborhood Organization membership informing them of the development and the Board of Advisors’ concerns, and suggesting community involvement in the process.

The meeting moved on.

Board Member Ney Fonseca gave a report on his attendance at the Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee. A diagram illustrating boundaries of the Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood was displayed. New water meters were discussed. Rental home ordinance changes mentioned. The new season of the Citizens on Patrol

program starts in the fall and it was suggested that this is a lovely way to learn more about law enforcement and perhaps witness the antics of drug addicted nitwits in a way that not even the television program “COPS” can provide.

The PSNIC information continued to unfold, with discussion of the illegalities surrounding the private sales of vehicles on public streets, and The Board was delighted to hear that Board Member Rick Vila had been mentioned during the meeting as potentially joining a Sub-Committee.

PSNIC is presenting a “Good Neighbor Award” this year, nomination forms available at their website – PSNIC.org - with a banquet and Awards presentation to take place later in the year. An email is to be sent out from RCENO announcing the awards dinner, at which RCENO plans to have a presence by purchasing a table. Tickets will also be available for sale from BOA members. Rick put forward a motion to support the event by taking out an advertisement in the evening’s program. Motion passed unanimously.

Ney suggested nominating ourselves – the RCENO board – for doing such a great job with our first Home Tour. Indulgent smiles followed, as did further

discussion, and it was agreed to discuss the issue at the next meeting.

Ney also mentioned that Park maintenance is now being done through one central telephone line – (760–567–1034) – with the point person being the soon-to-be-overworked Rick Mijarez. (This reporter wishes Rick good luck with his inevitable carpal tunnel syndrome.)

Board Member Scott Kennedy told a very sad story about the death of one of his beloved cats at the paws of an apparently ravenous coyote roaming in the neighborhood. This cautionary tale led to some discussion about what to do in case of coyote – none of the proposed solutions involved 2 ton cartoon anvils nor ACME brand dynamite, much to this Reporter’s surprise – and various methods of protecting one’s pets from the intruders were suggested.

RCENO member Donna Chabon discussed her work in trying to get a Dog Park built in Victoria Park, at the corner of Via Miraleste and Racquet Club Road. She is also hoping to develop plans for a community garden in the area. The Board recognized her enthusiasm and dedication to the neighborhood character.

Board Member Ron Oliver put forth a motion to start a Racquet Club Estates Facebook page. “Yea” votes – Nat, Scott, Rick, Lauren, Ron, Dean. “Nay” vote – Ney, who had apparently a bad experience with an Internet Social Interaction Service. This Reporter wanted to know more, but was slapped down.

The Motion Passed.

Board Member Rick Vila made a motion for the Annual Picnic to be held on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at Victoria Park, with a General Meeting scheduled to take place from 10:00 to 11:00 am, and the Picnic to follow until 2:00 pm.

Motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Dean NiCastro made the Treasurer’s Report which, as he is The Treasurer, seemed to make sense. The RCENO account held, on this date, \$9773.66 (NINE THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED, SEVENTY THREE DOLLARS AND SIXTY SIX CENTS).

Board Member Rick Vila opened up the discussion of how to collect “dues” for the Organization; should

they be annual, how to collect, etc? This discussion was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

Rick also mentioned that, following the success of RCENO's Home Tour, the Sunmor Neighborhood Organization is planning to have a similar event at next year's Modernism Week. Suitably feigned outrage ensued at this flagrant imitation, but it was agreed that imitation is, finally, the ultimate form of flattery.

Rick motioned the meeting adjourned, Scott Kennedy seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.

We all returned to our beautiful lives in the sun.