

## RACQUET CLUB ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

### Monthly Meeting Minutes

Reported by Ron Oliver,

Communications Director and Man About Town.

September 19, 2009.

The monthly meeting of the RCENO was held at Nat Gazzano's beautiful and stylish Alexander home, nestled on a quiet street in our fine neighborhood. Delightful snacks and beverages were served and attendees included various neighbors, members of the RCENO, as well as Board of Advisor Members Rick Vila, Joseph May, Ney Fonseca, Lauren Scarbro, Scott Kennedy, Dean NiCastro, Nat Gazzano and your reporter, Ron Oliver.

Rick Vila opened the meeting at 10:12 am, welcoming the Board and Members, thanking all for their attendance, and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

A sample of the new neighborhood "BLADE SIGNS" was shown and discussion ensued regarding the number of signs to be set up around the neighborhood. Nat suggested too many might be visual clutter, others felt it was important to be inclusive with the signage, and to place them at every intersection throughout the RCE.

Nat put forward a motion to order only a dozen signs and have them installed, to get a sense of the "look" of them before ordering the rest. Ney Fonseca seconded. Vote taken – Vote passed.  
(Specifics of the yeas vs. nays not recorded by your lazy reporter.)

We moved on.

Member Donna Chabon mentioned the upcoming Wexler Weekend, to be held January 22 – 24, 2010 in Palm Springs, featuring many events of interest to our neighbors. Details were discussed and an email was to be sent out to the membership with more information.

BOA member Scott Kennedy repeated his warning from the last meeting about the Coyote issue in Palm Springs; he sadly has lost a cat to the ravenous beasts and suggested sending out a warning email to the membership, as well as some tips for keeping pets safe. (This Reporter attempted to lighten the mood by suggested that the ACME company may have Coyote Traps, marketed to Road Runners throughout the desert.)

Scott also mentioned that the very fine periodical CALIFORNIA MODERN (CA Modern) MAGAZINE would no longer be sent out free in our Palm Springs market, as it has been for the past several years. Apparently the publishers have not been seeing much financial return in this marketplace. However the magazine is still available for sale – see website for more information: [www.eichlernetwork.com](http://www.eichlernetwork.com).

Dean NiCastro gave the Treasurer's Report and as of September 19, 2009 there is \$9,669.29 (NINE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED, SIXTYNINE DOLLARS and TWENTY NINE CENTS) in the RCENO account. We applauded ourselves as, in the current financial landscape, this is remarkable.

Rick Vila brought up a concern about BOA member Nikki Randolph's inability to attend monthly meetings due to work commitments. It was agreed that while her contributions to last year's Picnic and her general enthusiasm for the organization are truly appreciated and laudable, and we all are very fond of her, perhaps it was a good idea for Rick to contact her to find out what her plans were for future participation in the BOA.

BOA member Ney Fonseca suggested an amendment to the RCENO bylaws regarding minimum attendance for Board Members. This was tabled for future discussion.

A discussion of the upcoming annual RCENO Picnic ensued, with much detail about food, raffle tickets, flyers, Press releases etc.

Ney put forward a motion to spend up to \$250.00 on mailing invitations to the picnic. Rick Vila seconded, motion passed unanimously.

We moved on to a discussion of the 2010 HOME TOUR of the RCE. After the success of last year's event, it was decided to do it again, with different homes but – hopefully – similar results. Planning was discussed briefly, but then tabled until the November meeting.

Ney Fonseca provided a report from PSNIC –Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee. Among items of interest were the cancellation of the PSNIC Gala planned for the fall, citing a lack of ability to raise money in the current economic climate; the nominations for the Good Neighbor Award, available on the PSNIC website – [www.palmspringsneighborhoods.com](http://www.palmspringsneighborhoods.com); upcoming CERT training schedules to become an official volunteer in case of disasters or emergencies in our city; a notation – surprising to some – that Golf Carts are illegal to drive on the public streets.

There was also an interesting bit of drama at the PSNIC meeting around the “Well in the Desert” – a non-profit group providing food to the homeless and other unfortunate folks – and their plan to relocate in the Sunmor neighborhood of Palm Springs. While the neighbors against the Well's relocation wanted PSNIC to get involved on “their” side, PSNIC opted to remain neutral.

This Reporter and Ney Fonseca discussed briefly the long-proposed RCENO “Scholarship” process – the idea of taking some of RCENO’s budget and granting it to a neighbor in need, to help with home improvement costs. The question was raised whether to make this a casual or formal process. The discussion was tabled for further consideration.

Scott Kennedy mentioned the oft-discussed Indian Canyon Development at 3130 Indian Canyon Road, adjacent to the RCE neighborhood. He felt the RCENO should take a definite stand, pro or con this development, and added that the homeowners whose property directly abuts the proposed development – and whose Wexler-designed homes are Class 1 protected sites - have taken a step back and are planning a legal approach. Scott also felt strongly that the 3130 development would have a substantial environmental impact.

Much discussion ensued as to whether or not the RCENO should take a political stand, especially as the organization would be viewed as speaking for ALL of the neighbors and a consensus agreement would be difficult to reach.

Nat Gazzano suggested a solution: he put forth a motion to have a letter sent to the Developers of 3130 as well as the City’s Architectural Advisement Council, on behalf of the RCENO, to the effect that the Wexler homes are historically valuable to the City and as such any development which would impact them should be handled carefully and sensitively. Motion was seconded and passed.

An email to all RCENO members including this letter as well as information about attending the October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 AAC meeting will be sent out, maintaining a neutral stance, but suggesting members make their voices heard, pro or con the 3130 development.

Rick Vila mentioned that certain political candidates running for office in the November election in Palm Springs had asked if they could attend the General Meeting in October and speak to the assembled members. It was discussed and determined that this would be too much like staging a political rally; however, a motion was put forth that the candidates would be welcome at the General Meeting and could mingle with guests and members in a casual “meet and greet” fashion.

Motion passed.

Rick Vila thanked everybody for attending, motioned to adjourn. Your Reporter seconded it, as did several other BOA members, and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.