

RACQUET CLUB ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

MONTHLY MEETING

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

Written by Ron Oliver, Communications Director RCENO

Once again we gathered for our monthly meeting, this time at the elegant Palm Springs home of BOA member Robert Perry and Dennis Vasquez, and as President Rick Vila called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m., Your Reporter did a quick scan of the room and saw, amongst others, Robin Moore, Ken Lyon, Steve Schulz, John Russell, Bob Merliss, Barbara Maccarillo, Daryl Green, Terry Towne, Scott Kennedy, Dean Nicastro, Lauren Scarbro, Joseph May, Donna Chaban and special guest Palm Springs City Manager David Ready.

Mr. Ready was invited to discuss Measure J, which will appear on the ballot in the November election taking place in our beautiful town. This measure, a 1% increase on the local sales tax, would help pay for many improvements in the city of Palm Springs - principally among them, the razing of the downtown Fashion Plaza Mall, an all but abandoned dead dog of a building which has clogged up the heart of Palm Springs for over a decade.

As Mr. Ready continued, one could see skepticism in the eyes of some of our neighbors, and the Question and Answer period which followed was both lively and interesting. We shall see what happens come November...

After Mr. Ready departed, Rick called for the Officers' Reports:

- Treasurer Dean Nicastro announced that we have \$19,715.11 (NINETEEN THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND ELEVEN CENTS) in our bank account.

- previous meetings' minutes were presented by Your Reporter and approved unanimously, with the caveat that the June 2011 minutes and the August 2011 minutes were still to come.

With no further reports, we moved on to other business.

Donna Chaban reported that the Palm Springs Animal Shelter, to which the RCENO has donated money, will open soon.

She continued by showing a card printed up by the Deepwell Estates Neighborhood Organization which features emergency contact numbers for the area; the assembled were delighted by this and Donna will look into having something similar printed for our neighborhood as well and report back at a later meeting.

Your Reporter presented two items of interest, one an email from PS Police Officer Don Bumstead, apologizing for not attending the meeting but reminding all that he was available by email or phone for any questions or concerns, the other a CD of music

recorded by local neighbor and RCENO member Dan Westfall, he of the "I Live With Cheeta the Chimp" fame. Both were handed out for examination, and Your Reporter told the assembled that the CD was available at Dan's website - www.cheetathechimp.org.

Rick Vila suggested inviting teachers and students from our local Vista Del Monte Elementary to the upcoming Neighborhood Picnic on Oct. 11, 2011, where there is to be the presentation of a nice big fat check to the school; all agreed.

The monthly discussion of our "Neighborhood Beautification" grant ensued; Robert Perry and Barbara Maccarillo are continuing to investigate and Mr. Perry promised movement on it in the coming week.

Joseph May suggested that a minimum time limit be set on calling for BOA votes via email; the turnaround time for the latest "emergency" vote was too short for many of our members to respond. All agreed to a 24 hour minimum window.

Lauren Scarbro reported on the picnic progress; her team is working non-stop and all is going along according to Her Plan For Victoria Park Domination. Ms. Scarbro also reported that the picnic invitations have been sent out via USPS.

Rick Vila reported that our neighborhood blade signs have gone up in price; several have blown away in the wind, and Your

Reporter in fact currently has one in his backyard, awaiting retrieval and replacement by City Engineering. Discussion of buying more signs was moved to the October meeting.

A discussion of the annual RCE Home Tour ensued; since one of the driving forces of the tour is our BOA member and dear friend Scott Kennedy who, loyal readers will recall, has been having some health issues, Rick was concerned about the event actually happening in 2012.

But to universal delight, Scott announced that his health has improved considerably, thanks in no small part to his medical treatments, and he re-upped to do the job once again this year.

There was a great deal of applause and a few wet eyes in the room at this; Scott is well-loved by all, and Your Reporter in particular is thrilled with the news. Go, Scott!

The meeting drew to a close with a few last comments about the home tour, including Your Reporter promising to speak with a celebrity of his acquaintance about making an appearance at the Reception held at the end of the tour.

Rick Vila moved to adjourn at 12:10 pm, and we all did so, off to enjoy yet another gorgeous Palm Springs day...