

Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization
BOA Meeting Minutes (Approved)
December 13, 2008

The meeting commenced at 10:00 AM at the home of Rick Vila and Ken Lyon at 2792 N. Avenida Caballeros.

The following BOA members were present: Rick Vila, Dean Nicastro, Scott Kennedy, Timm Fryman. Nicki Randolph emailed her proxy vote to Timm Fryman so that he could vote on her behalf.

The following RCENO general members were present: Bob Merliss, Marty Kapff, Ney Fonesca, Lauren Scarbro, Donna Chabon, Joseph May, Frank Specchierla and Ken Lyon.

1) Rick opened the meeting by welcoming the general members who were present and thanking them for their participation. Because of the number of items on the agenda Rick asked that the proposed agenda time limits be adhered to so that we could get thru everything.

2) Rick informed the group of the death of BOA member Jackie Tatum on November 7, 2008. A moment of silence followed to remember Jackie.

3) Joseph May volunteered to accept the BOA position left vacant by Jackie's death. And he was unanimously voted in.

4) Minutes of the November 2008 RCENO BOA meeting were approved.

5) Dean reported that we have a bank balance of \$2,778.79.

6) It was agreed that monthly BOA meetings would continue for 2009 on the second Saturday of each month at 10AM. And that the Annual General Membership Meeting would be scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2009. Suggested locations were the firehouse and the elementary school. Scott brought up the idea of having more than one general membership meeting per year.

7) Scott began the conversation by stating that he has identified and communicated to the developer a number of issues to consider regarding the Community Dynamics proposal as it relates to our neighborhood. He suggested placing the issue on the back burner until the developer makes more forward movement with the development concept. Ken Lyon stated that it had come to his attention at the City that Community Dynamics would be filing a development proposal in the near future. Scott then volunteered to begin communication with the neighborhood homeowners closest to the proposed development, starting a dialogue over the issue.

8) Scott reported that a majority of the homeowners affected by the Miraleste “safe routes to school” sidewalk project were opposed to it. He suggested mitigating the impact of the project by recommending changes/modifications to the existing plan. A similar sidewalk project was recently completed on Farrell north of Tahquitz on the west side of the street. Everyone was encouraged to go look at that to see what it looks like. Some general members thought that the money could be better spent by installing stop lights at the corner of Vista Chino/Via Miraleste. Scott agreed to continue communication with the Via Miraleste homeowners, in an attempt to find a common ground over concerns and possible mitigations to them.

9) Scott reported on the recent Historic Site Preservation Board (HSPB) workshop that focused on establishing historic districts within the City. Patrick McGrew, a private citizen and architect who has had experience helping to establish historic districts in San Francisco spoke at the HSPB workshop. He said that typically 51% of buildings within a potential historic district need to be of a certain vernacular. Individual parcels within a potential historic district are classified as either “contributing” or “non-contributing”. Participation by individual homeowners is voluntary. There are pros and cons associated with being a historic class I site including property tax breaks and restrictions as to what modifications can be made to the property after it is declared historic class 1. The general consensus was that Racquet Club Estates would be an ideal candidate for historic district classification because of the importance and consistency of its mid-century architecture, the location of the Wexler steel homes/the Firestation/Francis Crocker Library building within its boundaries and the presence of examples of contemporary architecture as well. Since the City’s process for designating historic districts hasn’t yet been formulated, it was felt that any movement to creating such districts would come from individual neighborhoods. The group felt that this was a worthy project worth pursuing/getting more information about in the new year. Scott distributed some photocopied handouts with useful information about historic preservation within the State and City.

10) Rick suggested the idea of a neighborhood-wide garage/rummage sale for sometime in 2009. One of the RCENO members had mentioned this to Rick in an email and asked that it be brought up for discussion at the meeting. The parking lot at the elementary school was suggested as a possible site for the event. It was decided to bring this up at the General Membership Meeting in April to gauge interest.

11) Scott brought up the idea of having a neighborhood Lost Pet Email Alert System that would be tied into the RCENO website. He will discuss with Nat Gozzano.

12) Rick presented an update on the Home Tour / Modernism Week February 2009:

- a) Suggested date of February 21st from 9:30 am-noon and with a noon-1pm reception to be held at the home of Eddie Schachnow with Wm. Krisel and/or Donald Wexler to be present. Light refreshments (wine/cheese) would be served at the reception.
- b) Ticket price will be \$20/person with a maximum of 250 tickets available, less 25-30 comp tickets for city officials, press, contributing homeowners/ docents/

volunteers. Tickets would be available to purchase online thru the website or at a ticket booth in Victoria Park the day of the event.

- c) Other promotional items such as t-shirts might also be available for purchase the day of the event.
- d) Nicki Randolph will be in charge of sponsorships, including Dimmi Spirits.
- e) Volunteers are needed, but owners of homes included on the tour will recruit their own docents (2 min per house) with the assistance of RCENO.
- f) The tour will include a minimum of 1 Wexler Steel Home, 1 Meiselman, and 4 or 5 Alexanders representing different roofline examples, plus Eddie's house as the site of the reception.
- g) Rick will write a press release. Other publicity portals may be a downtown banner, flyers in shops/local businesses/Villagefest/hotels and Palm Springs Life and Desert Magazines.
- h) Each ticket holder will receive a professionally printed glossy color brochure with pictures/historic information about Racquet Club Estates. A separate printed insert will contain specific tour information for 2009. The color brochures could be used for future tours or offered for sale on the website.
- i) Rick is checking on insurance issues.

13) Rick announced that blade signs have been approved by the City and will be available for purchase by the different neighborhoods in the near future. Each Norg will have to pay for its own blade signs, but the City will install them at no charge.

14) Donna Chabon has been working with City park officials on the design of a proposed dog park in Victoria Park. Donna now heads a subcommittee for the project and anyone interested can call her at (760) 416-0846.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.