

Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization

BOA Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2010

The meeting commenced at 10:00 AM at the home of Bob and Marty.

The following BOA members were present: Dean Nicastro, Scott Kennedy, Bob Merliss, Donna Chaban, Joseph May, Ray Trim, Robert Perry

There were three RCENO general members present.

1. Roll Call and Introduction of Visitors: Sgt Kyle Stjerne,

2. Crime and Safety Issues

We discussed many things here but the majority of the discussion centered on 581 Laurel (Dean's family used to own it) with issues that RCENO members Kurt and Paul have been complaining about for a long time. Sgt. Stjerne gave an update. He said that his officers are watching the property and he said that with so much police surveillance what usually happens is that the offending party ends up moving. He talked about where the responsibility of his department ends and where Code Enforcement and Health Dept steps in.

Sgt. Stjerne said that this property has been on his radar for a year now and no arrests have happened. There have been 30 incidents that have been logged regarding said property. In the last month there have been 5 stakeouts where officers have sat in their cars and watched the property. One vehicle was checked recently at 3AM. The occupant was recognized as having past encounters with the PSPD, being on probation he was able to search him without probable cause but netted nothing. This person, Kurt and Paul claim, is the culprit and seems to be the root of the problem at 581. Police were able to search his room and common areas of the house but legally couldn't search anyone else's rooms. Nothing illegal was found.

Sgt Stjerne took questions:

Donna- Kurt and Paul have taken pictures of the trash on the property knowing that is a code enforcement issue, should they bring the owner of the property (who doesn't live there) in?

Sgt Stjerne- That is a civil problem and yes they can attempt to contact the owner of the property but expressed doubt that the owners would really do anything. He also warned us of taking photos of people's backyards or any private areas. Taking pictures of areas that are public to send to Code Enforcement is okay and encouraged.

Scott- Health Department can be called and encouraged us to include in our reports evidence of rats, roaches, coyotes, things that will alert them and get their notice.

Joseph- what is happening at the house next to Ken and Rick, there is trash pouring out of the garage and the backyard?

Sgt Stjerne- Aware of the property and said that arrests have been made.

Robert- what about the house on Francis and Sunny View?

Sgt Stjerne- Said that there were municipal code violations and said the he will research what he could do regarding that property.

Robin (RCENO member)-Contacted Graffiti Removal and had a very quick response.

Sgt Stjerne- encouraged us to call them because the city will be right on that because they don't want the image of the city to be tarnished.

Marty (RCENO member) –Complained that the city will come right out and take care of graffiti and things that tourists might see but are reluctant to come out on health code violations, issues that can affect the lives and health of residents.

Sgt Stjerne- claimed the city was financially strapped and could only do so much.

Donna- said that she would bring up Marty's issue at the next PSNIC meeting

Robin-Reported about a woman on Jacques who apparently is having a lot of difficulty taking care of herself, sleeping in her car, has no running water on her property, uses her backyard as a bathroom. Stjerne said that he was aware of this person and said that Adult Protective Services APS has been called in several times. He said that it is really under their jurisdiction.

This item was closed with Sgt Stjerne reiterating the Palm Springs Police Department's commitment to the neighborhood organizations and left several contacts:

Watch Commander (760) 323-8115

Non-emergency Dispatch (760) 327-1441

Shopping Cart Hot Line (800) 252-4613

Sgt. Stjerne- Kyle.Stjerne@palmsprings-ca.gov

3. Approval of Minutes:

Donna said that she has trouble opening attachments and asked her minutes to be included in the text of e-mail. Bob made a motion to approve October and November's minute, Robert seconded and the minutes were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

Dean reported that we have \$11,519.84 in the bank. He stated that he would need to hire an accountant to help with tax preparation this year. He has to file for 2008, 2009 and 2010. For the future he will look into using Nest Egg Bookkeeping.

5. RCENO Annual Tour of Homes

Scott reported that he has four houses secured and that he needs three more.

Donna reported that she had found the missing list of neighbors who volunteered their homes. Everyone cheered as she handed that list over to Scott. Scott said that he has bids from three caterers for the reception. Donna suggested that he check out East-West Caterers. Scott is planning for a reception of 300 people.

Nat will do the flyer and Robert agreed to talk with him about it and about our link to the Modernism website. It was agreed that our website needs attention. The topic of a silent auction was brought up and someone ??? said they would talk with Lauren about that.

6. Festival of Lights Parade

Robert decked out his vintage Mustang and was joined by Dennis, Joseph, Gene, Kurt and Paul. Fun was had by all but it was acknowledged that it was a learning experience and next year, if we are to participate, we would need more help and people to join in. Robert did the whole process himself from getting into the parade, decorating his car, arranging others to join him. Way to Go Robert!!!!!!

Donna said that next year each neighborhood organization would adopt a balloon in the parade, that's a lot of balloons.

7. Rick's Items including non-profit mailing opportunities

Donna reported that Rick is working on getting our organization non-profit status.

8. PSNIC updates (discussion here gets rather informal and many different discussions were going on at the same time making it difficult for this recorder to be clear on each item, PSNIC updates get integrated with many other topics)

On Tuesday 12/14 Volunteer Palm Springs is holding a reception at Jake's at 5:00PM. This will be to recruit volunteers for their downtown program

Wellwood Murray Library is going ahead with plans to remodel. They have funds secure and the work will commence when the city council approves.

PSNIC Picnic is on May 20th

There was a presentation about the proposed county jail at Whitewater.

9. Old/New Business

(See number 8)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:52:13 AM.