

**RACQUET CLUB ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION**

**JANUARY 12, 2012 MEETING**

**Minutes Recorded by Your Faithful Reporter RON OLIVER**

Things got under way promptly at 10:10 a.m., at the lovely home of BOA Member TERRY TOWNE, after we'd all had a pleasant chuckle at the fact that somehow her surname had become "Tatum" during the previous week's flurry of emails. Terry, being a lady to the fingertips, smiled demurely and led us all to an array of delicious treats and coffee, as well as - in This Reporter's Opinion - the perfect breakfast drink; Veuve Clicquot champagne! Thank you Terry!

Board President RICK VILA was delighted to announce that every member of the Board of Advisors was present, including: SCOTT KENNEDY, BOB MERLISS, DONNA CHABAN-DELMAS, ROBERT PERRY, BARBARA MACCARILLO, DEAN NICASTRO, JOSEPH MAY, LAUREN SCARBRO and Your Reporter. This is quite a coup, given that our organization has been around awhile.

Treasurer Dean Nicastro reported that we have \$15,224.84 (FIFTEEN THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY FOUR DOLLARS AND EIGHTY FOUR CENTS) in the bank. A healthy sum indeed, and we all nodded smugly.

Your Reporter and Communications Director put forth the long lost minutes for the September meeting, and they were unanimously

approved by the Board.

Your Reporter also discussed looking into the purchasing of a "Doggie Do" stand for local Victoria Park; this was met with considerable interest and will be pursued by His Self for the next meeting.

The recent Starr Road Explosion - wherein a power box from Southern California Edison blew up and power lines fell across homeowner's properties, causing a significant power outage - was a topic of conversation. Your Reporter mentioned there was a financial grant available from SCE to help pay for the burial of such dangerous electrical cables in the neighborhood. Member KEN LYON offered to look into the SCE/City of Palm Springs connection in this regard and report back at the next meeting.

Regarding the RCENO's financial contribution to the local and new Animal Shelter, an amount had been approved to have a kennel dedicated in our name; the amount was uncertain, although \$2000.00 was remembered by most. BOA member Donna Chaban-Delmas was going to look further into it and report back next meeting.

Board Members Robert Perry and Barbara Maccarillo are continuing their investigation into the "Homeowner Scholarship" program, to help neighbors improve the curb appeal of their homes in the area. They are making progress, and will continue their fine efforts.

BOA VP Donna Chaban-Delmas gave the PSNIC Report. Highlights included:

- Desert Highlands Community Garden system is expanding to Demuth Park.

- Jan. 26th is the Mayor's State of the City address, to be followed by the ceremonial initial demolition of the old Bank of America building at the corner of Tahquitz and Palm Canyon Drive, which will herald the renovation of the Desert Fashion Plaza block. We are all very VERY excited about this potential life-saving surgery to our downtown!

- A community Olive Oil Press is being organized; contact Michelle at the Office of Sustainability.

- the annual Citrus Collection will be arranged this season as well.

- the next Board Meeting of February 11, 2012 will be held the same day as the Tour De Palm Springs Bike Race. Drivers beware!

- March 31, 2012, the annual Neighborhood Picnic will take place at Ruth Hardy Park.

Her report finished, a lively discussion of several new shops along Tahquitz Canyon Dr. ensued, including a spot called "Olive A Sudden", an olive oil shop featuring a tasting bar! Joseph May reported the place is marvelous and well worth a stop-in.

Rick suggested we move on to discuss the upcoming Home Tour of Feb. 18, 2012. Head of the Home Tour Committee Robert Perry gave his report:

- the ad placed in Atomic Ranch magazine has been successful, with more than 100 tickets already sold for the event.

- Robert gave "handout cards" to all members, to distribute in town.

- Robert and Rick discussed tactical approaches to publicity for the event, including banners.

- Lauren Scarbro made a motion to spend up to \$500.00 (FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS) to purchase banners for the event to place along Palm Canyon Drive. Motion passed unanimously.

- When some confusion arose as to whether or not the budget for the Home Tour had been approved at a previous meeting or via email, Robert motioned that the budget for the 2012 Home Tour be set at \$5000.00 (FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS). Lauren seconded, and it

passed unanimously.

A very animated discussion followed regarding various issues around the Home Tour and publicity thereof, with many wonderful ideas including selling prints of Nat "Reed" Gozzano's ad for the event at the reception.

The need for a "Celebrity" guest at the Reception was once again discussed; Your Reporter had been working on this for some time and had almost secured the appearance of Hollywood legend CONNIE STEVENS as of this meeting.

But nothing was for certain....bit of a cliffhanger!

Will we get a celebrity guest? Will we sell out our home tour again? Will we have decent weather for the Home Tour?

All will surely be answered soon.

With that, Terry Towne (probably anxious to return to visiting with her imaginary friend Mikey - more on this later) moved to adjourn, Donna seconded and we all parted once again to enjoy the beautiful Saturday morning in our wonderful Palm Springs.