

RACQUET CLUB ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Monthly Meeting - **January 12, 2013.**

Minutes

Written by Your Faithful Reporter RON OLIVER

This month found our intrepid Board of Advisors of the RACQUET CLUB ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION gathered at the home Your Reporter shares with His Long-Suffering Boyfriend, as well as a dog, a tortoise and a psychic cockatiel. RCENO President Robert Perry called our group - including BOA members Terry Towne, Dean Nicastro, Donna Chaban, Scott Kennedy, Lauren Scarbro, Bob Merliss, Joseph May - to order at 10:15 a.m. and the meeting was off to a good start as mimosas were passed around to get everybody in the Palm Springs mood.

First up, the December 2012 minutes were approved by the Board, passed unanimously. Next, our beloved Treasurer Dean Nicastro announced we have \$31,426.05 (THIRTY ONE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY SIX DOLLARS AND FIVE CENTS) in our organization bank account -- many smug nods and smiles passed around the room and we felt quite delighted with ourselves.

Next, BOA member TERRY TOWNE discussed the PSNIC (Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee) report, with various items of

interest to our neighbors -- many of them time sensitive and, as such, already too late to note herewith. However, as always, we are happy to have Terry attend these important meetings and share the information with us all.

A motion was put forward by Donna Chaban to donate \$1000.00 To the Palm Springs High School Marching Band to help defray the costs of their trip to perform at President Barack Obama's Inauguration in Washington, DC. Your Reporter seconded this motion with great pleasure and it passed unanimously.

A discussion followed with several members of the Board expressing dismay that the City of Palm Springs wouldn't fully finance the attendance of these fine young students at such an important event but, perhaps, it is of some value for today's youth to learn early on that one often must rely upon the kindness of strangers.

The annual PSNIC Picnic is coming up again, March 23, 2013, and once more this year BOA members of the RCENO will be there, manning (and wo-manning) a booth displaying information of interest about our great Racquet Club neighborhood.

Terry Town also revealed that the massive statue of MARILYN MONROE currently holding court at the corner of Tahquitz and Palm Canyon may in fact stay past her planned departure date; there is a movement afoot in the city to find a way to PURCHASE the statue,

as it has proven to be quite the tourist draw. And as we all know, Tourists = \$\$\$\$. We shall see what happens.

Further discussion about the Measure J money (the windfall provided by the 1% sales tax increase in Palm Springs) ensued as well; the City is still open to suggestions and proposals for ways to use the money and, apparently NOTHING is too outlandish. This led to some VERY interesting conversations around our meeting table.

With the annual MODERNISM WEEK home tour coming up soon, discussion turned to the houses we have available, as well as the usual chatter about water bottles, tote bags, food service at the reception, our celebrity guest (in this case, Trini Lopez!) and other such effluvia. Given that our RCENO has been doing the home tour for quite a few years now, we pretty much have it down to a science, and all planning went smoothly.

However, our beloved member SCOTT KENNEDY announced that he was afraid he would be unable to participate at the level he has in past years; Scott has been dealing with some significant health issues, having been undergoing chemotherapy for a malignant cancer, and was quite candid about his disappointment at not being able to give the event his usual 110%. The BOA, as it often has, rushed to offer support and help -- all will, as it always does, work out in the end. As it must.

Robert Perry changed the topic somewhat by suggesting we offer an honorarium to our good friend John Russell, the man responsible for the design and execution of our wonderful RCENO website. Robert made a motion to offer him \$400.00 (FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS), which Terry Towne seconded, and it was unanimously passed. Mr Russell's wonderful work has made our neighborhood an even better place to live, and we are in his debt.

Our special guest at this month's meeting was Davis Street neighbor JENNY DILLON who told us all about her recent experiences in the CERT (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING) program. We all listened with rapt attention as she discussed the process involved, and Your Reporter is sure he is not alone in feeling safer knowing the courageous Ms. Dillon is ready to help during a disaster. Your Reporter would love to be able to help as well, but since his skill set is basically limited to choosing the correct wine for a meal, we should all hope more people follow Ms. Dillon's example.

With visions of earthquakes, floods, fires and hails of toads in our heads, we called the meeting adjourned and went out into the glorious Palm Springs January day.