

RACQUET CLUB ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Monthly Meeting - **March 9, 2013.**

Minutes

Written by Your Faithful Reporter RON OLIVER

Like the martyrs of legend, the RACQUET CLUB ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION once again sacrificed a beautiful Saturday morning in our desert paradise for the monthly meeting of its Board of Advisors. Mitigating this tragedy somewhat was the fact that we were hosted by BOA member and President Emeritus RICK VILA in the beautiful home he shares with his husband (and obviously a child-bride) KEN LYON, so our discussions were punctuated by the occasional sounds of chimpanzees emanating from the house next door.

Such are the pleasures of our neighborhood!

Our gang was called to order at 10:11 a.m. by Robert (The Prez) Perry, and BOA attendees included Joseph (The Professor) May, Donna (Mrs. Kravitz) Chaban, Dean (The Money) Nicastro, Terry (The Smarts) Towne, Bob (The Mechanic) Merliss, Lauren (The Cougar) Scarbro, Your Reporter and other fine guests too numerous to mention and too important to misspell!

First up, the Treasurer's Report from Dean Nicastro. He was happy to inform us that after our most recent, and very successful, 2013 MODERNISM WEEK HOME TOUR, we have \$26,803.99 (TWENTY SIX THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND THREE DOLLARS AND NINETY NINE CENTS) in our bank account. We all nodded with self-congratulatory delight.

Dean then put forth a motion to pay our regular tax accountant her annual stipend in order to complete our non-profit tax filings; the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Joseph May presented the minutes for the February 2013 meeting; Mr May is a dedicated and enthusiastic member of the BOA and his minutes were thoughtful and complete, without any of the pedantic embellishments favored by Your Reporter. Mr May was congratulated by all and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Special guest OFFICER SOLOMON made a brief presentation, supplying telephone numbers and contact information for residents who need police assistance. He told us some very interesting stories about his adventures in the field, and we were all relieved to learn that our beloved neighborhood is very safe, with an exceedingly low crime rate and comparatively few problems. By means of example, he told us that in the past three months there had been exactly one burglary - specifically, someone's pool pump had been stolen.

*(Your Reporter wonders about the mechanics of the criminal mind...a pool pump?)*

One of our other guests, noted cult film icon UDO KIER, who owns the Francis Crocker Library, asked Officer Solomon what could be done about the large Winnebago-type travel trailer parked next to his property, with a clear view into his back yard. The Officer took down the information and promised to file a report *(and as of this writing, some two months later, that travel trailer has not returned...so well done Officer Solomon!)*

Terry Towne then gave the PALM SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE report, bringing the group up to speed on several upcoming events including Palm Springs' 75th Birthday party, as well as our group's participation in the annual PSNIC City Picnic. As always, RCENO will be well represented in a booth manned by Lauren, Terry, Robert, Bob Merliss, Rick Vila and Jim Macklin.

PSNIC was also invoked during a discussion of possibly expanding our Neighborhood's borders to include the TOWERS apartments at the corner of Francis and Indian Canyon. A request had come in from interested parties in that building, and the BOA planned to discuss further and check with City Hall and PSNIC regarding the viability of this plan. Your Reporter confessed he had already put the two gentlemen who had made the inquiry onto the RCENO mailing list, to keep them informed as to neighborhood events on a casual basis.

Robert Perry reminded everyone of the SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held Saturday, May 11, 2013 at Vista Del Monte school; he suggested spreading the word amongst our membership roster that this meeting would include elections of new officers for the BOA. Your Reporter promised to send out "e-blasts" to the neighborhood via Facebook and our mailing list.

Further discussion ensued regarding ways to bring the neighborhood together, including a possible Racquet Club Estates Luau, and with so many new homes being sold and new residents moving in, it was decided to create a "Welcome Wagon" type committee consisting of Joseph May, Robert Perry and Donna Chaban.

The recent HOME TOUR was brought up for discussion, with most people agreeing it had been a great success once again this year, although our recently deceased member and friend SCOTT KENNEDY's presence was keenly missed. Some members of the BOA agreed that while special guest TRINI LOPEZ was a delightful addition to the event, the fact that he brought his guitar but didn't sing put rather a damper on the festivities. But despite this, the RCE Home Tour for 2013 goes down in the record books as one of our best yet.

Two final items were quickly presented: Dean Nicastro is looking into the publishing of a coffee table book about our neighborhood, featuring photos and history of THE RACQUET CLUB

ESTATES. He will report back to us soon, as we were all very excited about the possibility.

And finally, a new documentary about the Alexander Homes that have made Palm Springs - and our neighborhood - famous is available online at [www.alexanderdocumentary.com](http://www.alexanderdocumentary.com). Your Reporter plans to check it out soon.

With that, Robert Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting, Donna Chaban seconded and we all ventured out into another brilliant Saturday afternoon in this wonderful city we call home.