

RACQUET CLUB ESTATE NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 11, 2013

Minutes Recorded by RON OLIVER.

Palm Springs, California

Through the kindness of Principal JOSEPH SCUDDER, the RCENO held its semi annual general meeting in the lovely General Purpose room of Vista Del Monte Elementary school, where a sumptuous light breakfast was served up before the formalities (many thanks to BOA Member DONNA CHABAN and Co. for the arrangement!) commenced.

Although the turnout was perhaps less than one would hope for - in fact, Your Reporter has seen larger groups in line during Happy Hour at the local watering hole - it must be said that what it lacked in size it more than made up for in enthusiasm!

And at 10:05 sharp, the meeting was called to order by RCENO President ROBERT PERRY. BOA members in attendance included the aforementioned and diligent DONNA CHABAN, the glamorous TERRY TOWNE, the erudite JOSEPH MAY, the indefatigable DEAN NICASTRO, the tirelessly enthusiastic RICK VILA and Your Reporter, who

avoids adjectives whenever possible.

First up was THE TREASURER'S REPORT, from our fine "Chef du Finance", DEAN NICASTRO. Our current RCENO bank balance is \$26,851.47 (TWENTY SIX THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED, FIFTY ONE DOLLARS AND FORTY SEVEN CENTS).

Dean then went on to report on the revenue from our 2013 Annual HOME TOUR. We grossed \$19,244.50 (NINETEEN THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS), with expenses of \$6,135.83 (SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIVE DOLLARS AND EIGHTY THREE CENTS) leaving us a net profit of \$13,108.67 (THIRTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT DOLLARS AND SIXTY SEVEN CENTS.)

Much applause followed this announcement for another home tour well done!

BOA MEMBER TERRY TOWNE gave the monthly PALM SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE report, with many interesting bits of information, most of which were time sensitive and involved events which occurred the following week and, as such, Your Reporter will not go into detail. Suffice to say we appreciate Terry's continued attendance at these meetings, occurring as they do at the ungodly hour of 8 a.m. on a weekday. Thank you Terry!

Next up we had a visit from our local Palm Springs Police Department representative, OFFICER RICHARD SALOMON (Your Reporter misspelled this fine and courageous fellow's name in the last set of RCENO Minutes; mea culpa indeed!).

Officer Salomon discussed crime safety and prevention, giving us all some handy tips to keep ourselves and our homes safe. And despite a very low crime rate in our area - roughly one break in per month over the past season - it would do us all well to remember to be vigilant!

He also told us about the PSPD "App" for Smartphones and many of us in the room immediately began to install them; technology never ceases to amaze! It seems like just yesterday when we were using gasoline powered cellular phones!

Our friendly gendarme finished his chat by reminding us all about the volunteer programs in our fair town, including SEARCH AND RESCUE and CITIZENS ON PATROL, and urging those interested to get involved.

Sending him off with a warm hand, Your Reporter presented a back log of RCENO Monthly Meeting Minutes, including two from 2011 and Jan. and Feb. 2013 to the assembled BOA; all were approved unanimously, thus bringing us up to date - finally - minutes-wise.

Now, all of history will know us.

RCENO PREZ ROBERT PERRY presented RCENO member MARTY KAMPF with a certificate of recognition for his partner BOB MERLISS's tireless work on the Board of Advisors, and his enthusiastic involvement with the annual home tour. Marty and Bob are leaving our neighborhood and returning to the charms of Michigan - Bob's absence from the meeting was due to having to deal with the rigors of moving! We hope they return for a visit soon, as they have been a wonderful part of our group since the inception.

We will miss you, Marty and Bob!

Robert Perry also displayed a certificate for BOA MEMBER BARBARA MACCARILLO, who is retiring her position on the board; Barb has also been an invaluable member of RCENO for many years, but her other activities require her attention and while we will miss her, we congratulate whatever group gets her!

Given the departures of two members, and the sad passing of our beloved SCOTT KENNEDY, past President RICK VILA motioned to reduce the BOA size from its current 11 Members down to the original size of 9. Donna Chaban seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

But preventing the entire meeting from resembling an Agatha Christie novel ("Ten Little Indians" anyone?), we had an addition to our board in JOHN RUSSELL, our much-respected WEB MASTER who has done such an amazing job on our RCENO website. He is a

terrific neighbor and his presence on the Board of Advisors is a real plus.

We had another visit from the Palm Springs Police Department, when LIEUTENANT COMBS joined our merry group for a few minutes, discussing how the overall crime rate in Palm Springs was down 7% from a year earlier. Even the 75th Birthday Party held downtown, with thousands in attendance, passed without a hitch; not a single arrest and no incidents or traffic trouble.

Way to go, us!

After he left, a few quick bits of information flew around the room:

- Donna Chaban talked about her garage sale;
- Robert Perry discussed a possible block party in our neighborhood as part of our Oct. 12/2013 Semi Annual Meeting;
- Donna Chaban talked about needing somebody to help coordinate the Docents for next year's Home Tour, what with it being only about 7 months away;
- Rick Vila discussed his submission to City Hall for Measure J Funds to improve the median strips along Avenida Caballeros receiving a rather disappointing single vote;

- Donna Chaban talked about the new GREAT SHAKES bistro downtown, which apparently has 160 Flavors;

And suddenly, PALM SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT BATALLION CHIEF JASON LOGAN arrived!

He delivered a very well-received presentation about fire safety and prevention, as well as information on CERT Training (we've discussed this in previous meetings and Your Reporter cannot bear to go into detail about this program one more time -- suffice to say it's an Emergency Response Training Program and it works) and the upcoming Fire Department Fish Fry -- the irony of the Fire Department hosting ANYTHING with the word "fry" in the title should not go unnoticed.

Other interesting facts: the PSFD gets 8500 calls per year, and 70-75% of them are medical issues. Very interesting.

Chief Logan finished by recommending that in case of an major emergency in town, residents are advised to have supplies to be self-sustaining for at least 72 hours; Your Reporter questioned if the Fire Department had a recommended ratio of ice to mixer for the average homeowner, but he said it was a question of personal taste.

He is right, of course. Too much ice can ruin a drink.

Terry Towne once again mentioned the "NextDoor" website, a Facebook type social apparatus to connect neighbors online; Your Reporter suggested that if had to endure one more online "friending" site, with its attendant pictures of cats and tedious homilies, he would gratefully become a hermit.

And with that, Rick Vila forwarded a motion to adjourn, Robert Perry seconded that motion and at 11:40 a.m., our meeting was over.

Another sunny day in Palm Springs beckoned us...and in the distance, one could almost hear the Mimosas being poured....