

**Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization
Minutes of May 10, 2014 @ Vista del Monte Elementary School
Semi-Annual General Meeting
By, Joseph May**

Welcome and Introductions

Robert Perry called the meeting to order at 10:15AM. Board members in attendance were: Robert Perry, Dean Nicastro, Joseph May, Lauren Scarbro, Donna Chaban-Delmas, John Russell, Terry Towne and Rick Vila. There were 20 to 25 neighbors in attendance as well. Terry and Lauren provided refreshments for the meeting.

Financial Report

Dean reported that we have \$36,143.27. He has filed taxes with the IRS and provided profit/loss statements from this year's home tour.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Officer Reports

Terry reported from the latest PSNIC meeting:

- May is Bike Month with many bike activities including a full moon bike ride.
- In October CERT training will be available to residents at a cost of \$50.
- The city is sponsoring an event for National Preservation month on Saturday, May 17th at the Palm Springs Women's Club at 3:30. <http://www.pspreservationfoundation.org/pdf/17May14%20Event.pdf>
- The city is studying ADA compliance issues around town and urges citizens to get in contact with them to report any instances of non-compliance.
- The Palm Springs Fire Department is holding their 83rd annual Fish fry on Saturday, June 7th from 6-11PM at Ruth Hardy Park. The cost is \$10 per person and there is live music and dancing.
- In light of our continuing drought water conservation is becoming increasingly important and information was available on conserving water.

Guest Speaker- David Ready, City Manager

Dr. Ready began by discussing the Spa remodel. He stated that the plans for the project have yet to be released but expressed enthusiasm for the project, as he believes it will tie in the Convention Center to the rest of downtown.

David took questions from the group:

- A member asked if the tribe is required to adhere to architectural sensitivity. Dr. Ready replied that they were not.

- A member asked about Measure J funds. David stated that he is going to ask for 12 to 13 million dollars for street paving, bike lanes, and park improvements. He said the goal is to make Palm Springs 100% “bike friendly.”
- Port Lawrence came up and David said that the project is going forward.
- The shuttle pilot is moving ahead. It will be a one year pilot and if successful will become permanent. It will run Thursday – Sunday from 11AM to 2AM from the Parker to the Riviera.
- The status of turning Indian and PCD into two-way streets was brought up and David said that it would not happen on PCD but it still might be happening on Indian.
- Arrive Hotel is still proceeding and a couple buildings around the site have been purchased by the developer for use as restaurants.
- Robert asked about the Racquet Club and Ready replied that a vacant building ordinance is being proposed to incentivize the owners into proceeding with development.
- Jeff Taylor asked about using Measure J funds for undergrounding utilities. David told us that SCE could provide us with a cost estimate and that Measure J funds could be used but that the cost is extremely high. Measure J does not generate the amounts that would be needed. It was asked if there were any studies that looked at the benefit that undergrounding would have on a community and Dr. Ready replied that he did not know of any. We agreed to invite a rep from SCE to a future meeting to speak about the issue.

Guest Speaker- Lee Bono, Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations

Lee informed us of an app that we could get where we could report water waste. Desert Water has more information on their website. www.dwa.org She also reminded us of the app PS@yourservice as a means for reporting other violations we see around town.

Ms. Bono reported that 2015 would be the 10th anniversary of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. She told us that there are now 34 neighborhood organizations in the city with another coming in soon. She thanked us for our involvement and requested ideas for a 10th year anniversary celebration. She is going to the 2014 Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) national conference in Eugene, Oregon, May 21-24. Palm Springs will take three awards for our citywide picnic, the blade signs program, and *Tahquitz Creek Yacht Club*, which cleans the Tahquitz Creek, wash on a regular basis. She wants to take our shirts to be on display.

Lee informed us of the program whereby the city will pay for neighborhood watch signs, we are already proceeding with that. She also warned us that **green waste cans** that should be labeled with the homeowners address. The reason for that is that residents pay extra for that bin. PSDS will replace a trash or recycling bin at no cost so there's no need to label them.

Guest Speaker- Officer Adrian Zamora-PSPD

Officer Zamora did not show up.

Guest Speaker- Chris Cunningham-PSDS

Mr. Cunningham spoke to us about the revamping of service at PSDS. He reviewed the four levels of residential service. He then entertained questions from members. The most common issue was service for part-time residents. That would be those having walk-in service finding their trashcans not returned when they arrive for the weekend. Chris told us to call him personally and he would speak with the drivers. Due to the revamping of the system some drivers are getting used to their routes. In addition to calling PSDS and asking for Chris Cunningham we can email him at chris@PSDS.com.

Charitable Donation-Roy's Desert Resource Center

A group from RCENO visited Roy's and found a great facility worthy of a donation. Robert made a motion that we donate \$2500 to Roy's on a yearly basis, Terry seconded the motion. Rick said that he wanted to review the request each year. A conversation ensued and it was agreed that Roy's needed to apply each year and that this would not be an automatic annual grant. Having made that stipulation the Board voted and passed the motion: one \$2500 donation.

Beautification Grant- Margie O'Brien

The Beautification sub-committee met and reviewed the grant. Robert described the request and passed around the application. The total amount for the project was \$5000. The board and members discussed some issues with the grant process. The lack of guidelines was cited and it was suggested that the guidelines would emerge as we proceed with future applications. Much discussion occurred and Rick suggested that we limit our grants to six \$500 grants a year for simple improvements that benefit the neighborhood like trash removal, simple paint jobs, or yard maintenance. Running out of time we agreed to revisit this topic at our June board meeting.

Elections

Elections were held for the four existing seats whose terms have expired and for the vacancy created by Ron's resignation. The following were voted in: Robert Perry, Dean Nicastro, Joseph May, Donna Chaban-Delmas, and Sylvie Teicher. Officers will be selected at our June board meeting.

New Business/Projects/Q&A/Other

Donna reported on a rumor that she heard that a resident was told our homes couldn't support solar panels. She will investigate.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

2014 meeting schedule:

Date	Location, home of...
1/11/14	Terry Towne
2/8/14	Robert Perry
3/8/14	John Russell
4/12/14	Ron Oliver
5/10/14	Multi-purpose Room VDM-ES
6/14/14	Lauren Scarbro
8/9/14	Terry Towne
9/13/14	Joseph May
10/11/14	Victoria Park
11/8/14	Rick Vila
12/13/14	Robert Perry