

**Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization
Minutes of March 5, 2016@ the home of Terry Towne
Board of Advisors Meeting
By, Joseph May**

Welcome and Introductions

Robert Perry called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Board members in attendance were: Robert Perry, Dean Nicasastro, Joseph May, John Russell, Lauren Scrabro, Scott Workman, Terry Towne, and Donna Chaban. There were ten members in attendance and two guest speakers.

Public Comments

- Michael Howard Expressed concern over the Avalon development, which is resuming on the northeast corner of Indian and San Rafael. He will be attending the city council meeting where community members can express their concerns.
- Jeffrey Clark asked if we could get someone from Animal Control to attend a future meeting in light of a recent dog attack in our neighborhood.

Approval of February Minutes

Terry made a motion to approve the minutes from February, Lauren seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report

Dean reported that we have \$54,776.27 in our general account and \$3,657 in our Visa account. Lauren presented \$1,021 cash from t-shirt and ticket sales at the home tour registration. Dean stated that not all bills have been paid nor all monies received from the home tour.

Guest Speaker – Officer Matt Olson: PSPD

Officer Olson introduced himself and gave us a little bit of his background. He has been with the PSPD for six months. He then proceeded to give us some stats about crime in our neighborhood. He informed us that there were seven calls for service in our neighborhood during the month of February and he added that this was rather low. He broke it down by the number of calls and the category of the crime. The breakdown is: grand theft-2; petty theft-2; burglary-3. He reminded us that the city of Palm Springs has six beats and we are Beat Two, which extends to the northern city limits. According to Officer Olson the PD places one officer per beat on any given evening and the downtown office is manned as well.

He then took a number of questions and the following points were addressed:

- Homelessness Palm Springs has more homeless people than other cities in valley and in Officer Olson's opinion this is due to the large number of tourists and their tendency to give the homeless money. He advised against the practice of giving them money, as there are lots of services here for them.
- Police patrols A neighbor expressed that he had never seen a police patrol in the neighborhood and Officer Olson assured him that they are indeed patrolling. In fact, he added, they are required to do their paper work in their patrol cars, on their assigned beat, to add additional presence.
- Sex offenders Sex offenders must register with the PSPD. Neighbors were directed to Megan's Law site: <http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/disclaimer.aspx?lang=ENGLISH>
One registered sex offender lives in RCE.
- Burglaries Most burglaries occur during the day when it doesn't seem as unusual for someone to be removing things from a home as it would at night.
- Private security The idea of hiring private security came up and Officer Olson said that anything we do as a neighborhood would help. He discouraged us from forming our own vigilante security force for various reasons.
- Remote home alarm systems If a homeowner's remote DIY alarm system indicates a break-in while they are away they should call the PSPD at (760) 327-1441.
- Prevention Various prevention methods were offered: motion lights, surveillance cameras, maintaining the home's appearance, and neighbors watching out for neighbors.

Guest Speaker – Dennis Jory: The Well in the Desert

Dennis Jory, board member from The Well in the Desert, spoke to us about the organization. He informed us that The Well in the Desert serves a wide range of people not just the homeless. They serve 4,500 clients providing them with a range of services. Mr. Jory gave us a handout, which described the services that they provide. He reiterated what Officer Olson said earlier about not giving homeless money. He added that Palm Springs experiences more homelessness than other cities in the valley due to our tourism. He also said that other cities don't have the pedestrian traffic that Palm Springs has. He concluded his presentation by informing us of the situation going on with The Well's building. They will remain at their present site on Gene Autry for a while but will have to relocate eventually.

Robert presented Dennis Jory and The Well in the Desert a donation of \$5,000.

2016 Home Tour Recap

We reflected on the 2016 home tour and the following points were made:

- There were good responses from the homeowners. They had a lot of fun and really enjoyed the experience of having their homes on the tour.
- There were a number of catering issues and Terry has made out a list of items that need to be addressed for next year. We will be looking for a new caterer as we move forward.
- The shirts were not sold out and it was agreed that we would give away leftover polo shirts and tote bags at the picnic.
- There was a back-up and lines forming at a few of the homes.
- Neighbors who went on other home tours stated that ours was the best.
- We are already set to participate in Modernism 2017 and Robert has procured three homes.
- We want to have the capability for attendees to check in on Facebook at the registration site.
- We need to find a different place to hold the reception. The room we used was adequate but it was too small and the AC wasn't working.
- A neighbor suggested that we have the firehouse on the tour.
- All agreed that our guest speaker, Linda Gray, was awesome. She stayed until all guests left and was very gracious about all the requests for photo ops and autographs.

Little Free Library

Terry showed us a map describing the geography of the Little Free Libraries and claimed that there are no LFL within a 20-mile radius of our neighborhood. She recommends that we purchase two and place them on someone's property on busy thoroughfares and areas of high pedestrian traffic. She showed us a picture of one that she is suggesting we purchase. Both Terry and Lauren volunteered to put one on each of their properties as they both fit the criterion. Lauren asked if she could have assistance in maintaining the one on her property until she moves out here full time. Joseph said he would look after it. We agreed that we would launch the LFL at our May General meeting. Terry made a motion that we purchase two LFL's at \$375.00 each. Donna seconded and all voted in favor. Terry will order them.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will take place on May 14 from 10:00AM to 12:00 noon. Mayor Moon will be in attendance. Joseph will secure the Multi-purpose room at Vista del Monte ES. We discussed having the Ben & Jerry's ice cream cart but no decision was made. The following board members are up for re-election at this meeting: Robert Perry, Joseph May, Dean Nicastro, Sylvie Teicher, and Donna Chaban.

The Ninth Annual ONE-PS Picnic and Community Expo

We discussed the logistics of setting up and breaking down for the event. Robert and Scott both offered to assist in this task.

Old Business / New Business / Other / Adjournment

- Donna gave us an update on the totem pole situation. She presented us a memo from Joshua Edmundson to the Public Arts Commission, and the City of Palm Springs, outlining his proposal to commission a new totem pole from the Hunt family to be placed in Victoria Park. He proposes the original be placed at the airport. Donna will attend the next meeting of the Public Arts Commission.
- A suggestion was made that RCENO participate in the 2017 Black History Parade. All were in agreement.
- We agreed to discuss the possibility of hiring a private security patrol for our neighborhood at our April meeting.
- Dean needs \$200.00 to file our 2016 taxes.

Robert made a motion that we adjourn, Donna seconded it, and all were in favor. The meeting ended at 12:00 noon.

2016 BOA Meeting Schedule

Month	Date	Host	Time
January	1/9/16	John Russell	10:00AM-12:00PM
February	2/6/16	Robert Perry	10:00AM-12:00PM
March	3/5/16	Terry Towne	10:00AM-12:00PM
April	4/9/16	Sylvie Teicher	10:00AM-12:00PM
May	5/14/16	Vista del Monte ES	10:00AM-12:00PM
June	6/11/16	Lauren Scarbro	10:00AM-12:00PM
July	No meeting		
August	8/13/16	Terry Towne	10:00AM-12:00PM
September	9/10/16	Joseph May	10:00AM-12:00PM
October	10/8/16	Block Party	4:00PM-6:00PM
November	11/12/16	Lauren Scarbro	10:00AM-12:00PM
December	12/10/16	Robert Perry	10:00AM-12:00PM