

**Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization
Minutes of April 9, 2016 @ the home of Sylvie Teicher
Board of Advisors Meeting
By, Sylvie Teicher**

Welcome and Introductions

Robert Perry called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Board members in attendance were: Robert Perry, John Russell, Lauren Scrabro, Sylvie Teicher, Scott Workman, Terry Towne, and Donna Chaban. Dean Nicastro, who was absent, had arranged for a friend (Sierra?) to provide the financial report. All together, there were 11 members in attendance.

Approval of March Minutes

Robert made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Terry seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report

Sierra reported that we have \$49,743.80 in our general account and \$2,922.00 in our Visa account.

Little Free Library Pilot Program (Terry)

Terry reported that she has ordered 2 units to start the Little Free Library program. The cost was \$374.95 for each unit. She passed around pictures of the unit. As agreed during the previous meeting, one unit will be placed in front of Lauren's house, and the other in front of Terry's. Beforehand, the program will be advertised on the RCENO and NextDoor websites.

Annual Meeting

- Robert confirmed the annual meeting will take place on May 14 from 10:00AM to 12:00 noon, and Mayor Moon will be guest speaker.
- Donna suggested we identify topics that would be of concern our neighbors, aside from Vacation Rentals policies. Robert said crime prevention was on everyone's mind and suggested we invite again a police officer to speak at the annual meeting.
- Terry reminded us that we must send advance written notice as per the by-laws. Robert checked the by-laws, which state that notification must be given 10 days in advance. Lauren proposed we have a separate blast in NextDoor about the meeting.
- Donna wanted to know whether we would have any kind of refreshment. Robert said it definitely would help attendance. Terry and Robert suggested Ben and Jerry's ice cream. Robert made a motion to purchase Ben and Jerry's ice cream for the meeting. The motion was seconded by Terry and all were in favor. Robert volunteered to arrange for it.
- Terry asked whether we would have signs in the yards. Robert said we have one or two signs left in storage from past meetings, but unusable because of the date. Terry proposed we have generic signs made with <RCENO Annual Meeting> printed on

them and a blank space left to plug in the date. Robert quoted \$2.50 for the signs used during Modernism Week, ordered from www.yardsign.com (designmysign@gmail.com, 407 894 0090). Lauren volunteered to order the signs. Donna said we should make sure the signs were strong enough to hold up to the wind and the print should be large enough to be read from a distance. Terry made a motion seconded by Robert that we spend up to \$300 for the Meetings signs. All were in favor.

- Terry said it was a good idea to review the by-laws every couple of years and see whether there were changes to be made. She said we should prepare attachments if the by-laws were to be changed before the meeting.

Public Arts Commission Meeting

- Donna reminded the board members that the next monthly Public Arts Commission meeting was on Thursday April 14 at 2:00PM at City Hall. Donna, Scott and Sylvie said they planned to attend.
- Scott gave a recap of the previous March 10 Public Arts Commission Meeting he attended with Sylvie. The commission reported having \$93,000 in its own fund to spend for the year. The commission was considering allocating \$25,000 for a new totem pole in Victoria Park. Sylvie added that the commission was also considering allocating \$10,000 for a booklet detailing the restoration process, which Scott thought was self-promotion for the Arts Commission.
- Sylvie reported that some commission members raised the question as to how much RCENO would be willing to contribute to the project. She said she answered that she and Scott would bring the question back to the RCENO board. She asked board members what would be the process to determine an amount to contribute. Would the board set up a fixed amount, or would it be a percent of the project cost? Robert said we needed to see a full plan before deciding on how much we wanted to contribute, and whether the amount the Commission planned to spend was appropriate. Scott pointed out that it was the Commission's discretionary funds, and that our approval was not required.
- Scott reported on the Arts Commission's other proposals or projects:
 - o One member proposed eventually moving/grouping some of the public sculptures into a single public space (like the display of sculptures along El Paseo in Palm Desert), rather than keeping the art scattered throughout the city. This would allow for better maintenance of the works, and also more visibility.
 - o The Arts Commission is planning the acquisition of a new piece of Arts to be installed in Demuth Park.
- Lauren wondered whether we should invite again a few Commissioners to our June meeting, when they would be further along in their process regarding the replacement of the totem pole. Robert agreed, saying that it was important that we keep engaged so that we don't fall off the radar.
- Terry reminded us that all Public Arts Commission meetings are videotaped and therefore on record. She added that we should always go into the Arts Commission meetings by stating our presence and making it clear that we want to know what the process will be.

New Homeowner Welcome Letter (Lauren)

- Lauren distributed copies of the Welcome Letter and discussion followed on how to get the letters to the new owners.
- Donna suggested having them mailed out. Terry offered to give her address as the return address so that we can track the returns, and Lauren volunteered to price out the cost of mailing the letters out.
- Donna suggested adding an insert about the Annual Meeting for mailings of Welcome Letters before the Annual Meeting. Lauren said there wasn't enough time to do that before the meeting.

RCENO Website and email address (John)

- John discussed the problems associated with the RCENO's website:
 1. It is connected to Ron's email address, and
 2. Nat is the owner of the website.
- Discussion followed on the need to register RCENO's website and email address under one name and on how to do that:
 - o Terry pointed out that RCENO was a non-profit organization, and thus we should change the website address from a <. com> ending to an <. org> ending.
 - o We should also change our email address to one that doesn't include a personal name, e.g., communications@RCENO.
- Ron asked John to ask Nat whether he would be willing to relinquish ownership of the website. Meanwhile, we will investigate registering a website under the name of the Racquet Club Estate Corporation.
- Terry said we needed to do our research first, so we will not bring the topic before the annual meeting, but we should make sure to put it on the agenda for the June meeting.

City Budget Town Hall Meeting (Terry)

- Terry reported that for the first time, the city will have 2 town hall meetings for 2016-2017 City budgeting, an initiative that shows a desire to be more transparent.
 - o Monday April 11 at 6PM for General funds
 - o Tuesday April 12 at 6PM for Capital improvement funds (structural improvements)
- Terry pointed out that it was the first time ever that the city organized having 2 town hall meetings, obviously an initiative to show more transparency in the management of the city.

David Ready / Review (Terry)

- Terry reported that Mayor Moon has called for a full review of David H. Ready, Palm Springs City Manager. She explained that it was only a review, not to be confused with an investigation.
- Terry distributed a letter dated April 8, 2016, from David Ready to Palm Springs residents, in which he informs residents that the documents confiscated by the FBI have been returned and are now posted on the City's website for review.

In the letter, he also defends allegations made by the Desert Sun concerning matters that he deemed confidential.

Racquet Club Estate Neighborhood Watch

- Sylvie reported that in April, three daytime break-ins took place on her block, all three within the same day. She reported that neighbors' anxiety was very high about burglaries in the neighborhood. She asked that we continue the previous RCENO meeting's discussion about investigating either private or volunteer neighborhood watch.
- Sylvie reported that in April, three daytime break-ins took place on her block, all three within the same day. She reported that neighbors' anxiety was very high about robberies in the neighborhood. She asked that we continue the previous RCENO meeting's discussion about investigating either private or volunteer neighborhood watch.
- Lauren said she would look into the costs of a private service. Terry mentioned that the Deepwell Association had a very effective volunteer neighborhood watch program. She said the person to contact was Jim King, and that she would send his contact to Sylvie. Sylvie said she would talk with Jim King.
- Terry also mentioned that the Deepwell Association was considering installing surveillance cameras on the property of volunteers how owner. Sylvie asked whether RCENO would consider contributing part of the cost of installing surveillance cameras for homeowners willing to make the investment, especially as one camera can serve an entire block. She said she would investigate the cost involved.

New Business/Early Literacy Panels

- Terry proposed we donate one Early Literacy interactive panel to the Palm Springs Public Library. This interactive panel is coated with a special material that prevents germ contamination. A few of these panels have already been installed in the library, thanks to contributions from other Neighborhood Associations. The cost of one interactive panel is in the range of \$750-\$1000.
- (Did we have a motion to approve the donation?)

Adjournment

Robert made a motion that we adjourn the meeting, Donna seconded it, and all were in favor. The meeting ended around 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