

**Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization B.O.A. Monthly Meeting**  
**Minutes of September 14, 2013**  
**@ the home of Joseph May and Gene Graham**  
**(recorded by Lauren Scarbro)**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Robert Perry called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Board members in attendance were: Robert Perry, Lauren Scarbro, Dean Nicastro, Joseph May, Terry Towne, Rick Vila and John Russell. There were 8 members of the neighborhood present as well.

**Financial Report**

Dean reported that we have \$26,197.51. (this is the same amount reported last month)

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the August BOA meeting were not approved . **Action: J. May** to send revised (with comments) out via email for approval prior to next meeting.

**Officer Reports**

Terry Towne – PSNIC: Lots to update since they were dark for the month of August. Now have 33 NORGs (neighborhood organizations) represented at PSNIC. PSNIC meeting was attended by our Mayor Steve Pougnnet, Councilwoman Ginny Foat and the City Manager, David Ready.

1. PS Library to undergo substantial interior renovations and are hosting an Open House on Thursday, September 26 so that the community can view the three (3) proposed architectural plans being considered. The Open House is from 5-6pm and a more formal presentation of the plans begins at 6 in the Learning Center.
2. September is Hunger Awareness Month. PS is partnering with FIND FOOD BANK with a canned food drive. Canned items can be brought to City Hall or the Public Library. The Office of Sustainability and FIND are hosting a fund raising event called “Rock Out to Knock Out Hunger” on September 28 at Bar.
3. The LGBT Community Center of the Desert is sponsoring a “Lend a Paw” program to provide full sponsorship of pet adoption by senior citizens for more information call The Center at 760 416-7790
4. The Center is again holding The Center Stage Gala at the Convention Center on Wednesday, October 30 beginning with a cocktail reception and silent auction at 5:30pm. The gala features Frenchie Davis and comedian Alec Mapa. Tickets are \$85/members and \$100/non-members.

5. Coachella Valley Water District and Desert Water are sponsoring a workshop featuring a panel of water experts on Monday, October 14 between 1-3pm at Steve Robbins Admin Bldg of the Valley Water District offices on Hovley Lane East in Palm Desert. RSVP's are necessary by calling Melissa Tessmer at 818 760-2121.
6. PSNIC's Candidate Forum will be held at the Sinatra Hall of Desert Regional Medical Center on Monday, October 7 between 6:30-8:30pm. All four (4) candidates running for office/reelection will be present – they are: Judy Evans Deertrack, Ginny Foat, Chris Mills and Jeffrey Nichols. The Forum will be moderated by, PS resident and an Emmy Award winning journalist, Hank Plante. The Forum Committee is soliciting questions from the public – they can be emailed to: [askcandidates2013@aol.com](mailto:askcandidates2013@aol.com) or snail mailed to: Ask Candidate 2013, c/o LCNO, PO Box 5011, Palm Springs 92263. The motto of the Forum is “No question is too small.”
7. PSNIC's Public Works/Code Enforcement Committee reported that they will be presenting 18 recommendations for changes/improvements to the Vacation Rental Ordinance passed in 2008. There will be a public meeting on this issue on Wednesday, October 9 from 2-4pm in the Large Conference Room of City Hall. Facts about the PS vacation rental market include the fact that there are 1300 registered homes in PS which generate 3.3 million dollars in TOT (transient occupancy tax) revenues annually. Our local registration fee is \$65 annually and no one knows how many homes are being rented without registration.
8. Lt. Combs reported that overall crime was up in June and down in July with an overall crime reduction of 2% for 2013 as compared to 2012.
9. Everyone is encouraged to download the free app “Palm Springs at Your Service” – it is a simple way to report graffiti – dumping – and other blights in our community. You'll be surprised and pleased with the results

Terry then reported that the Green Wall initiative (Roxanne Plous championing legislation) will most likely be a topic of future PSNIC meeting(s) with requests for opinions from the NORGs and we should start thinking about formulating our RCENO response.

How do you feel about a possible “Green Walls” (hedge height) ordinance? Talk is about a modification to the existing ordinance for 10- 12 foot height. A lively discussion ensued, about enforcement/reporting/ reasons why it is or isn't a good idea and a final formal response by RCENO will be the topic of a future meeting. **Action: Robert Perry** to add to meeting agenda topic for RCENO board.

Terry also announced that if RCENO was interested, Neighborhood Watch Signs are available for purchase for \$86ea (includes installation). (ones already here were done prior to formation of RCENO). Some discussion (Pros/Cons), no vote requested. Tabled.

### **American Dream Builders (NBC)**

Terry spoke eloquently on behalf of RCENO at the City Council meeting on our support to American Dream Builders request to suspend ordinances to allow for round the clock filming/construction. Council vote was unanimous to allow. The NBC show will be filming in our neighborhood October 6-12<sup>th</sup> on Starr Road between Francis and Racquet Club, expect road closures/detours. Neighbors who are directly impacted are working with by the shows location manager regarding useage/ concerns. Terry reports that other NORGs at PSNIC have told her “how lucky we are” in our neighborhood to have been chosen for this filming opportunity.

Robert Perry announced that included in the filming will be a “neighborhood council” composed of local residents who want to assist the judges with providing their opinions of the work done. **Action: Robert Perry** to get application to **Ron Oliver** to send out via email blast flyer on application process to be part of council.

### **Semi Annual General Meeting**

Will be held Saturday **October 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**, location tentatively Vista Del Monte General Purpose Room at 2pm, followed by an ice cream social at 3pm. Communication of event will be via email blasts (no mailed or distributed flyers to each home). We may post some signage on posts/stop signs close to event, no clear action was recorded.

Lauren reported regarding Ben and Jerry’s 1)need to secure “date” with a booking, 2) no fees charged for cancellation, and 3) can “change” # of estimated guests with very little notice if want to expand or reduce headcount.

**Action: Joseph May** to check with Principal Scudder on availability.

**Action: Terry Towne** coordinate with **Ron Oliver** a “hold the date” email blast (**Robert Perry** to take Lauren’s draft flyer and update to support this blast)

**Action: Lauren Scarbro** to book Ben & Jerry’s. Cup and Cone Party, 9oz size

**Action: Robert Perry** to continue discussions with Andrew at American Dream Builder on potentially using craft services area on location for our event instead of Vista Del Monte School. Andrew was for the idea, but needed to coordinate and get approval from producers.

## **2014 Home Tour February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**

- Securing of Homes (J. May/R Perry report):
  - 3 secured, list of potential being evaluation for balance
  - Steel Home – the renters are “ok” but they had major damage during recent rains, so would be TBD based on repair/renovation completions. Bryan is a “no”, others will be contacted.
- Reception
  - Modern Home will host the location (same space as before, just no gallery now). They are excited and will accommodate us with staging requests (currently using space for vintage home décor sales)
  - Terry Towne will be in charge of reception food/beverage. Working with Jensen’s.
- Board had approved via email prior to meeting \$65 per ticket price which Robert Perry communicated to Modernism.
- **Action: Dean** to see if he can retrieve our two missing chairs from last years tour.
- Ken Lyon agreed to coordinate classic autos again. Also brochure.
- Docents: Donna with Dennis Vasquez (& Ray Trimm) assistance.
- Celebrity Guest – **Action: Jeff Taylor** to communicate with Stephanie Powers on availability. No report, but assuming Mr. Oliver is working as well. John Russell suggested we try Barbara Sinatra. Robert Perry asked Lauren Scarbro if she can try Lucie Arnez Luckinbill (a PS resident) because Lauren ate dinner once when she was like 12 with she and Desi Jr. at the “kids” table during an outing with her Dad, Gary Morton and Lucille Ball. Lauren agreed to give it a shot (make that long shot), but after others have tried their contacts.
- Booties/Wrist Bands: **Action: Rick Vila** to order

## **2013 Festival of Lights – Saturday December 7th**

RCENO will be wrangling the giant fleshy elf balloon at the parade this year. We will need 16 handlers and 2 banner holders. (Terry and Lauren to coordinate wranglers and with city, Robert volunteer dinner afterwards)

- Robert Perry secured Rick’s Desert Grill for volunteer dinner afterwards
- Terry Towne circulated sign up sheet for wranglers, we are close to having all required#. Will seek a few more in a “more the merrier” and in case some one drops out backup plan prior to event.
  - **Action: Robert Perry** to confirm Dale/Christine if they are a go again this year for wrangle and advice Terry/Lauren.
- Lauren Scarbro presented a montage of “elf” like attire for board approval to order for wranglers. It was agreed upon that she would order the “elf” headband complete with fleshy elf ears and hat for \$3 each. **Action: Lauren**

## Other Business

1. Vista Del Monte \$3000 grant. Discussion held, motion made, unanimously approved (7yay, 0 nay) to award again this year.
2. Need to stimulate grant applications – discussion on methodology ensued
3. Measure J Funds distribution to neighborhoods (lack of feedback, response to applicants). Terry reported that the City Manager took a bit of a beating at the last PSNIC meeting on this topic. Measure J was projected to generate \$9M, but generated \$11M. To many NORGs it seems like there is an abundance of funds being allocated to city items but “where is the stuff for the neighborhoods”. **Action: Rick Vila** to compose a RCENO sponsored letter of inquiry to the Measure J committee and **Terry Towne** to circulate to other NORGs at PSNIC (Feeling is others may want to be included on ours or generate their own).
4. Barbara brought up an article she had read regarding the 50% occupancy tax discount offered to the new boutique hotel Arrive (N. Palm Canyon) and what can we do as an organization to rally around getting “our” namesake Racquet Club open (especially some sort of drinking establishment so we can safely walk to and from after a afternoon/night out!). Ken Lyon suggested that any such letter would first be sent the owners/developers, and also shared perhaps with the Desert Sun Opinion page. Barbara agreed to compose such a letter, but only if she knew she had support of the neighborhood. We all toasted Barbara with our concurrence, but no formal action recorded.

## Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM, whew.

2013 meeting schedule:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location, home of...</b>
January 12	Ron Oliver
February 9	Robert Perry
March 9	Rick Vila
April 13	Bob Merliss
May 11	General Membership @ Vista del Monte School
June 8	Terry Towne
July	No meeting
August 10	Lauren Scarbro

September 14	Joseph May
October 12	General Membership and ice cream social @ Vista Del Monte Elementary School
November 9	Terry Towne
December 14	Robert Perry