

**Racquet Club Estates Neighborhood Organization
Minutes of September 12, 2020 via Zoom
General Membership Meeting
By, Joseph May**

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:05AM. Board members in attendance were Robert Perry, Joseph May, Eric Bowes, Denny Adams, Donna Chaban and Delbert McBride. There were several neighbors in attendance as well.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of August Minutes

Joseph made a motion that we approve the August minutes. Robert seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

Financial Report

Robert reported that we have \$39,352.25 in our general account and \$6,414.10 in our Visa account. Our D&O insurance was renewed.

Officer Report

Denny reported that the next ONE PS meeting will be held on 9/15 via Zoom.

Guest Speaker – District Two Councilmember Dennis Woods

Our council member, Dennis Woods, came to our meeting. Here are some highlights of his presentation:

- The new downtown city park is under construction and is slated to be completed by early 2021.
- The Ivy Hotel is going to be converted into 80 rooms for homeless and low-income individuals.
- On the city's COVID19 website residents and busines can apply for financial assistance.
- PSPD has a hotline where people can report businesses who are out of compliance with COVID19 restrictions. He didn't give us this hotline number.
- The city has closed two blocks of Palm Canyon Drive, between Tahquitz Canyon and Baristo, so that restaurants can spill out onto the streets for open-air dining in compliance with the state COVID19 restrictions. Restaurants not located within the two blocks can construct parklets in the parking spaces in front of their establishments.
- The airport was granted five million dollars to rehab various parts of the airport. In addition, several airlines announced expanded service to Palm Springs including Jet Blue, American Airlines, and Southwest Airlines.

- The Palm Springs Arts Commission has expanded their bench painting project beyond downtown.

After going over these items Woods took questions from the group. Here are the highlights of this Q&A:

- The developer of the Andaz project has gone bankrupt. Hopefully a new developer will be found to complete this project which has been on-going for sixteen years at Palm Canyon/Alejo/Indian Canyon.
- Palm Springs Resorts is looking into the idea of renting the Forever Marilyn art piece.
- Riverside County health officials are encouraging all residents to get tested for the Coronavirus even if they are asymptomatic.
- The location of the Luminaire House has been changed. It will be placed in the south lot of the art museum.
- The city budget is not as bad as it was thought to be. To make ends meet during this economic crisis the city dipped into reserves and made some cutbacks and layoffs.
- There is currently no information about the status of The Racquet Club.
- It was reiterated that the Ivy Hotel project is not a homeless shelter but permanent housing with wrap-around services. This is a county project.
- The affordable housing project in the empty lot at San Rafael and Indian Canyon is on track to be constructed.
- The question was asked: why does the north end seem to have the majority of affordable housing in the city? Woods couldn't offer an answer to this question.
- There is currently an issue with gangs in our city. Two rival gangs, one from Desert Highland/Gateway neighborhood and the other from the Santiago Sunrise Village. The gang members are all youth and it appears that their disputes can be linked to issues at their school. They have assault rifles and to date there have been three homicides committed. The shootings have been limited to their neighborhoods but there have been stray bullets. It appears that these shootings have been supported by adults of the children committing these crimes. Neighbors are urged to call 911 if they hear any shootings.
- There is a proposal that is coming before the city council to build a six story housing development on the site where the Virgin Hotel was to be built, Block B1 of the downtown revitalization project. Virgin pulled out of their proposed hotel project at the site.
- College of the Desert is moving ahead with their Palm Springs campus at the site of the former Palm Springs Mall.

Neighborhood Environmental Challenge

Kitty Christensen reported that the next step of the tree planting project in Victoria Park is to choose a site for the tree to be planted. The board agreed to leave that decision to Parks and Rec. We will decide what to put on the accompanying plaque at our October meeting.

RCE Address Stencil

After sending a blast to the neighbors Joseph has received a handful of requests for stencils. We need one hundred to start phase two. He will send out more blasts to the neighborhood eliciting responses and obtaining more participation.

Board of Advisors Election

The following board members have been elected to serve another two-year term: Denny Adams, Donna Chaban, Joseph May, Robert Perry, and Dean Nicastro.

Old Business / New Business / Other / Adjournment

- Eric suggested that we look into fund raising projects. All agreed to bring back one idea.

At 11:12 AM Robert made a motion to adjourn, Denny seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

2020 BOA Meeting Schedule

Month	Date	Host	Time
January	1/11/20	Eric Bowes	10:00AM-12:00PM
February	2/8/20	Robert Perry	10:00AM-12:00PM
March	3/14/20	Zoom	10:00AM-12:00PM
April	4/11/20	Zoom	10:00AM-12:00PM
May	5/9/20	Zoom	10:00AM-12:00PM
June	6/13/20	Zoom	10:00AM-12:00PM
July	No meeting		
August	8/8/20	Zoom	10:00AM-12:00PM
September General Membership Meeting	9/12/20	Zoom	10:00AM-12:00PM
October	10/10/20	Zoom	10:00AM-12:00PM
November	11/14/20	TBD	10:00AM-12:00PM
December	12/12/20	TBD	10:00AM-12:00PM

