

LBH Formation Meeting --Saturday 10/05/13 Minutes:

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

16 Neighborhood residents/Owners attended in addition to the 7 Committee members (David Clinton-Reid, Morgan Reide, Jim Hladysch, JP Flynn, Alyson Drysdale, Miriam Alario, Julie Salazar), as well as Lee Bono - Director of Community Relations City of Palm Springs, Officer Kyle (?) from the Palm Springs Police Department (PSPD), Eric Chiel From Twin Palms NORG, and Bill Lewallen From Royal Hawaiian Estates.

David as interim Chairperson of the Steering Committee, opened the meeting by explaining that we were not to organize today, but to discuss if and how we might organize the neighborhood. He noted that our neighborhood is currently defined as being the 84 single family homes on 6 streets -- Compadre', Roxbury, Bedford, Beverly, Canon and a few on El Cielo framed by Theresa and Sunny Dunes.

David noted we hope to hold the meeting to 1-1/2 hours.

Intro of committee Members and a short history of the Committee:

David Clinton-Reid, Miriam Alario, Morgan Reide, Jim Hladysch, JP Flynn, Alyson Drysdale, Julie Salazar each introduced themselves. All stressed Architecture & community appeal as the reason for joining the Committee. Alyson & Julie added to promote safety and protection of each resident. David noted Julie's previous efforts to organize and her continuing involvement in the process.

David also noted the Structure and purpose of meeting, that all decisions made today were non-binding, informal, and that we would add to the add today's straw poll results to those from the next meeting.

Speakers were then introduced:

Lee Bono: presented a photo of neighborhoods that are recognized by the City as Palm Springs neighborhood Information Committee (PSNIC)Members and spoke regarding the benefits of joining PSNIC.

- Neighborhoods "Soul of our city"
- 8 neighborhoods initially formed PSNIC in the beginning, now 33 are recognized members
- Foster communication of Neighborhood concerns and needs to the City; issues such as
 1. Vacation Rentals & their impact on a neighborhood
 2. Blade Signs
 3. Balloons and floats in Christmas Parade
 4. Neighborhood Policing
 5. Code Enforcement – log complaints by recognized neighborhoods
 6. Public hearings on development in your area
 7. Picnic & Socials
 8. Candidates' forum
 9. City dissemination of information
- Monthly meetings of PSNIC = grass-roots channel of communication

David asked if it was possible to have the rights of a PSNIC Member despite not joining.

Lee responded that the organization of the neighborhoods makes it possible to keep track of the issues in an orderly, more personal manner.

One Neighbor asked about the time of the meetings.

Lee answered: The second Thursday of each month, 8 - 10 am with an occasional extra meeting for specific issues. She noted that Palm Springs Disposal came to discuss the changes upcoming in the collection days and methods, and Water Distract had come to address various projects.

Morgan noted that we all are, or a rep from our neighborhood is allowed to attend the PSNIC meeting, and to speak or ask questions during the public comments period at each meeting even if we are NOT a Member NORG.

A neighbor from Twin Palms asked about the criteria for PSNIC membership.

Lee responded: Enough people to be relevant, and that the NORG be active.

David asked that the attending neighbors introducing themselves. All rose and did so, including the street they reside or own on. Bill & Lee Podell were applauded for residing in the neighborhood for 52 years, and being together for 67 years!

The next speaker was Officer Kyle (first or last name?) of the Palm Springs Police Department (PSPD). His reasons for endorsing PSNIC membership were:

- Formal membership gives the opportunity not only to be a neighborhood, but to reach out to other like neighborhoods, share problems and solutions.
- PSPD perspective: Getting to know neighborhoods -- it is easier to get to know citizens in person in the Committee structure.
- 2 Officer Liaisons are assigned to each NORG. NON crime issues as well as reporting crime have a consistent contact person -- Continuity of whom you speak to
- Personal involvement (vested interest) of Officer
- Helping Police to be better dept. by gaining feedback from the NORGS
- Having common interests with other neighborhoods and find common solutions

Miriam asked "If our Organization wanted to have an Officer Liaison without joining PSNIC, would we be told no?" Officer responded he couldn't say we wouldn't get one, but it would be less likely to be the same person each time, and that the Officer might be less personally invested in the neighborhood as a result.

The following speaker was Erick Chiel – President of Twin Palms NORG.

He presented a map of his neighborhood located in South PS near ACE Hotel and the Smoke Tree Retail Center (Ralphs etc.)

They are the most recently certified NORG. He stated that they were delayed by boundary issues similar to ours.

Border issues; Single family = Detached Unaffiliated homes are surrounded by multi-units and commercial, Private use -- hotel, and retail complexes.

100% of Twin Palms' formation committee was from Detached Unaffiliated (Single Family) despite the fact that these homes comprise only 30% of the units. They also represent 70% of activity and participation in their NORG.

The reasons that they accepted the PSNIC directive to include such a diverse membership were:

- The bordering Boulevards made a mental boundary
- The fact that certification is perceived as louder voice to City
- Cooperation between factions within was sought
- Places to meet for larger numbers were available if they expanded the borders.

Reasons lodged against the larger boundaries were:

- Retail and non residential groups were not interested in the problems of Detached Unaffiliated units
- There was less chance of dues or fundraisers but the NORG would still be responsible to the needs of Retail, Private use and Multi-Unit groups despite their non participation
- The homeowners would be over whelmed by sheer numbers in votes affecting them and their property values.

Where they are now:

- There is less participation by non Detached Unaffiliated units but those who DO come are more committed to the ORG
- They are not overwhelmed by voting in numbers because involvement is more proportionate from Detached Unaffiliated members than Private Use or Condos
- The costs for NORG not very big so no financial drain
- Acquisition of coveted Blade Signs possible because of "Others"
- Cooperation has been good from "Others" -- Helping in control crime
- Police Liaison has given them greater access because City Admins attend PSNIC meetings
- They get to vote in overall issues PSNIC recommends on
- The information & coordination from other PSNIC members. Has been useful

Q&A; How many members -- 800+ from 526 addresses.

Any Drawbacks? "None that I can think of."

Who are the most common members? Membership is long term renters PLUS owners, owners only of short term rental units, and a representative of others such as Hotels and Retailers

What kinds of costs do you incur? A few events, blade signs, mailings for annual meeting which is mostly paid by the City.

The next speaker was Bill Lewallen from Royal Hawaiian Estates & Historic Preservation District;

He spoke to the use of the Mills Act;

Bill wanted to preserve architecture that was being changed and destroyed. He said that designation as a Class 1, 2, or 3 sites or a Historic District MAY be eligible for up to 60% of tax savings to help keep upgrade and preserve, the City has process to support. However, the restrictions on what can be done with any property within those designations are very tightly regulated and restrictive. He suggests that if such a designation is sought, DON'T take no for answer... the process has to be established but after compliance with Act requirements, it becomes easy and supported.

Q&A; Can a neighborhood be both Historic District + PSNIC Member?

Yes if you wish

Someone in the group noted "It might make boundaries easier to press" with PSNIC if designation precedes application to join.

Speakers were thanked and dismissed.

Alyson Drysdale presented alternative options open to us.

1. No formation at all
 - A. Discontinue NextDoor use
 - B. Continue NextDoor as one avenue of communication between neighbors
2. Informal Formation Without By-laws, Committees and Officers but a quarterly gathering to discuss common issues
3. Formal Organization WITH By-laws, Committees and Officers Restricting the Neighborhood to the 6 Street/ 84 House Boundaries
4. Formal Organization WITH By-laws, Committees and Officers extending the boundaries to include The Palm Villas & Casa Sandra and most probably seeking inclusion to PSNIC
5. Formation as a Historical District added to any of the above options

Morgan voiced his opinion of why to exclude the Multi-units in a Formal Organization.

He listed:

- The unique and Historically Significant architecture
- The names of the streets
- The visions and intent of Alexander in building the community.
- Views of realtors and Palm Springs Tour promoters that the 84 homes are a strong draw and a sales boon, but the Casa Sandra and the Condos detract from the sales value, the rental/lease interest and the tourism interest.

Q&A; How many units are we talking about? Casa Sandra -- 39 units, Palm Villa – 88

Discussion of views re Condos wanting or not to be involved.

- Architecture and street names are important
- City definition of Neighborhood From PSNIC formation Ordinance 1666
- Palm Springs as destination is about Architecture
- Sense of Condos & Casa being part of neighborhood that includes Mesquite Country Club units and Condo Buildings across Ramon

Show of hands, NON BINDING poll:

Organization:	Unanimously Yes
Informal Formation -- no bylaws:	Bypassed as issue
Boundaries:	Majority for smaller borders not to include Multi-units
Historical District:	Majority yes
Fight City Hall re PSNIC:	Majority yes with the idea that we pursue PSNIC membership as WE define ourselves

Next meeting: Saturday morning November 16, 10 am or 4 pm depending on Room availability

Polling of all not able to attend to be by mail or??

Adjourn 11:50

Sign issue discussion followed