



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, April 6, 2024 :: 10:00 AM :: Ocotillo Lodge Clubhouse

Attendees

Members Peter Balon, Brian Balthazor, Victoria Balthazor, Melanie Becker, Frank Berno, Bob Bogard, Carol Buckman, Fred Buller, David Carlson, Eric Chiel, Vivian Chiel, Casey Cornwell, Thomas Eich, Hung Fan, Mike Faulkner, Michael Felman, Michele Flowers, Barbara Gay, Virginia Giokaris, Kevin Goddess, Mann Hawks, Jennifer Hixon, Jeff Hoffman, Larry Johnson, Michele Johnson, Terry Johnson, Kristen Layman, Janice Lieberman, Mark Lieberman, Claudia MacDonald, Kelly McCune, Marilyn Meraereau, Carol Munro, Tim Neiman, Allan Offerman, Kip Pepper, Larry Perlman, Rosa Perlman, Mette Petersen, Paul Rafail, Andy Rohrer, Parrkat Sharma, Noel Sheldon, Stephanie Shopa, Lowell Tillman, Cheryl Vardaro, Tony Vardaro, Todd Verwers, Ron Weaver, Robert Webster,

Guests Jeffery Burnell, Kate Castle, Teresa Gallavan, David Hyams, Brian Ramos

Welcome

Carol Munro welcomed everyone. She thanked the Ocotillo Lodge for hosting us.

The meeting was called to order by Carol Munro at 10:15 AM. She welcomed everyone to our annual general membership meeting, especially all the new people who are joining us for the first time.

Approval of Minutes (emailed in advance)

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2024 General Membership Social Meeting. **The minutes were approved.**

Presentation, Keynote Speaker, Teresa Gallavan

Carol Munro introduced our Speaker, Teresa Gallavan, Assistant City Manager, City of Palm Springs, who joined the city staff two years ago. She oversees several departments as well as overseeing City communications.

She discussed:

- The City's new Chief Economic Development Officer

- A new Business Liaison position
- Homelessness – the city opened its new Navigation Center comprising 55 beds
- Affordable Housing – the new Monarch apartments has 60 units
- Library renovation includes a \$13 million state grant
- The Plaza Theater renovation has begun at a cost of \$34 million, with a new management company, the same one that runs the Acrisure Arena
- New parks and recreation projects
- Airport modernization which includes a city council study to improve and modernize
- Plans for a new firehouse to replace Firehouse #1 on Indian Canyon Drive
- EngagePalmSprings.com website for community communication

Ms. Gallavan then addressed a number of questions from the audience.

Eric Chiel Leadership Award

Carol said that the Advisory Board has voted to present the Eric Chiel Twin Palms Neighborhood Organization Leadership Award to a very deserving recipient. This award was established in 2017 and was created to recognize the outstanding service to TPNO by our founding Advisory Board Chairperson, Eric Chiel.

This is our organization’s highest volunteer honor. This award is presented in recognition of outstanding leadership to the Twin Palms neighborhood through their participation in the Twin Palms Neighborhood Organization.

She was thrilled to announce that the fifth recipient of this award is Jeffery Burnell. She asked him to come forward and highlighted some of his contributions to the organization, especially in the area of communications and marketing.

Carol asked Eric Chiel to join her in presenting the award to Jeffery. Eric read the inscription on the crystal plaque, and he and Carol presented it to Jeffery. Jeffery accepted the award and said how honored he was to receive this prestigious award named after Eric. He expressed his gratitude to his fellow Board members, as well as the support from the membership.

Advisory Board Elections

Carol introduced candidates and reviewed the rules in the By-Laws covering voting including only one vote per household. Copies of the paper ballots were distributed. Ballots will be collected, tabulated, and the results reported at the end of today’s meeting.

Accomplishments Since Last General Membership Meeting (October2023)

Carol Munro highlighted our major organizational accomplishments since our last General Membership business meeting in October 2023.

2024 9th Annual Twin Palms Modernism Home Tour on February 19, 2024

- We had 6 homes on our tour
- We sold 418 tickets

- 123 people attended Eric's walking tours
- Modernism Week reported 130,000 attendees at over 400 events
- Modernism Week reported raising \$68 million for greater Palm Springs

January 20th General Membership Social Meeting

Over 50 people attended the presentation of the documentary film William Krisel: Architect at the Palm Springs Cultural Center, followed by a reception.

Neighborhood Initiatives Grant for Ocotillo Lodge Portico Restoration signage

Carol reported that the Advisory Board recently awarded a grant of \$3,500 to the Ocotillo Lodge to help pay for their sign restoration project. The new sign on the portico restores it to the way it looked when it was designed by William Krisel in 1957. The lettering was created by Mr. Krisel, and was later used in our blade signs. The sign had been replaced during Jerry Buss' tenure as the owner of the Ocotillo Lodge, and has now been restored to Mr. Krisel's vision

Tony Vardaro, the TPNO Secretary and also the Ocotillo Lodge Board President, thanked TPNO for the grants funds that filled the remaining gap in the total funding for this project. He noted that community feedback has been very positive.

Neighborhood Guided Tour for residents in March

This tour was hosted by Eric Chiel for free to TPNO members. As always, there were rave reviews from the participants.

Launch of redesigned website

Carol said that we have received a lot of positive feedback on our redesigned website since its official launch in January. Members were encouraged to visit the site, which is filled with both information about the organization, updates on recent events, and lots of historical information about the neighborhood.

The new version will make it easier to update and maintain the site. It retains all the information on our previous site, but in a new more user-friendly format. The site now also contains more content including pictures, videos, and documents. It features our Twin Palms logo colors and new graphics and interface features. The new design makes for a much smoother smart phone experience. She thanked Larry and Jeffrey for their help in getting it finished.

Neighborhood Initiative Grant for Little Free Library

College of the Desert is constructing our library. The mid-century design is an homage to William Krisel and his iconic butterfly roofline. The concrete pour will be April 15 with the installation slated for May 1. We're hoping the dedication will be on or near May 15. Carol said that invitations will be sent out to the membership once the date is finalized.

Application for Tax Exemption Status

Carol reported that we are awaiting a response from the IRS on our application for Federal Tax Exemption Status. Jeff Hoffman said the review process can be lengthy, but he hopes for a response by this Fall.

Presentation, Eric Chiel “Four Artifacts Rewrite our Neighborhood History”

Eric presented two items from his new four-part series regarding recent discoveries about our neighborhood. He said that some of the most fascinating moments in our early neighborhood history are forgotten, overlooked, or incompletely documented. The first two parts presented today relate to the 1950's and early 1960's.

Eric began his presentation with the history of the house at 922 Anza. It was moved to our neighborhood from its original location at the former Desert Inn site where it served as a model for the Vista Las Palmas neighborhood.

The timeline for construction of our neighborhood has been revealed after extensive research. The previously accepted timeline was incorrect: The Ocotillo Lodge was not the first structure in Twin Palms. Phase 1 of construction of Twin Palms homes, consisting of 38 homes, and Phase 2 began prior to the Ocotillo!

- November 1953 – The Desert Sun newspaper noted that the Alexander Construction Company bought 40 acres in what is now Twin Palms for the construction of the hotel, although that was actually for the whole neighborhood.
- December 1955 – The Desert Sun reported on a permit for a real estate office at 1155 E Palm Canyon Drive. This was a temporary building that was eventually removed.
- January 1956 – The Desert Sun reported on a permit to construct a pool at the site of the temporary sales office.
- January 1957 – The Desert Sun ran an ad for the neighborhood housing sales at the 1155 location.
- April 1957 – a permit for the Ocotillo Lodge was granted.
- July 1957 - saw a permit for the Candlewood Restaurant at the Ocotillo Lodge.
- December 1957 – the Candlewood opened.

Therefore, the homes were well underway before the Ocotillo opened and the oldest surviving structure in the neighborhood is the pool that is part of the “owner’s unit” at the Ocotillo!

The floor was then opened to a Q & A period. Eric was thanked for his myth-busting presentation, and his dedication to uncovering and sharing the rich tapestry of our neighborhood’s history. The presentation was a meeting highlight and much interest was expressed in hearing the remaining 2 parts of the series he is developing. Hopefully, parts 3 and 4 will be ready to share at our Fall General Membership Meeting.

Ongoing Activities

Financial Report

Larry Johnson gave a brief financial report. He noted that a copy of the current 4-6-24 report is on each table and will be on our website next week. He said he would be happy to speak one on one with anyone who wants further information.

2024 TPNO Membership Campaign

Larry said that we are now accepting \$25 voluntary membership dues for 2024. The membership form is available today or online at our website.

Update on William Krisel's Twin Palms Exhibit

It was noted that Tom Eich will be taking over lead responsibility for the exhibition and maintenance of the Krisel Exhibit. Eric Chiel will continue to be involved in the Exhibit's content.

ONE-PS Update

The ONE-PS organization meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 PM at 200 S. Civic Drive. All are encouraged to attend. For more details, members were encouraged to speak with Kate Castle, ONE-PS Vice Chair, who is attending our meeting today.

Planned Activities

Upcoming Events Calendar

Carol reported on upcoming events. She said the date of the Little Library dedication event will be announced soon, hopefully to be held in mid-May. The next General Membership meeting will be in the Fall, most likely in late October.

Planning for 2025 Twin Palms Modernism Tour

Carol said that planning for our Modernism Tour is a year-round activity. We need to finalize our list of homes for the 2025 tour by summer. Anyone interested in having their home considered for inclusion in the 2025 tour should contact anyone on the Board for more information. We also welcome ideas for homes that members would like to see on the Tour.

Volunteer Engagement Opportunities

Carol said there are lots of opportunities for residents who want to volunteer their time. She noted that Volunteer Interest Forms are on each table and on our website.

Grants and Initiatives

Larry Johnson spoke of the first meeting 11 years ago and how the neighborhood has changed. We were the first neighborhood to install blade signs on every street corner. We installed a welcome monument sign, we had the Krisel Way Street renaming, and developed the Krisel exhibit. We've distributed grant money to the Palm Springs animal shelter, to the fire station for a grill, to fallen local police heroes, and to literacy programs. We sponsored the Alexander star on the Palm Springs walk of fame, and the Ocotillo sign restoration. Larry told members about the process to apply for future grants or suggest Community Initiatives.

Open Membership Discussion

Carol Munro then opened the floor for questions/comments.

- Tom Eich thanked Eric Chiel for his continued efforts for our neighborhood.
- Tony Vardaro thanked Jeffrey Burnell for his continued work for our neighborhood, emphasizing that it has continued even after Jeffrey moved out of Palm Springs.
- David Carlson promoted his choir's upcoming Cascade Lounge shows.

Election Results

The results of the FY 24-26 Advisory Board elections were reported by Eric Chiel. He said that 31 eligible ballots were cast, and all members running for office were elected, including new members Tom Eich and Michael Faulkner.

Adjournment

Carol Munro thanked everyone for attending today. She encouraged everyone to stay and finish the refreshments and the opportunity to interact with their neighbors.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

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