



Portofino Developer Makes Presentation Following Annual Meeting

Antun Barbato, a Principal of Family Development, gave a presentation of plans and conducted a Q & A session following the conclusion of our Annual Meeting on April 16. Family Development is in Escrow to purchase the already developed portion of Portofino as well as the adjacent graded land next to the existing buildings. Family Development has completed over 1000 homes in our valley.

He explained there are presently two owners of portions of the complex and his company is in escrow for the third section. One owner has the property facing Portola Ave. and another has the property that lies between the developed portion and our Casablanca northern perimeter wall.

The three parties are working to develop a comprehensive plan that will be presented to the City of Palm Desert for approval. The engineering work will probably take between 6 to 9 months to complete. All of the owners are well aware of the past problems and mistakes or oversights that have been made in the past 11 years.

Mr. Barbato indicated that the basic design scheme of having one story buildings on the portion close to our wall is still in the plans. It does need to be re-graded but he feels probably will not come down any more than 4 feet at most. Drainage issues will need to be addressed and landscaping to give both properties on each side of the perimeter wall adequate privacy is definitely in the planning

process. Mr. Barbato indicated his “door is always open” if you have questions or comments. His office is at 73081 Fred Waring and the phone # is 760-578-7901.

ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President, Gail Christiansen at 10:10 AM. A quorum was deemed to be present with 80 ballots returned to Management. Approximately 30 members were present at the meeting.

The tabulation of ballots resulted in 65 votes each for Ken Bates and Dorothy Saulnier. Going off the Board is Jim Laraby and Jerry Winer.

The President’s Report followed. Gail addressed the responsibilities of both the Board Members as well as the Association members as a whole.

Even with all the attempts at transparency and communication through the bulletin boards, Communications Committee

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and the web site, there still persists negative rumors making it difficult to encourage people to volunteer to serve on the Board.

Gail listed the accomplishments over the last year which were many, as follows: landscaping, pool maintenance, roof maintenance etc. In 2011 we have completed the mailbox replacement project and are in the process of launching a year long process of making improvements before the painting project can begin.

The Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting were approved as written.

Lindsey Griffith gave the Treasurer's Report. She broke down for the homeowners the proportion of how ones monthly assessment is distributed to various accounts such as Reserves, swimming pools, landscaping, operating account and so forth. We have been "lucky" in the real-estate foreclosure problems. Most of them have sold and there are presently three up for sale.

Evelyn Ferrier gave the Architectural Committee's Annual Report. She noted the work Ken Bates is making in directing and organizing the painting project. It may take a year to accomplish irrigation relocations, plant trimming and or removal, stucco repairs etc. A presentation developed by Ken Bates that was presented to the Board in the March Meeting was handed out to all attendees at the meeting.

Howard Butzer gave the Landscape Report. He mentioned the desert landscape project at pool #4, the curbing around planting beds, and the mail box project, the removal of two Eucalyptus trees and two bottle trees that were blown over in the last wind storm. The tree trimming is on schedule. The palm trees are slated for June and the irrigation system around the swimming pools is being converted to the

drip system to save on water. He stressed that owners keep their patios trimmed not only for appearances but to deter criminal activity. He again stressed the need for owners to clean up after their pets and do not feed the birds. Feeding birds creates a health problem. It is attracting ducks which are causing contamination in and around the swimming pools.

Syd Sonneborn gave the Communications Committee report.

He listed the objectives of giving members a timely forum to be able to communicate concerns to the Board of Directors and committee chairs. He also listed the special topics covered at meeting this year which included Earthquake Preparedness, Reverse Mortgages, Discussion on board policy and ethics, issues concerning the Portofino Development, as well as Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention. The Committee is responsible for notices of meetings placed on the bulletin boards and the Association's newsletter as well as placing information on our web site.

Following his presentation, the ending Owners' forum was held. Some questions were addressed to the Board on the gate coverings for the atriums that face streets, the code of ethics the Board adopted this last year as related to recalling a board member and on the upcoming house painting project. A home owner also stressed the need for the commitment of owners to serve on the board and on standing committees.

Committee chairs and retiring board members were presented with a basket of live plants as a token for their service to the Association. Howard Butzer was given a "T" shirt that had "Plays in the Dirt" written on the front.

The meeting was then adjourned and turned over to the Family Development presentation for Portofino discussed above.

Is California Next?

After the devastating Japan earthquake and tsunami, everyone is talking about earthquakes, and more than ever we are concerned about what might happen here. Rumors that the next major earthquake may happen in California always spread after major international earthquakes. However, earthquake scientists do not believe the chance is any greater now, though a major earthquake is [always possible](#) in California. We must all do what we can to get ready.

Research shows that people get prepared when they talk with people they know, about what each other has done or should do to be better prepared. Actual earthquakes prompt discussion and improve preparedness. Since the Japan earthquake, have you done anything to improve your preparedness?

Have you:

- [Secured](#) items in your home or workplace so they won't fall?
- Developed a [plan](#) for how you will reunite with your family?
- Stored more water and other [supplies](#)?

Have you renewed?

The Shakeout is our chance to practice how to [protect ourselves](#) when big earthquakes happen, and to get



prepared for [life afterwards](#). The 2011 Great California ShakeOut will be on 10/20 at 10:20 a.m., and already more than 4.7 million participants are signed up!

Share the ShakeOut



REVERSE 911

The question arose about whether there is a "Reverse 9-1-1" phone alert system in Palm Desert, where in the event of an emergency you would receive a phone call from the City with a warning or related information on the emergency.

This is to let you know the City has this service through our connection to Riverside County Office of Emergency Services. Examples of emergency

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situations where we have used this system have been large scale power outages during the summer, a transportation hazmat spill, and a police situation where a neighborhood was asked to be on the lookout for a missing child.

The system is geographically based, meaning that it will be programmed to call all known phone numbers (residential or business) within a geographical area affected by an emergency situation. This means that the emergency warning phone call is to a phone number tied to a specific address.

If you have a number and address listed in a standard phone book or directory assistance you are automatically in the system. **If you have an unlisted number, or an internet based phone (VOIP) or a cell phone they are not automatically listed --- you need to register the number and address with the County if you want to get the emergency notification. (You get one number per address).**

Registration is done via the internet. Below is the link to the County website that launches the registration form. Please circulate this information among your homeowner groups or however you like and let me know if you have any questions about this.

<http://www.countyofriverside.us/emergencies/ews.html>

Thanks for being prepared!

Gary Rosenblum

Risk Manager

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