

Annual Meeting Transcript/Notes 10/20/21

Speaker: Deborah Lazio, RMCA President

Welcome everybody, thanks for taking time to be with us tonight.

It's 5:38pm on October 20, 2021, and I'd like to officially call our Annual Members Meeting to order.

As you may know, the RMCA has undergone some fundamental changes in the past few years. We are no longer a HOA that historically collected dues from all the properties within our boundaries.

The previous board, of which Anne Winchester and Anne Coleman were the two remaining members, has been working for two years to help us transition from a HOA.

The restated bylaws that you received in your voting packet were approved by the previous board and today, will most likely be approved by our current membership. We understand we might need to make a couple of adjustments on our bylaws and our new board will be considering those changes.

We are now a Community Association, a (501.c.4) and all dues/donations are voluntary. We have new goals and a new focus. We will continue to make our voices heard at City Council meetings where we provide input on policy and development issues that effect our neighborhood.

I'd like to introduce our current board.

Our treasurer, Susan Shapiro is here.

Our secretary, Caprice Leinonen is joining us via Zoom. Caprice has finished her term on the transition board and we thank her for her hard work, particularly as the Board representative who coordinated with Porcupine Creek Resort/Sensei on residents concerns. Thank you Caprice, we wish you the best.

I'm Deborah Lazio, the current President

I'd like to give a very big thank you to Anne Winchester, who has donated her huge talent to the RMCA board for many, many years, as well as Anne Coleman who also donated countless hours over the decades of keeping the RMCA a viable and relevant organization. They have guided our interim board through this transition phase. To our great benefit, Anne Winchester has agreed to be available as a pro-bono consultant as we move the RMCA into the future.

We have three new candidates who are running for the Board.

I'd like to introduce Maire Scinto, Carol Johnson, and Karen Quimby Lobo. Thank you for your willingness to donate your time and talent to the all volunteer RMCA board.

And as you probably noticed...both Susan and I are candidates for the Board of Directors too.

We have been working for several months rewriting and redesigning a great new website and I am excited to give you a brief overview. (The following is a top to bottom tour of our new website: RMCAnews.org)

Across the top of the website are dropdown menus where you can dig into more local history and information.

You'll find a City directed project called "Historic Resources Survey" commissioned in 2003, it's a 37 page compilation of significant historical, architectural and cultural resources. Check it out, your home might be on the list. Information on other historic buildings such as Whispering Waters and the Provident Bank are here as well.

We will continue to add to our "Frequently Asked Questions" and if you have something you would like to see in that section, send us an email with your suggestion.

Our "Members Only" section will be activated soon. You will be able to set up a password and find our Bylaws, Meeting Agendas and Minutes.

There are about 550 eligible member households within our boundaries and we are so pleased that this year, 125 households chose to donate the suggested \$40 (and some donated more which we appreciate). This financial support gives us the opportunity to keep this nearly 85 year old neighborhood organization working for the community interests.

The RMCA has a decades long history, since 1937.

This button opens a list of current accomplishments such as:

- *Hosting a "Meet the Candidates Forum" (which we hope to do again in 2022)

- *Hosting a neighborhood food-bank drive

- *Organizing the first annual neighborhood Yard Sale

- *In addition, the RMCA spends significant time on providing information about pending developments and proposed zoning changes on projects close to, or in, our neighborhood including: In&Out Burger and Porcupine Creek Resort.

There is a further link here to past accomplishments where you will discover that previous RMCA boards and residents have worked incredibly hard over the decades on a myriad of issues including:

- *Working with the city to build flood mitigation channels around our cove

- *Negotiating a 50% discount on the installation of the modern sewer system in Magnesia Falls Cove

- *And when you are driving along Sahara Road, you can thank previous boards for encouraging the construction of a nicely landscaped noise-buffering wall to separate Highway 111 lighting and noise from our residential homes.

It's a mind boggling testament to the dedication and continued effort over the decades that has made our neighborhood what we appreciate it to be today. It is truly an inspiration to me and hopefully to all the residents who live in and care for the Magnesia Falls Cove and White Sun neighborhoods today.

Our New Mission Statement is: To promote the general common good and build neighborhood connections through activities, information and advocacy. We will look to our members to help us define how that manifests as we move forward.

Magnesia Falls Cove really is "Where Rancho Mirage began"

Through 85 years of development, the RMCA has been the common thread throughout.

In this section, you will find an interesting description of the first homes built here, starting in the 1930s near Sahara Road and across the old highway in the White Sun area. There are interesting photos taken from the air and land during the mid-century construction boom.

As always, we will work to build community through educational events and volunteer opportunities and our Upcoming Events section will showcase our events.

The two "members only" events we have ready are listed here. You can register and pay the fee with PayPal from the website. Our events are filling up so don't wait too long to sign up if you are interested.

The first event, coming up November 12 is a Birding and Nature Hike through Tahquitz Canyon, limited to 12 people and led by College of the Desert Professor of Natural Resources, Kurt Leuschner.

The second event on December 3 will be a guided hike led by a Bighorn Institute biologist who will take 15 people to an area near Palm Desert to learn about and hopefully spot some Bighorn Sheep in their natural habitat.

I've linked an excellent video lecture: Birds and Plants, Creating a backyard habitat, by Professor Leuschner (who is leading our Birding Hike). This is information specific to our local neighborhoods.

Coming in February 2022 is a fantastic event for our neighborhood called "Magnesia Falls Cove Modernism Tour". Anne Winchester has been working hard with Preservation Mirage for two years on this event and she will have more to say on that shortly.

We are excited about these offerings and we will continue to seek out experts in various fields to provide similar events for our members in the future.

Calendar/Save the Date Section: We have the event calendar in list form, we will post the 3 upcoming member meetings for 2022 here along with other interesting opportunities.

Our News/Blog Post Section is intended to be a forum for Opinion, History, Issues and Events. If you are interested in being a guest writer on topics of note to the neighborhood please contact us.

So, I hope you will take a look at our website often and use it for a resource on community events, volunteer opportunities and other issues of interest.

And now I'd like to introduce our Board Treasurer, Susan Shapiro who will give you the rundown on our current financials.

Speaker: Susan Shapiro, RMCA Treasurer

As treasurer, I will be managing the assets and liabilities of our organization and ensuring the solvency with a yearly budget and income and expense spreadsheet. We all know this has been a difficult year due to covid and the transition of the board from a HOA to a non-profit volunteer organization.

Our approximate gross income is \$7,200 in donations ending 9/30/2021. Our current year to date expenses are \$3200, leaving us a balance of approximately \$4,000.

Next year we hope to expand the number of RMCA members and we encourage you to speak to your neighbors to get involved in our community and the various events, enabling all of us to meet our neighbors and to help keep Magnesia Falls Cove the wonderful community that it is.

And now I'd like to introduce Anne Winchester, the head of our Modernism Week Committee.

Speaker: Anne Winchester, RMCA Consultant and Modernism Tour Committee Head

MAGNESIA FALLS COVE MODERNISM TOUR * SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

Background: The beginning of this event can be traced back 2½ years when former Board Member, Robert Zafran, invited Melissa Riche to speak at an RMCA meeting. Melissa's new book, *Mod Mirage*, had recently been published and it included architectural history about Magnesia Falls Cove. Her book has put Rancho Mirage Mid-Century Modernism on the map.

Contacts were made with Melissa Riche and the dream of an event in the Cove was born. It was decided that the RMCA would team up with Melissa's group, Preservation Mirage, a non-profit organization created to conserve midcentury homes in the City of Rancho Mirage.

A committee was formed with Anne Winchester from the RMCA, Melissa Riche from Preservation Mirage & Thomas Troy, an award winning midcentury home builder and member of the RMCA. Many meetings followed the creation of the committee and homes were elicited and selected. The event, originally scheduled for Modernism Week - 2021, was canceled because of the pandemic. However, the committee regrouped and proceeded with the agreement of both the RMCA & Preservation Mirage to put together a program for Modernism Week – 2022.

Now we are 4 months away from this event and a great deal of work has been done. Eight homes have been selected to be our first-ever midcentury modernism tour.

The work is on-going and the committee is reaching out to the RMCA membership for volunteers. Our committee is looking for docents to provide assistance for the tour. The responsibilities will include such duties as hosting the selected homes, providing directions to the homes, and direction to registration and parking. All docents will receive a free pass to join the tour to see the homes after their four-hour duties are done. Lunch will be provided and it will be a great day to meet neighbors and enjoy the tour.

Please join the RMCA in presenting this wonderful event showing off our Cove. It is the first ever such event. If you are interested in being a docent, please contact Anne Winchester at her email address: laserlearn@earthlink.net or if you have questions, give her a call: 760.668.8341 to sign up. There will be one meeting prior to the event and assignments will be given out and volunteers will be able to ask questions. Covid restrictions will be in effect for the entire tour.

If any residents have a 50's – 60's car to show-off, please let us know. We would love to have these cars and other mid-century items on driveways and yards.

It is time to show off!!!