

HISTORY OF PALMERA PARK CORPORATION

The Palmera Park Corporation **was** formed with a temporary board In **December 1982**. The **temporary board served** until the **Corporation** received the Certificate of Incorporation in April 1983.

The purpose of the organization was to provide a place for the members to experience fellowship and a family away from home and to maintain the recreation hall and **its** property. The Corporation **is** governed by a Board of Directors who are **elected** by the membership at an annual meeting held in February of each year.

In January 1983 15 members joined and each paid \$150 and they were encouraged to get more members to join and their **fee** would be lowered. By November of 1983 there were 63 members and the **fee was \$40** per person.

A yearly **fee** of \$25 per person is assessed to the members which **assists** in providing activities for the members and provides for the maintenance of the building and grounds, which includes taxes, insurance, utilities, mowing and general improvements. Persons who rent in the park are encouraged to become Associate Members at \$6 each per month which entitles them the use of the hall and **its** activities. They do not have a vote in any **matter**.

The deed to the **recreation** hall and **the 4 lots** adjoining was turned over to the Corporation by George Martin on December **14**, 1983.

The Corporation was also responsible for the security lights and **residents** were requested to pay their share. This was done by most residents until the park was annexed into the city of La Feria in 1999 and at that time the **lights** became city property.

Many members of the Corporation volunteered their time and money to establish and maintain the **streets**, street signs, water run-off and any thing else that **needed attention**. The streets were eventually turned over to the county until the park was annexed.

A ladies group was established and all ladies were invited to be members. They sponsored craft sales, dinners and etc. The ladies have also sponsored bake sales at area parks, quilt raffles, soup dinners and etc. Their profits have been used to purchase equipment for the kitchen and the hall. They also have service projects each year. For a number of years they adopted needy families at Christmas and provided them with food and gifts. Up until December 2003 they collected food **items**, clothing,

toiletries, sewing **quilts** and lap robes and etc. for the End of **the** Road Ministry and Loaves and Fishes in Harlingen. The 2003 project was to collect monetary donations, clothing, **toys** and **etc.** for the La Feria Food Bank. The previous curtains in the Hall were made by the ladies in 1991. **These** curtains were replaced in 2002 and made by the ladies of the group.

A ladies Birthday Lunch is held each month at area restaurants and all ladies of the park are invited.

A Sunshine Fund was established and plants or floral arrangements are sent to members who have been hospitalized or have surgery. A monetary **donation** is made to the family of a deceased member.

The original pool table was purchased by 15 persons in 1983 and later was **donated** to the Corporation. This was used until January 2001 **when** another pool table and light over the table was purchased.

Pancake breakfasts were established in 1985 and have continued for most of the time since. Pancakes are open **to** the public and the profit **is** used towards the cost of paper supplies for the Corporation. Five volunteers are needed each week and they are **requested** to sign up for the **weeks** they will work.

Gabfests were **started** in 1985 and the hosts went to a donut shop **late** in the day before **re** the **Gabfest** Morning and purchased donuts. At one time there were complaints of the "day old" donuts but after discussion most of the people **wanted** the "day old" donuts. At **present** the hosts either purchase donuts or sweet rolls from HEB or Wal Mart. There **is** a \$1 per person charge for this plus coffee.

The present refrigerator was purchased in 1985, a 3 year old deep freeze in 1986, microwave in 1989 and stove in 1999. In 2002 a new deep freeze was purchased and a used refrigerator was donated. Members over the years have **donated** many items to be used in the Hall. A floor buffer was purchased in 2003 for \$995.00.

A reverse osmosis **water system** was purchased in 2002 for approximately \$250.00 and eliminated the need to go to the **Water** Mill for drinking water.

Bingo was approved by the Comptroller of Public Accounts, State of Texas for the Palmera Park Senior Citizens Association in **December** 1987. The Corporation **is** not responsible for the operation of Bingo which **is** held once a week and is open **to** any resident of Palmera Park. Prizes are not to exceed \$10 per game and Bingo cards are \$.50 each. A donation of \$10 is

made each week to the Corporation to cover the cost of **utilities** and supplies.

Originally the U.S. Mail was delivered to **boxes** located at the Hall but in 1990 the postal service started **street** delivery of all mail. All residents erected their own mail box.

Laundry facilities were available at the Hall but in December 1991 the laundry was removed and storage was made available.

The Palmera Park residents and the Corporation have contributed to the Friends of La Feria Fire Department \$3,457.85 in the past 13 years. Approximately \$73,000 has been donated by the La Feria area to purchase special life saving equipment.

The first Sunday of the month free ice cream is served to all Corporation members. Persons are encouraged to volunteer to purchase the ice cream and be reimbursed by the Treasurer and to serve it.

The pool room addition was finished in 1997 with mostly donated funds and many hours of volunteer labor.

On March 22, 2001, a vote was taken of the Palmera Heights Park/Subdivision landowners to amend the covenants to become a "55 or older" subdivision in accordance with the federal "Housing for Older Persons Act." On April 17, 2001 the votes were counted and the proposed amendment passed. The amendment of the covenants requires approval by at least 2/3 of the landowners and as of the election **date**, there were 106 landowners. 71 "Yes" votes were required to pass the amendment. There were 87 ballots received, 85 were "Yes", 1 was a "No" vote and 1 ballot was signed and notarized but neither the yes nor the no box was checked. The ballots were recorded in the Cameron County Clerk's office on April 19, 2001.

In March 2002 the Corporation purchased and installed Armstrong Commercial 118" tile from Lloyd Betts Interiors at a cost of \$4,361.00.

In April, 2002 the restrooms were improved and made handicap assessable.

In April 2002 a photograph gallery was established of all members and placed on the North wall of the Hall.

The used deep freeze purchased in 1986 saw its last days during the summer of 2002 and a **new** General Electric 20.3 upright **freezer** was purchased at a cost of ~~\$430~~.00.

In April 2002 a Membership Welcome Kit was established which is given to all new Corporation members.

In February 2003, a reception honoring all who have celebrated 50 years of marriage was held and the reception has continued.

At the February 9, 2004 Annual Meeting a vote was taken and approved for the Palmera Park Corporation to become a Property/Home Owners Association. Attorney David Vogel made the proper application to the State of Texas to amend the articles of incorporation and the Certificate was received.

The original roof of the building deteriorated and in November 2004, the membership of the Corporation approved the replacement by Roshen Contracting at approximate cost of \$7,600.00. Funds were taken out of the Certificate of Deposit plus members made monetary donations.

The good metal from the old roof was used to building an approximate 12 x 12 storage shed.

At the February 15, 2005 Annual Meeting of the Corporation the membership approved the raising of dues from \$25 per member and \$6 per associate members to \$50 per member and \$10 per associate member per year.

The success of the Palmera Park Corporation has only been through the efforts of the members who volunteered their services, their money and their verbal support. **Dues** have **been** kept low because many members donate money to **purchase** items and their labor whenever work needs to be done. The raise in **dues** in 2005 was only because the utilities, taxes and insurance were not covered with **the** \$25 per member per year.

In July 2008 Hurricane Dolly came ashore. There were 8 inches of water in the clubhouse and two **feet** of water in **the** park. It took three days to remove **the** water and silt on the main floor. The carpet in the pool room was destroyed and **new** tile was installed. The main hall (including the kitchen, store room and bathrooms) had to be stripped to the **outside** walls. The cupboards were also destroyed by **the** water in the clubhouse. New walls (including insulation) were installed and new cupboards were purchased. The **vanities** were replaced in both bathrooms. It took the better part of two **months** plus to complete the work. All of this was

accomplished by willing members who gave of their time, talents and money. We are thankful for the dedication of our members and we now have a new hall to enjoy.

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