

**PORTER RANCH**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**General Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, November 11, 2008  
Shepherd of the Hills Church  
19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch, CA 91326

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Paula Cracium called the Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Board Members present: Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Christopher Cooper (Treasurer), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Mandhata Chauhan, Irv Cohen, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Ron Nagai, and Vas Singh.

Board Members absent: Mel Mitchell (President) and Bright Aregs.

Nine of the 11 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, and the business of the Council could be conducted. Also attending were 24 Stakeholders and Guests.

**3. Motion to approve proposed agenda**

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Cooper): to approve the Agenda of the November 11, 2008 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections by a voice vote.

**4. Secretary, Ali Dabirian - Motion to approve October 7, 2008 minutes**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to approve the Minutes of the October 7, 2008 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections by a voice vote.

**5. Treasurer, Christopher Cooper - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council [PRNC] Treasurer's Report." Available funds include \$87,000 already funded, plus the "Quarterly Addition" of \$12,500, totaling \$99,500. The "Moore Business" Demand Warrant needs a second signature. "Devonshire Gym" is the PRNC's ongoing share of the LAPD (L.A. Police Department) gym equipment allocation and will change; the Demand Warrant copy is available for viewing. The "Train Response" allocation is pending NC approval; it's for expenses incurred in responding to the recent Chatsworth train accident and would be shared with the Chatsworth NC, which will transfer funds "to make it whole." "Apple One" is for Minutes writing and Meeting attendance. "Name Tags" were bought and were used at last week's City Council District 12 event. The

“Sesnon Fire” allocation is for community support for people affected by that event, including the evacuation center at this Church and is “in anticipation of Motion six” [below]. ““Pending Approval” means pending approval at DONE [L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment].”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Leveque): to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented at this Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections by a voice vote.

6. **Motion - to approve reimbursing Paula Cracium for expenses**

**MOTION** (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve reimbursing Paula Cracium for expenses, not to exceed \$1,500, relating to the Sesnon Fire Evacuation Shelter.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Cooper read aloud each expense; all were for food and cleaning supplies, totaling \$1,201.54. Ms. Cracium related that 1,000 people were served on both October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Cleaning supplies were to clean the Red Cross cots between uses, as required. There was extensive discussion regarding the value of helping the community during the fire. Funding would be allocated from the Public Safety budget. Mr. Cohen believes that “it’s not our purpose . . . to give handouts.” Ms. Cracium noted that this was a “once every 20 years” fire . . . a wonderful opportunity [for community involvement] . . . and investment. The City is encouraging NCs to get involved in their communities like this.” Floods will come later. Ms. Hammarlund declared that “this is our best outreach of the year” and Mr. Nagai observed that “people got the kind of help they needed.”

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Ms. Cracium). There were no objections.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections, except for Mr. Cohen opposing and Ms. Cracium abstaining.

7. **Motion - to approve Disaster Fair funding**

Ms. Hammarlund announced the North Valley Neighborhood Councils Disaster Fair on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the new Fire Station 87, 10124 Balboa Blvd., just south of Devonshire St. Free supplies will be available. The NC is “already listed as a contributor.” The allocation is also for an NC banner. Presentations will be made by the DWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) and City officials, including L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; [lacity.org/council/cd12](http://lacity.org/council/cd12)), to the 700 people expected to attend.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve the spending of an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the North Valley Neighborhood Councils Disaster Fair on November 16, 2008.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections, except for Mr. Cohen opposing.

**8. Discussion - Motion Tabled August 12, 2008 to approve an invoice payment of \$1,500 for PRNC sponsorship of the "Hire LA's Youth" program.**

Mr. Dabirian said that he is still getting information about this. It was agreed without objection to **TABLE** this Item to the next Meeting.

**9. Discussion - updates about all PRNC Committees: status, meetings, etc.**

Outreach: Ms. Cracium reported that the Committee met and updated their 2009 calendar, moving some dates. Most Board Members attended the Community Appreciation Day Picnic, which was "quite impressive." There'll be a Holiday Party December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Baker's Square Restaurant [Chatsworth and Zelzah; 6:00-8:30; www.prnc.org; info@prnc.org].

Land Use: Mr. Cohen reported that the Committee met last week and discussed the [Valley Region Span K-8 #2 School Project (Porter Ranch School)] DEIR [Draft Environmental Impact Report]. He recommends making Committee sign-up sheets available at these General Board Meetings.

Public Safety: Ms. Leveque reported that the Committee's well-attended Meeting discussed keeping pets safe from coyotes and mountain lions. She'll put information on the NC website [www.prnc.org]. Mr. Cohen reported an assault and a home invasion robbery; there've also been attempted burglaries.

**7:00 pm - Proposed General Meeting/Open Discussion**

Presentation

BongHwan (BH) Kim, General Manager, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, City of Los Angeles will discuss the status of Neighborhood Councils

Mr. Singh introduced Mr. Kim, who spoke for one hour. He described Council Files and that NCs are the only entity besides City Council Members that can create one; this "triggered" a financial disclosure issue. "The City Council wants to be sure that NC Members who open a Council File don't have any conflicts of interest" because "NC Members are considered public officials." As NCs grow, "there'll be more attention to how NCs decide issues." BONC (the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) said that "each NC Board Member who wants to open a Council File should be required to fill out a disclosure form [Form 52]." He continued, "ethics training is required every two years by state law . . . and can be completed on the DONE website."

NCs can apply for grants and donations. Mr. Kim would like to establish a "quarterly disbursement pilot program" in which "NCs manage their own budgets . . . without DONE approving every expenditure." NCs would audit themselves and "DONE would check" reconciliation statements. DONE is working with other City Departments to ensure appropriate NC expenditures.

Mr. Kim encouraged "regional alliances" of NCs. Every two years, 70% of NC [Board] Members turn over. He wants to establish "web-based training" to make it easier for Board Members to take ethics and other NC-related training. "NCs have an advisory

role . . . and are an extension of the City government.” Some “exceptions have been made” and some “sister NCs share office space.” “Expect” NC funding “to be cut” because of budget constraints. He “will talk with” the City Attorney regarding NC office space needs.

### Open Discussion

Stakeholder Wes Rogers created the youth guidance program “The Human Rules” for “young adults to make better life decisions.” He distributed materials and asked for \$6,000 to fund the program in the Porter Ranch area. Mr. Rogers was encouraged to attend LAUSD (L.A. Unified School District) meetings and seek their approval before fundraising.

Stakeholder Aviva Ebner, Principal at L.A. Leadership Academy High School, distributed flyers about and is helping to open the Porter Ranch Charter High School near Porter Ranch [[www.prchs.org](http://www.prchs.org); [info@prchs.org](mailto:info@prchs.org) or [aebner@prchs.org](mailto:aebner@prchs.org)].

Ms. Cracium announced that Councilman Smith established a “Recovery Task Force” which met and was attended by many public agency representatives and community members. They’ll meet again next week.

Jerry Askew, Granada Hills South (GHS) NC Board Member, distributed a “Verizon FiOS PMFs” handout that has photos of Verizon Wireless installations and a Motion that the GHSNC recently passed that the PRNC could, if it chooses, use as well. He explained that Verizon “installed hundreds of electrical boxes within three weeks” in the GHS neighborhood with no notice, on private property and public sidewalks, and at dangerous heights which people could run into. The boxes are used for phone, video and TV wiring. Time Warner is also installing such boxes, but usually much higher up on poles. Verizon told him that “mounting the boxes higher . . . is a worker safety issue.” Mr. Askew said that the boxes are “exempted from the City above-ground utilities ordinance.” There’ll be a meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the new Fire Station 87 at 10124 Balboa Blvd. He invited Verizon, City officials and community members.

Linda Romney, GHSNC Stakeholder, stated that packs of coyotes have been running through back yards and attacking pets during daytimes. It’s the worst she’s heard of this happening in this area and the issue will be on this Thursday night’s GHSNC [General Board Meeting] Agenda. She’s asking for funding to help distribute notices about the problem.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:50 p.m.