

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2009
Shepherd of the Hills Church
19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch, CA 91326

1. Welcome and Introductions

President Mel Mitchell called the Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

All 11 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 up to 38 Stakeholders and Guests.

Mr. Mitchell explained the Meeting procedure and Agenda, including the use of Speaker Cards for Stakeholders who want to speak.

3. President, Mel Mitchell - Motion to approve proposed Agenda

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve the proposed Agenda.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

**4. Secretary, Ali Dabirian - Motion to approve unapproved Minutes
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.]**

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve the Minutes of the November 11, 2008 General Board Meeting, as written.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve the Minutes of the January 6, 2009 General Board Meeting, as written.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mitchell noted that L.A. City District Two Councilwoman Wendy Greuel had asked to speak at the Meeting; she hadn't been invited. He suggested and it was agreed to TABLE the Motion.

**5. Treasurer, Christopher Cooper - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed a "Treasurer's Report: 6-Jan-2009" and "2008 – 2009 Actual versus Budget YTD."**

Total funds available equal \$58,896.11; 78% of year-to-date funds remain. Unspent funds may not carry over to next year as usual “because of our current financial situation.”

MOTION (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to accept the Treasurer’s Report.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

6. **Motion** regarding walkie-talkies for Castlebay Lane Elementary School.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.] Ms. Hammarlund reviewed the Tabled Motion from the last General Board Meeting.

MOTION (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve funding for the purchase of 15 walkie-talkies (including batteries and chargers) @ 300 dollars each in order to provide for emergency communication for Castlebay Lane Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hammarlund introduced Vivian Ihori, Castlebay Lane Principal, who distributed an annual calendar and explained the communications problems her staff had during the recent fire emergency, and how the walkie-talkies would help. Ms. Hammarlund suggested and it was agreed to TABLE the Motion to the next (March) General Board Meeting. Ms. Ihori announced the School’s participation in the March 9th “Read Across America” event and is seeking volunteers.

7. **Motion** regarding GPS devices for Fire Stations 8
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Ms. Park’s comments in Other Business.]

MOTION (by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$750 for two GPS devices for Fire Station 8.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cohen described that one GPS will be with Brush Fire Patrol #8 and one kept in the Fire Station. Mark Clegar, Fire Station #8 “C” Platoon Captain, introduced himself and staff members, and explained the need for the devices. Some Fire Department employees have paid for GPSs for their own units. There was discussion about allocating funds for three GPSs instead of two.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Aregs): to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$750 for three GPS devices for Fire Station 8.

DISCUSSION: There was extensive discussion about the costs of GPSs. Captain Clegar mentioned that they don’t need the most sophisticated GPSs. Mr. Mitchell reminded that the NC must purchase equipment only from City-approved vendors.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

8. **Motion** regarding new digital camcorders for the Volunteer Surveillance Team.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Other Business.]

MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Ms. Cracium): to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$1,000 for six new digital camcorders for the LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.) Devonshire Division Volunteer Surveillance Team.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Nagai, seconded by Mr. Aregs): to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$1,000 for six new digital camcorders and/or accessories for the LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.) Devonshire Division Volunteer Surveillance Team.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cohen noted that the Volunteer Surveillance Team already presented about this.

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

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with Ms. Leveque recusing.

7:00 pm - Presentation by Wendy Gruel, LA City Councilwoman and candidate for City Controller in the March 2009 elections will be sharing with the PRNC some of the opportunities she sees in the City through the Controller's office.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Mr. Singh described the Presentation procedure and Mr. Mitchell described the organization of the Presentation.

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Singh introduced Councilwoman Greuel, who spoke about transportation problems, which she's addressed as City Council Transportation Committee Chair and is working with various groups to develop a comprehensive transportation plan for the City, including anti-gridlock zones and stoplight synchronization. They're "creating a Bicycle Master Plan for the City" and she encouraged letting the City know of problem areas by calling 311 [City information]. Different 405 Freeway improvement plans have been considered; the "problem . . . is the grade." As City Controller, she'd work for accountability and can be reached at www.councilmemberGreuel@lacity.org.

Carlos Alvarez, Socialist Mayoral candidate, introduced himself and is a legal assistant for an HIV/AIDS organization. He'd work for jobs and affordable housing for everyone. He's calling for an "immediate end to all foreclosures in Los Angeles" and "would deny permits to shoddy developers."

Phil Jennerjohn, Conservative Mayoral candidate, introduced himself. He'd crack down on illegal immigration and end favoritism in City appointments, and have an open-door policy in the Mayor's Office. He can be reached through www.philjennerjohn.com.

Other Business

[Ms. Park's comments were made after Item #4.] Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), announced the Citrus Sunday event May 3rd, 10:00 – 4:00; there'll be an organizing Meeting March 5th at 4:00 at Fire Station 87 on Balboa Blvd. south of Devonshire St.

[The following comments were made after the Presentations.] Stakeholder Joe Goldfarb is concerned about non-handicapped people parking in handicapped parking spaces. There was discussion about this.

Danny Del Valle, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-634-0362, cell 818-634-0362; 27677@lapd.lacity.org, or delvallesw.45@att.net for urgent), introduced himself and explained the new Division boundaries due to the new nearby Topanga Station recently opening. He covers the area west of Tampa Ave.; Senior Lead Office Dario Del Core (818-756-9011, x1727, cell 818-634-0577; 27286@lapd.lacity.org) covers the area east of Tampa. If you see non-handicapped people parking in a handicapped space, call the DOT's Parking Enforcement or the PD's non-emergency number 877-ASK-LAPD. There was discussion regarding that Officers may need to stop wherever they can to issue a ticket. Burglaries have been occurring along Topanga Canyon Blvd., Lassen and Devonshire Sts., and off Rinaldi St., especially between 1:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. Sometimes online burglary maps are available. "Violent crime is down; property crime is up 2%." They're working to install surveillance cameras. Neighborhood Watch Meetings are held every fourth Thursday at St. John Eudes Church, 9901 Mason Ave., at 7:00 p.m. There was discussion regarding basic car area boundaries and identifications. He'll check on the license plate radar status. There'll be a District Meeting here on March 10th.

Board Member Announcements

Ms. Leveque: the Public Safety Committee will be meeting; please send information for consideration. There was discussion prompted by Mr. Cohen regarding Committees meeting often enough. Mr. Aregs forwarded an e-mailed Stakeholder concern that the NC isn't being proactive about opposing the installation of cell phone towers. Ms. Cracium noted that the Police's District Meeting is at the same time as the next General Board Meeting and suggested, and it was agreed, to have Officer Del Valle's Basic Car Meeting as the Presentation at the next General Board Meeting.

There was extensive discussion regarding outreach and scheduling for Committee Meetings, and posting places. It was noted that the Outreach Committee is not scheduled to meet, while the Education Committee meets "as needed." Mr. Mitchell encouraged Committees to schedule meetings at least once per quarter. He's also seeking feedback regarding whether the Board wants to pursue the idea in Stakeholder Jay Bolton's e-mail.

MOTION (by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:56 p.m.