

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 Shepherd of the Hills Church 19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch, CA 91326

1. <u>Welcome and Introductions</u>

President Mel Mitchell called the Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and explained that Speaker Cards are available.

2. Roll Call

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

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. Absent: Bright Aregs (excused) and Mandhata Chauhan (excused). Also attending were approximately 47 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. President -- Mel Mitchell

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to approve the Agenda for this May 5, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Secretary -- Ali Dabirian

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Ms. Leveque): to approve the Minutes of the April 7, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote, with Mr. Nagai abstaining.

5. <u>Treasurer</u> -- Christopher Cooper

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the Motion to Table unmade Motions to the next [June 7th] General Board Meeting was voted upon, after Item #9.] Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Treasurer's Report" dated "5-May-2009" and the "DRAFT PRNC [Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council] 2008-2009 Actual versus Budget YTD [FIRST DRAFT] Corrected, Current as of 5-5-09." "Total Funds Available" as of May 5th is \$48,626.59.

MOTION (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to accept the May 5, 2009 Budget as presented.

DISCUSSION: The NC does not know who the owner is of the "Welcome to Porter Ranch" sign at Tampa Ave. and Sesnon Blvd. that was destroyed in the Fire.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

6. MOTION (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve the purchase of a copier for Castlebay Lane Elementary School for an amount not to exceed \$4,000.

DISCUSSION: Vivian Ihori, Castlebay Lane Principal, explained that, due to the budget crisis, the School needs help to buy equipment. A new sales tax recently enacted increased the price total to \$4,061.33; the School is willing to pay the \$61.33 over the requested amount. Mr. Cohen said that the School isn't the only Porter Ranch school; the NC should distribute funds to all Porter Ranch schools, such as Darby and Beckford. Ms. Hammarlund "has outreached to other schools" and Castlebay is the only school in the PRNC district; allocating funds for other schools "would trample on other [NCs]." Ms. Leveque would like to review PRNC Committee missions and have Education Committee meetings.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION PASSED without any objections.

MOTION PASSED with seven in favor, one opposed and Mr. Mitchell abstaining.

7. MOTION (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve a grant of \$2,500 for purchasing food for the Interfaith Food Pantry Coalition, as described in the Valley Interfaith Council's Grant Proposal.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hammarlund explained that the Coalition includes MEND [Meet Each Need With Dignity] (818-897-2443; http://www.mendpoverty.org), a major Valley assistance organization. The Coalition needs help "in this time of crisis." Melvin Canas, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9953; melvin.canas@lacity.org), explained that the organization "must go through the new grant application process." Tom Wallace, Valley Interfaith Council [VIC] (818-718-6460; http://www.vic-la.org) member, noted that the number of area people requesting assistance has doubled; they're "not just the foodinsecure. . . There's a great indication that" local people are going to other areas for assistance. They "don't discriminate" about who requests assistance; "this is an opportunity to help your neighbor. . . We're quite sure that people from Porter Ranch are using our services."

It was clarified that the allocation would come out of the PRNC budget. Mr. Cohen "doesn't know if anyone in Porter Ranch is in need . . . we should set up a private food pantry here." Ms. Cracium suggested that a committee needs to be set up to review the [grant proposal] and that this needs to be Tabled [for now]. Mr. Canas noted that this is the first full month of the new grant application program. He explained that 501(c)3 [non-profit] organizations need to complete the application and the NC would review it. Any application for funding of \$5,001 - \$10,000, DONE reviews; for \$10,001 or more, BONC (the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) reviews.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Nagai, accepted by Ms. Hammarlund): to approve a grant of \$2,500 for purchasing food for the Interfaith Food Pantry Coalition, as described in the Valley Interfaith Council's Grant Proposal, pending DONE's approval of the legality of the allocation.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leveque was concerned that DONE is "making more red tape." Mr. Canas affirmed that "the Motion could be done." Mr. Cooper observed that funds will need to be reallocated and that the allocation would be good so that the funds "don't go back into the [City's] General Fund." Mr. Dabirian believes that this is a "good idea that goes to a good cause." Mr. Wallace noted that VIC's cost is around 45 cents per meal.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Nagai) **PASSED** without any objections.

MOTION PASSED with six in favor and one opposed.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), thanked Stakeholders for their Citrus Sunday participation. The CD12 Office is getting calls and she distributed an information sheet regarding the water rate hikes. She announced that "No unhitched trailers" signs have started being posted on Devonshire St.; Tampa Ave. "is in the works." Ms. Park also distributed a "Personal City Services & Repairs Program" flyer describing them. Mr. Cooper noted that and Ms. Park agreed to look into why many mobile homes are parking on the west side of Tampa Ave. between Braemore Rd. and Sesnon Blvd. Mr. Cohen and Mr. Cooper are waiting for the Fire Commission to approve the recent PRNC allocation to the Fire Station and Mr. Cooper asked Ms. Park to ensure that the PRNC name is written on the equipment.

Stakeholder Christian Chance announced that the Media Information Center computer software program is available for government agencies "to get news alerts quickly." He's working with different agencies that like it.

8. MOTION (by Mr. Singh, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve a PRNC contribution of an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to the DONE Valley Regional Congress of May 30, 2009.

DISCUSSION: Sean Rivas, Outreach Chair of the Granada Hills South NC and for the Valley Regional Congress (VRC) (www.valleyregionalcongress.org), explained that the VRC will be held in the Valley for the first time. Funds would be used to "hopefully, record every single session and the Congress," and for space and equipment rentals and supplies. The event cost has already been exceeded. Visit the website to nominate NC Board Members and Stakeholders for awards. The event budget is \$18,500; DONE is covering \$12,500. Eleven of the 30 or so Valley NCs have allocated funds and outreach is being done to all of them.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Mitchell) **PASSED** without any objections.

MOTION PASSED with seven in favor and one opposed.

Mr. Mitchell polled the Board and Stakeholders regarding adjusting the Agenda to address Item #12 next.

9. <u>Motion</u>, Paula Cracium - to approve the Election Procedures for the City Clerk-run elections in 2010

[This Agenda Item began to be addressed after Item #12.] Ms. Cracium described the

issue and that the Election Committee had discussed it. [Now] there was discussion regarding election and Bylaws concerns. It was agreed to Table this Item to the next [June 7th] General Board Meeting. Mr. Canas suggested that the NC have a Special Board Meeting to approve the new Election Procedures by the June 1st deadline. There was discussion regarding needing to allow more time to conduct business at these Meetings, and discussion and Mr. Canas emphasized that PRNC Meeting locations need to be within PRNC boundaries. Also, Mr. Canas reminded that next year's budget needs to be submitted by mid-June.

There was discussion regarding potential Special Board Meeting dates, and extensive discussion regarding how to approve the new Election Procedures.

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to Table unmade Motions to the next [June 7th] General Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

- Motion, Christopher Cooper to approve the purchase of camcorder accessories for the VST for an amount not to exceed \$1,000 It was agreed in the above-passed Motion to Table this Motion to the next [June 7th] General Board Meeting.
- **11.** <u>Motion</u>, Becky Leveque: to hold a Special Budget Committee meeting to change the PRNC Budget allocations through fiscal year-end on June 30, 2009 It was agreed in the above-passed Motion to Table this Motion to the next [June 7th] General Board Meeting.
- **12. Update**, discussion and approval of the final draft letter to the City of Los Angeles regarding PRNC support of the Shepherd of the Hills proposed expansion plans [This Agenda Item began to be addressed after Item #8.] Copies of the draft letter were distributed. It was clarified that the PRNC, at the last General Board Meeting [April 7th], approved of the plan. Tom Stemnock, President, Planning Associates, Inc. (818-487-6767) introduced himself and briefly reviewed the project. [This Agenda Item later finished being addressed after Mr. Horwitz's presentation.] He said that "the site was originally approved . . . by the City in 1988" and described the progression of Church development. They're planning to build sufficient parking first, then new buildings. The Zoning Code requires 807 parking spaces; the Church is proposing to build 910, and a new access road from Corbin Ave. to Porter Ranch Dr. A Traffic and Parking Study was submitted to the DOT (L.A. Dept. of Transportation) around January 2009 for review; it analyzed Sunday peak hour use and determined that the Church will not have any negative impact, and that the plan will handle expected uses. A Public Hearing is scheduled for June 5th at the Van Nuys City Hall [6262 Van Nuys Blvd.] with the Zoning Administrator. Additional construction may be done. There was discussion regarding the proposed esthetic appearance. There'll also be a "Project Permit Compliance and Design Review" Hearing. Construction could begin in August. Mr. Stemnock explained the Conditional Use Permit process.

Mr. Mitchell explained that, at the [April 7th] General Board Meeting, the Board voted to write a letter supporting the project, and that the Board feels that the "benefits outweigh the traffic issues."

Ms. Leveque announced a SOLID (Supporters Of Law enforcement In Devonshire) Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 16^{th} for \$6 per ticket. She also distributed a flyer regarding and announced that Islands Restaurant, at 11400 Porter Ranch Dr., will give a percentage of their dinner sales on June 3^{rd} from 5:00 – 9:00 to the Devonshire Division.

Dr. Jeffrey Nordella introduced himself and announced the opening of Porter Ranch Quality Care (818-363-2273; www.prqualitycare.com), a state-of-the-art facility offering continuity and urgent care, across the street from the Porter Ranch Shopping Center at the intersection of Rinaldi St. and Porter Ranch Dr., at 19950 Rinaldi St., #100. It's open Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Aviva Ebnar, Principal, Porter Ranch Charter High School (818-271-9648; www.prchs.org), distributed and summarized a three-page information sheet about the School. The School opened after the "LAUSD (L.A. Unified School District) said they'd never open a High School in Porter Ranch." The School is completely enrolled, with a waiting list for students and credentialed staff. It'll create, "over the next five years, 50 new jobs." The School "doesn't cost the taxpayers anything." They're working with the community and have "been getting overwhelming support." They'd like the NC to give written support to the School, as many officials have. They've applied for accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The School could open in Porter Ranch on Chatsworth St. No eminent domain would be needed. Ms. Hammarlund agreed to have the Education Committee discuss this.

Presentation

Street Lighting Presentation by Stan Horwitz, Senior Project Manager, L.A. Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Lighting, (311; http://lacity.org/bsl). Mr. Horwitz distributed a flyer about the Bureau and explained the different kinds of street lights, which are funded partly through a bill assessment. Private streets take care of their own lighting. The Bureau advises developers on necessary lighting and costs. LED lighting is now a lot more cost-effective and directs more focused light than high-pressure sodium lighting; they'll start installing them in the Valley this summer and in Porter Ranch in one or two years. The lights will automatically turn on from sensors. If a banner is wrapped around or a tree is impacting a light or pole, the Street Use Inspection Division will check it. If repair or maintenance is needed, call 311. If you see someone pulling lighting wire and you're not sure if they're with the Bureau, call 911. Identify the light or pole by a nearby address of other marker. Right now, solar-powered lighting is "a bit more expensive" than the sodium lights. Different manufacturers' lighting fixtures are being tested now regarding glare, efficiency, etc.

Mr. Mitchell declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:00 p.m.