

**PORTER RANCH**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**General Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, June 2, 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 6:13 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Board Members present: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Christopher Cooper (Treasurer), Bright Aregs, 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: Ali Dabirian (Secretary), and Mandhata Chauhan. Also attending were approximately 16 Stakeholders and Guests.

**3. President, Mel Mitchell - Motion to approve proposed agenda.**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve the Agenda for this June 2, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by acclamation.

**4. Secretary - Motion to approve unapproved Minutes.**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Singh): to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2009 Special Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by acclamation.

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

Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Treasurer's Report" dated "2-Jun-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" is \$46,000-53,000. The Treasurer's Report should say "FY 2008-2009 Available," not "2006-2007." He lobbied at City Hall for a minimal NC budget cut; "the tradeoff was that some DONE [L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] personnel will be laid off."

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

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous hand vote.

6. **Motion**, Christopher Cooper - to approve the purchase of camcorder accessories for the VST (Volunteer Surveillance Team).

Mr. Cooper explained that this discussion began in January and he “wants to refresh the Motion.” He explained the VST function.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Cracium): to approve the purchase of camcorder accessories for the Volunteer Surveillance Team for an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

**DISCUSSION**: there was discussion of VST needs and funding.

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

**MAIN MOTION PASSED** by acclamation without any objections.

7. **Motion**, Sue Hammarlund - to approve \$4,000 for outdoor older kids to senior fitness equipment for Holleigh Bernson Park.

Ms. Hammarlund distributed a fitness equipment brochure and explained that the equipment is especially useful for and “gentle” on seniors.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Singh): to approve \$4,000 for outdoor older kids to senior fitness equipment for Holleigh Bernson Park.

**DISCUSSION**: Ms. Hammarlund expressed that the funding could be from the NC’s Education Budget. The equipment is all-weather and durable, and Stakeholders have indicated that they’d like it. The L.A. Recreation and Parks Dept. approves of it. Mr. Cohen “would rather spend the money” for young children’s equipment. Mr. Aregs noted that there’re times when similar equipment at other parks is heavily used; it’s also needed at Holleigh Bernson Park. Mr. Nagai would like to see the installation price. Ms. Leveque “would like to see an ad hoc committee” to research this and believes that we need to see if the Park will survive the coming budget cuts. Mr. Singh thought that there could be matching grants.

**AMENDED MOTION** (by Mr. Aregs, seconded by Ms. Cracium): to encumber funds not to exceed \$4,000 for outdoor older kids to senior fitness equipment for Holleigh Bernson Park.

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED** with six in favor and two opposing.

8. **Motion**, Paula Cracium - to approve a \$595 invoice for ad design in May and June.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Cooper): to approve a \$595 invoice for ad design in May and June, 2009.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Cooper explained that this is for ads in the Valley Voice, North Valley Community News, and San Fernando Valley News publications. There was discussion regarding when and where ads were placed, and costs. Ms. Hammarlund showed a copy of the ad which appeared Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cohen was concerned that the ads were not seen.

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

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

[Agenda Items 9-12 were addressed after the Presentations.]

9. **Motion**, Ron Nagai - to approve various Public Works services in amount not to exceed \$14,000.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Nagai, seconded by Mr. Cohen: to approve various Public Works services in amount not to exceed \$14,000.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nagai distributed and explained “The Un-Official, Non-Sanctioned . . . General Costs for Median Island & Streetscape Development.” There was discussion regarding services available, logistics and funding, including only funding pothole repairs for now and leaving tree wells and other work for later. Concern was expressed that cleaning results can be washed or blown away in the next rain or high winds.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Ms. Cracium) without any objections.

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

10. **Motion**, Sue Hammarlund - to approve \$2,000 for Jumps for the 4th of July Spectacular in Porter Ranch.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Ms. Leveque): to approve \$2,000 for Jumps for the 4th of July Spectacular in Porter Ranch.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Ms. Hammarlund) without any objections.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote, with Mr. Cohen opposing.

There was discussion regarding logistics and outreach.

11. **Motion**, Mel Mitchell - to approve contracting for PRNC accounting activities with the designated DONE accounting company at their agreed upon terms and fees.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Cooper): to approve contracting for PRNC accounting activities with the designated DONE accounting company at their agreed upon terms and fees.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Cracium explained that DONE approved accounting assistance for NC Treasurers.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Ms. Cracium) without any objections.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote, with Mr. Cohen opposing.

12. **Motion**, Mel Mitchell - to submit the PRNC 2009/2010 Budget to DONE using the same percent allocations by category as in the 2008/2009 Budget.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to submit the PRNC 2009/2010 Budget to DONE using the same percent allocations by category as in the 2008/2009 Budget.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Mitchell explained that the Motion is to save time due to the coming DONE Budget submission deadline; the Budget can be amended later.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Ms. Cracium) without any objections.

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous hand vote.

**Presentations:**

James Don, Assistant General Manager, City Department of Aging.

Mr. Don distributed "Senior Focus" brochures. He stated that the Department's "mission . . . [is] to help seniors live in their own homes as long as possible." Most of their funding is federal, some State, and they coordinate with L.A. County services. They have a "home-delivered meals program" different than Meals on Wheels. A Case Manager assesses the need for food and other in-home services, such as landscaping. Legal services can also be arranged. Health services include medication management, family care giving, caregiver respite, Companion Program, and a Health Insurance Counseling Program. There's a new Fire Dept.-sponsored fall prevention program. An Emergency Alert Response System provides in-home push-button alert service, and an Emergency Information card can list contact, doctor and other emergency information. Employment training and a roommate matching service is available. All services are available in different languages. "Each multi-purpose Center has on-demand transportation . . . to take seniors grocery shopping," etc. Minimum qualification ages are around 60-62 years, with training at 55.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), distributed "2009/2010 Budget Briefs" and "DWP Water

Rate Information” newsletters, and distributed and described a “Senior Citizen Nutrition Program” flyer.

Ms. Cracium distributed flyers regarding and announced free “Movies Under the Stars” at Holleigh Bernson Park June 13, 8:00 p.m., starting with “Hotel for Dogs.” Also, there’ll be an Aliso Canyon cleaning and a picnic on the City Hall south lawn. Ms. Leveque distributed flyers regarding and announced a “S.O.L.I.D. [Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire] Fundraiser” June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., in which Islands Restaurant will “donate 20% of your food and beverage purchases back to the L.A.P.D.”

Hilary Norton, Executive Director, Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic (FAST).

Ms. Norton distributed “Short-term Solutions to Get Los Angeles’ Traffic Moving Again” and “Rand Highest Impact Recommendations” materials, and displayed slides describing FAST, “a non-profit public-private partnership.” They’re 2/3 privately and 1/3 publically (by the City and the MTA) funded. She reviewed problems and statistics of L.A. traffic. The Rand [a research organization] recommendations are about “permanently changing behavior.” Their #1 recommendation is “Improve signal timing,” including between communities. It’s a challenge to create and include parking in business areas. Business Improvement Districts can be created with congestion pricing; a pilot project is being done. Bicycle lanes and other opportunities are being explored. Studies could be done, such as regarding having special buses to event locations such as Dodger Stadium.

There was extensive discussion of transportation needs and alternatives. New funding is available. The main bureaucratic resistance to alternative transportation solutions is that 1) no one will use it, and 2) no funding is available. There was extensive discussion regarding how an NC can support FAST; possibly, through the new Neighborhood Grant Program.

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

Mr. Mitchell declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:35 p.m.