

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 7, 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 6:10 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

All 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 approximately 17 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Singh): to approve the Agenda for this July 7, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

4. Secretary, Ali Dabirian - Motion to approve unapproved Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Ms. Leveque): to approve the Minutes of the June 2, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

5. Treasurer, Christopher Cooper - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Treasurer's Report" dated "7-Jul-2009" and a "[PRNC] Funds Yearly Allocation." The DONE (L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) 2009-2010 Budget submission deadline was met. The PRNC began the 2009-2010 Budget Year with a balance of \$46,196.93. The City reduced annual NC budget funding from \$50,000 to \$45,000 per year. Including that allocation from the City, and subtracting three current outstanding checks, the NC will have \$86,322.66 available to allocate this year.

The Fire Station Eight awning has not yet been purchased. The Castlebay Lane Elementary School copy machine that was funded by the NC cost slightly more than was allocated.

MOTION (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Cracium): to approve the July 7, 2009 Treasurer's Report as presented.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cooper recommended having a Budget Meeting to discuss NC allocations for 2009-2010. Mr. Mitchell suggested that the Meeting be held in August. Mr. Cooper clarified that the "[PRNC] Funds Yearly Allocation" represents possible 2009-2010 allocations. Ms. Leveque noted that the city allocates \$4.5 million per year for NCs and today the City spent \$4 million for the Michael Jackson memorial service. Mr. Cooper explained that City allocations are "departmental transfers"; checks are not issued. Mr. Nagai volunteered to call DONE to ensure that the \$8,000 for beautification gets transferred.

MOTION PASSED with Mr. Cohen opposed.

6. Executive Board Election.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.] Mr. Mitchell explained the procedure. Ms. Levegue volunteered to temporarily Chair the Meeting until this Item was done. Positions available included: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

MOTION (by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to re-elect the current slate of PRNC Executive Board Members.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cooper declined to run again as Treasurer.

Ms. Cracium nominated, and Mr. Aregs seconded, Mr. Mitchell as President. Mr. Mitchell was **APPROVED** as President, without any objections.

Mr. Mitchell nominated, and Mr. Nagai seconded, Ms. Cracium as Vice-President. Mr. Nagai nominated, and Ms. Cracium seconded, Mr. Singh as Vice-President. Ms. Cracium was APPROVED as Vice-President, with eight votes; Mr. Singh received three votes.

Mr. Cooper nominated, and Mr. Nagai seconded, Mr. Dabirian as Secretary. Mr. Dabirian was **APPROVED** as Secretary, without any objections.

Mr. Cohen nominated Mr. Chauhan as Treasurer: Mr. Chauhan declined the nomination. Mr. Mitchell nominated Mr. Singh as Treasurer; Mr. Singh declined the nomination. Ms. Hammarlund nominated, and Mr. Cooper accepted the nomination as Treasurer. Mr. Cooper was unanimously **APPROVED** as Treasurer.

Ms. Leveque turned the Chairmanship of the Meeting back to Mr. Mitchell.

Sean Rivas, Outreach Chair of the Granada Hills South NC and for the recent Valley Regional Congress, presented a Certificate of Appreciation, on behalf of L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon, to the PRNC for its participation in the Congress.

Stakeholder Jeannie Plum announced that, for a project at DeSoto Ave. and Rinaldi St., the L.A. City Council approved a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that changes other CUPs; she believed this is a dangerous precedent. The Sierra Canyon High School athletic field will have activities west of DeSoto which had previously been prohibited. She contended that Councilman Smith wouldn't allow opponents to speak at the City Council Meeting in which this was discussed, at which around half of the 200-300 people attending were lobbyists. The Chatsworth NC is opposed to the CUP. Mr. Mitchell encouraged Ms. Plum to contact Mr. Aregs, PRNC Land Use Committee Chair.

7. Motion, Sue Hammarlund - to approve up to \$1,000 for the Disaster Preparedness Event at the Granada Hills Street Fair.

Ms. Hammarlund explained that the event "draws around 10,000 people every year." DONE will pool NC allocations toward the event. Emergency preparedness supplies, such as flashlights, would be purchased for distribution at the around 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. event.

MOTION (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Cooper): to allocate up to \$1,000 for the Disaster Preparedness Event at the Granada Hills Street Fair.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Cohen is concerned about what the money will be used for. Mr. Rivas explained that an Emergency Preparedness Planning Committee exists; the PRNC and other NCs have supported the event, which draws people from as far away as Burbank and Sunland-Tujunga. Each participating NC would distribute emergency preparedness and outreach materials. Ms. Park elaborated that the money will purchase event support and outreach items, and pay for the booth and rental fees. Ms. Leveque supports the event and has been on the organizing Committee. Mr. Aregs and Mr. Cohen believed that the funds would be better spent in Porter Ranch; Mr. Nagai would like the money used to reestablish the 50-50 Sidewalk Repair Program and cleanup in Porter Ranch. (Applause.) Mr. Singh believed that "shared NC expenses have more impact . . . These alliances are proving very beneficial." Mr. Cooper agreed with Mr. Singh and added that, when there've been disasters, such as the train wreck and fires, there was no discussion: communities helped each other. Stakeholder Gloria believed that NC discussions haven't been about Porter Ranch, while the area has deteriorated.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Aregs): to allocate up to \$500 for the Disaster Preparedness Event at the Granada Hills Street Fair.

Ms. Hammarlund **ACCEPTED** the amendment.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED with six in favor and four opposed.

8. Motion, Christopher Cooper - to request funding for the placement of 5-6 recycling containers for the public use for an amount not to exceed \$1,000. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Mr. Cooper explained this Item and Stakeholder Laurie Kaneal introduced herself.

MOTION (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to request funding for the placement of five or six recycling containers for the public use at Holleigh Bernson Park for an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Kaneal distributed a map and explained that a "bigger effort" can be made to recycle and educate children about it. She'd request that the bins be placed in high-traffic areas. Ms. Park will see if the City can provide bins.

MOTION TO REFER (by Mr. Cohen): to refer this to a Committee for further study.

MOTION TO REFER FAILED because the Motion was not seconded.

MOTION TO REFER (by Mr. Aregs, seconded by Mr. Cracium): to refer this Item to L.A. City Council District 12.

MOTION TO REFER PASSED without any objections.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), announced that the Councilman introduced a Motion to give water conservation exemptions to equestrians and elderly persons. The next Movie Night ("Madagascar") will be July 11th at sundown at Northridge Park; there'll be free root beer floats and the pool will be open 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.; 400-500 people attended last time.

Mr. Mitchell read a letter from Vivian Ihori, Castlebay Lane Elementary School Principal, thanking the PRNC for their support, including funding to purchase a new copier.

9. <u>Motion, Mel Mitchell - to subscribe to Constant Contact Internet-based email service for an amount not to exceed \$100 per month.</u>

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.] Mr. Mitchell explained that the PRNC "e-mail system doesn't work anymore and is unreliable." Constant Contact would cost approximately \$30 per month.

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to subscribe to Constant Contact Internet-based email service for an amount not to exceed \$100 per month.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rivas mentioned that, if this kind of service is obtained through DONE, it would cost less.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

10. Motion, Mel Mitchell - to acquire a PRNC phone number for an amount not to exceed \$25 per month.

Mr. Mitchell explained that this would probably cost around \$10 per month.

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Aregs): to acquire a PRNC phone number for an amount not to exceed \$25 per month.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion regarding the merits of having the service.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

11. Discussion, Bright Aregs - Land Use Committee update.

Mr. Aregs was concerned that there aren't enough Board Members attending Committee Meetings. There was extensive discussion regarding what constitutes a Committee Meeting and how many Board Members can attend, and meeting-setting procedure and attendance. Mr. Cohen doesn't "know who's on the Committees" or when they meet. Mr. Chauhan doesn't like the way the NC is organized. There was extensive discussion regarding Mr. Cohen and Mr. Chauhan being notified regarding Committee Meetings. Ms. Cracium reminded that PRNC Meetings are posted on the website and at the five required locations, and also mentioned on automatic phone calls made to Stakeholders.

12. <u>Discussion: the GHNNC's request to review the PRNC Bylaws regarding the</u> definition of PRNC's eastern boundary, Aliso Canyon.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Mr. Mitchell explained that the Granada Hills North NC (GHNNC) is requesting the PRNC to review the PRNC Bylaws. Eric Rosenberg, GHNNC Board Member, introduced himself and distributed an explanatory letter. He elaborated that the PRNC's eastern boundary is basically the GHNNC's western boundary; that the boundary is in Aliso Canyon Park; that neither NC's Bylaws are clear to DONE about exactly where that boundary is; and that DONE has asked the GHNNC "to coordinate with the PRNC to define this boundary more accurately." A majority of the GHNNC would like to include the entire Park in their area. The City Attorney says that the GHNNC Bylaws mean that the western edge of the Park is the shared boundary.

Mr. Cooper added that a funding consultant is working on a Park Use Plan that went to the City Council. Ms. Leveque recommended asking Aliso Canyon residents their opinions. Ms. Hammarlund would like the boundary to be "the bottom of the creek bed." Mr. Cohen believed that the GHNNC would do a better job of preserving Aliso Canyon and should be given the whole Park. Mr. Aregs thought, and Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Hammarlund agreed, that this issue should be referred to the PRNC Land Use Committee for study. Sue DeVandry, GHNNC Board Member, explained that the GHNNC needs to change their Bylaws and wants to work with the PRNC. Mr.

Singh asserted that more Stakeholder views should be heard before the PRNC decides on this issue.

Ms. Leveque would like to share the Park and for the PRNC "to contribute money" to it "to have some control over what happens there." Ms. Cracium thought "that this is a Bylaws / entire Board issue, not a land use issue." Mr. Rosenberg added that the City Attorney interpreted the PRNC Bylaws to indicate that the PRNC's eastern boundary is the west end of the Park, and that the GHNNC needs to change their Bylaws by August 10th. Stakeholder Wendy Moore offered that each neighborhood would want to have some say and that the Park should be split between the two NCs. Another Stakeholder described that the east side of the Park has mainly single-family residences, while the west side has the City's largest "K-overlay" zone of mainly horse owners. Mr. Rivas indicated that the Granada Hills Recreation Center maintains the Park and encouraged contacting the Center, at which he works, regarding Park maintenance needs and problems. Mr. Rosenberg invited the PRNC Board to the next GHNNC General Board Meeting Monday at 4:00.

13. <u>Discussion, PRNC Budget.</u>

Mr. Mitchell indicated that this Item was discussed in Item #5.

Mr. Mitchell announced that there'll be an August Board Retreat. There was extensive discussion regarding the location. Ms. Cracium volunteered to coordinate and plan a Retreat date.

A Stakeholder voiced that re-sealed streets are in worse condition than before the re-sealing.

Mr. Mitchell **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 9:12 p.m.