

**PORTER RANCH**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**General Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, October 6, 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., introduced himself and explained Meeting procedures.

**2. Roll Call**

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

Nine of the 11 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Absent: Mandhata Chauhan. Also attending were approximately 20 Stakeholders and Guests.

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), reported that motor vehicle burglaries have increased; residents should not leave valuables in their cars. The Devonshire Division will be holding its first Halloween Haunted House October 23-24, 6:00-10:00 p.m. at the Devonshire Station [10250 Etiwanda Ave., Northridge, CA 91325; 818-832-0633; [http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire\\_community\\_police\\_station](http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station)]. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

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

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve the Agenda for this October 6, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

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

The following correction to the September 1, 2009 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested:

Page three, Item #10: "Mr. Singh and Mr. Chauhan volunteered to represent the PRNC at the event" should read "Mr. Chauhan volunteered to represent the PRNC at the event."

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to approve the Minutes of the September 1, 2009 General Board Meeting, as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

5. **Treasurer**, Christopher Cooper - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the October 6, 2009 meeting.  
Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Treasurer's Report" dated "6-October-2009" and the "DRAFT PRNC [Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council] 2008-2009 Actual versus Budget YTD [FIRST DRAFT] Corrected, Current as of 10-1-09." DONE [the L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment] has not indicated whether or how much of the rollover funds will be available. Therefore, "Total Funds Available" as of this date ranges from \$24,923 with no rollover funds to \$70,824 with all rollover funds.

Mr. Singh reported that the NC should get some funds back from its allocation to the May 30th Valley Regional Congress; enough funding was received for DONE to return some of the funds. Mr. Cooper reported that he received a letter from DONE stating that the NC might not receive rollover money from the last fiscal year and that the NC should budget for the \$45,000 that was allocated this fiscal year.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Cracium): to accept the October 6, 2009 Budget as presented.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

6. **Announcement**, Mel Mitchell - Establishment of a PRNC ad hoc committee to help plan for the new Porter Ranch School and to prepare a letter to the LAUSD requesting that the PRNC and community be part of the process in the selection of the operator of the new school.  
Mr. Mitchell announced that Committee members are Mel Mitchell, Becky Leveque and Ali Dabirian. Mr. Cohen wanted to know how, after the new School is built, School boundary changes will affect which students attend the new School and which students will continue to attend Castlebay Lane Elementary School.
7. **Announcement**, Mel Mitchell - Establishment of a PRNC ad hoc committee to evaluate and select a vendor of Website and PR Services for 2009/2010.  
Mr. Mitchell announced that Committee members are Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Cracium and Mr. Aregs.
8. **Approval** - the PRNC draft a letter requesting the construction of a children's swing set area in Holleigh Bernson Park.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Nagai): for the PRNC to draft a letter to the L.A. Dept. of Recreation and Parks requesting the construction of a children's swing set area near the present children's play area in Holleigh Bernson Park. The swing set area shall be approximately 20 feet by 20 feet and contain four to six swings.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Cohen read a letter he drafted which includes information on a swing set which he requested to be placed at Holleigh Bernson Park. Ms. Leveque suggested that Mr. Cohen meet with City Council District 12 staff to see if the NC can share the cost of the play area with the Recreation and Parks Department. There was discussion regarding giving all Board Members an opportunity to review a typed version of the letter.

**MOTION to TABLE** (by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Nagai) this Motion until the letter is typed and distributed to Board Members for their consideration.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**9. Presentation Request**, Peggy Burgess Stakeholder and Member North Hills West NC Land Use Committee - Proposed Sepulveda VA Project.

Ms. Burgess spoke in opposition to the project and asked if she could speak more about it at, and Mr. Mitchell agreed to agendize it for, the next [November 3rd General Board] Meeting, along with someone in favor of the project, so that the NC can hear both sides. She added that 11 NCs are opposed to the project. Ernie Hilger, Life Member of the Disabled Veterans of Vietnam, also spoke against the project.

Stakeholder George Whitman said that, by his house on Calle Vista Circle, there's been an increase in street racing because neighboring streets now have speed humps. He asked the Board how he can get speed humps installed on his street. Ms. Leveque volunteered to help and Mr. Cooper suggested asking the Volunteer Surveillance Team for assistance.

Mr. Singh announced the Congress of Neighborhoods [registration is at <http://parc3.lacity.org/done/donereg>; the schedule is at <http://parc3.lacity.org/done/donereg/addWorkshops.cfm?eventid=14>. Questions: DONE, (213) 485-1360; [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org)] on Saturday October 10, 2009. Those interested to attend need to RSVP because breakfast and lunch will be served.

Budget Discussion: "How to Spend the Remaining PRNC Funds through June 2010." It was explained that, if the NC is not allocated the rollover funds from the last fiscal year, [approximately] \$25,000 remains to be spent this year. Vivian Ithori, Castlebay Lane Elementary School Principal, asked the NC to help fund approximately eight

laptop computers because new textbooks have a technical component which can only be accessed by a computer. Mr. Mitchell agreed that the NC will consider that in regard to allocating education funds in this budget. Mr. Cooper described Budget allocations as follows: Elections, 6%; Outreach, 16%; Community Projects, 40%; Education, 13%; Public Safety, 13%; and Administration, 11%.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Ms. Leveque): to approve a budget of \$20,400 with the following allocation percentages: Elections, 6%; Outreach, 16%; Community Projects, 40%; Education, 13%; Public Safety, 13%; and Administration, 11%; and, specific to the following existing line items: software, \$200; ad development, newspaper ads, and public relations, \$5,000; refreshments, \$2,400; July 4<sup>th</sup>, \$2,000; Elections, \$4,000; Administrative Services, \$2,000; and website, \$4,750.

**DISCUSSION:** There was extensive discussion regarding budget allocation percentages and dollar amounts, especially in regard to whether rollover funds will be available. Mr. Cooper asked and Mr. Mitchell agreed to agendaize, for the next [November 3rd General Board] Meeting, hiring professional accounting services from AppleOne.

During this discussion, Mr. Cohen, then, later, Mr. Singh, left the Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** with six in favor, one opposed and one abstention.

Mr. Mitchell **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 9:20 p.m.