

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Approved General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 5, 2010
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. and explained procedures.

2. Roll Call

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

Nine of the 10 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Absent: Bright Aregs. Also attending were approximately 38 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 January 5, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Singh): to approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

5. Treasurer, Christopher Cooper – [See below Motion.]

Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Treasurer's Report" dated "5-Jan-2010"; the "DRAFT PRNC [Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council] 2010 Actual versus Budget YTD [FIRST DRAFT] Adjusted"; the "[PRNC] 2009-2010 Mid Fiscal Year Budget Review"; and an "EmpowerLA" 9-11-09 "Roll-Over Funds" "Bulletin." He reviewed funding goals, budget obligations and monthly line items. DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] is auditing and determining rollover funds, and has revised credit card use. The City's Annual Budget Survey is available on the PRNC website [www.PRNC.org]. The beginning balance this month was \$46,196.93. The current balance is \$66,905.43. Mr. Cooper noted that the City has

said for NCs to “rely on their current year’s allocation of \$45,000.” He volunteered at the DONE Office, assisting with backed-up paperwork.

MOTION (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to accept the January 5, 2009 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Cooper added that the PRNC may use City-provided accounting services. Mitch Englander, Chief of Staff for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Mitch.Englander@lacity.org), indicated that the current City budget is \$7.2 billion and that around 3,000 City employees are expected to be laid off.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Semee.Park@lacity.org), announced that year-long “Northridge100” events are planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Northridge. Participants are sought, including stories and pictures.

Recess – There was a brief recess before Item #6 was addressed.

6. **PRNC 2010 Election Update** - Paula Cracium, PRNC 2010 Election Chair.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.] “EmpowerLA” January 14th Candidate Session flyers were distributed. Ms. Cracium explained that there’s still time for write-in candidates for the at-large position.
7. **PRNC Board Update** - Selection of a new PRNC Board member to fill the vacant at-large position.
[See above Item #6.] Candidates can apply through www.PRNC.org.
8. **Budget Update** - Identify projects for PRNC funding as Rollover Funds are available.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.] Mr. Mitchell suggested and it was agreed to **POSTPONE** this Item. It was also agreed that it would be a good idea to define projects and spend allocated money before July first.
9. **Motion**, Sue Hammarlund – [See below Motion.]
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Ms. Hammarlund explained the School’s dire financial situation and that this is a follow-up on the request of Vivian Ithori, Castlebay Lane Elementary School Principal. Computers were recently stolen from the School.

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

DISCUSSION: Ms. Cracium was concerned that \$6,000 would be more than 12% of the NC budget. There was discussion regarding NC funds availability. Ms. Leveque

suggested donating computers to PATH, who could insure the computers without the LAUSD deductible.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian; Amendment accepted by Ms. Hammarlund and Mr. Cooper): to approve the purchase of computers for Castlebay Lane Elementary School, for academic use only, for an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion regarding budgeted items and allocated funds.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

- 10. Update** - 2012 Porter Ranch School Committee report and Motion to accept. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Field Deputy Semee Park's report.] Mr. Mitchell described the project, which is "going to break ground any day." Ed Van Ginkel, LAUSD Senior Development Manager, Real Estate, and Christos Chrysiliou, Facilities Services Division, Real Estate, presented regarding the 10.4-acre Span K-8 School at Mason Ave. and Sesnon Blvd. It'll have classrooms, a multi-purpose center, administrative offices, a gym and an athletic field. They're now procuring contracts and estimate approximately 26 months of construction to finish by 2012. It'll only be a school, with no LAUSD offices. A Joint Use Agreement would be between the City and the LAUSD; facilities uses will be decided by a committee, with community input. The State's Civic Center Permit Law requires the facility to be available to the community. A Homowners Assessment Fee will help to defray the cost and there'll be set-asides for small businesses.

Mr. Englander pointed out that the School can also be a "central hub" for community groups and emergencies. Ms. Leveque explained that Stakeholders Dave Hasson, Tony Barton and others also helped "make this possible." Mr. Van Ginkel announced that this is the first time a Neighborhood Council "has helped get a school built."

[This Agenda Item was addressed again after Item #8.] Mr. Mitchell explained that there's a need to define the 15 hours per week mentioned in the Joint Use Agreement and that the PRNC has established a "Policy Regarding Use of Joint Facilities." Mr. Van Ginkel described how the Principal can be consulted regarding facility needs and that that PRNC "could allow another group to use your hours . . . but it wouldn't be a sub-lease." Mr. Mitchell added that a PRNC Joint Use Agreement Committee is to be established and that Councilman Smith's Office agrees with the PRNC policy.

MOTION (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to accept the PRNC Policy Regarding Use of Joint Facilities.

MOTION PASSED with seven in favor; Ms. Leveque and Mr. Mitchell abstained.

11. Discussion - Continue discussion from the November 10, 2009 PRNC meeting regarding plans for the 160-acre Veteran's Administration facility in North Hills. Matthew Bobney, of U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman's Office, distributed a "Sherman Announces Agreement to Ensure VA Housing is Veterans Only" flyer and described the Congressman's efforts to serve veterans and other community members, including regarding the Sepulveda VA housing project. He read a statement from the Congressman regarding the project and noted that the Congressman "disapproves of the VA's agenda . . . [and] has tried to make a bad project better." He said that the Congressman's agenda, from the beginning, has been to expand medical services for veterans and oppose this project, adding, "The Congressman has never been on the side of the developer in this issue."

Peggy Burgess, Member, North Hills West NC Land Use Committee, believed that "the project can't go forward" until community groups support it. Stakeholder Michael Gumber claimed that there's been a "systematic effort by the federal government to eliminate veterans care." Ms. Cracium pointed out that the PRNC Board already unanimously agrees that more veterans care and a hospital are needed. A Stakeholder contended that an Enhanced Use Lease "is the first step the VA takes when they want to get rid of property" and that the VA has been planning for at least 21 years "to divest itself of the Sepulveda VA." There was very extensive and passionate discussion regarding the issue. Dora Gallo, Chief Executive Officer, A Community of Friends [ACOF; 213-480-0809; www.acof.org], encouraged everyone to work together to achieve both housing and medical care. Loyd Ray, Board Member, North Hills West NC, said "It's a done deal; we're trying to undo it . . . It's a giant sober living house."

Stakeholder Mark Reed requested and Mr. Mitchell agreed to agendaize this issue for a vote at the next PRNC General Board Meeting. Mr. Chauhan said that "the land should not be given away to somebody else." Mr. Singh said, "There should be a veterans hospital, not housing." Mr. Nagai asked Mr. Mitchell to put on the Agenda for the next [February 10th] General Board Meeting "for the VA to rescind the leases" and suggested the following Motion for then: "that the PRNC draft a letter to the VA asking the VA to rescind the Enhanced Use Leases with New Directions, et al and recommission Buildings 4 and 5 for medical purposes." Mr. Dabirian declared that "the lease should be revoked." Ms. Hammarlund declared that "there shouldn't be any leases given out to anybody . . . it should be for the veterans." Mr. Cooper announced that he'll "vote to rescind the leases." Ms. Cracium indicated that she "will probably abstain" based upon the assertion that all Porter Ranch Stakeholders oppose the project. Mr. Mitchell expressed that "we want to be sure that this property" is used for veterans. There was continued discussion.

It was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:30 p.m.