

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 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 6:07 p.m. and explained procedures.

2. Roll Call

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Bright Aregs, Mandhata Chauhan, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Ron Nagai, Pat Pope 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: Christopher Cooper (Treasurer); and Ali Dabirian (Secretary). Also attending were approximately 42 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 March 9, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

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

Mr. Mitchell explained that Mr. Dabirian was unable to attend; he suggested and it was agreed to TABLE approval of the Minutes until the next General Board Meeting.

5. Treasurer, Christopher Cooper

Mr. Mitchell explained that Mr. Cooper was unable to attend as a Board Member; he suggested and it was agreed to TABLE this until the next General Board Meeting.

6. Update, Paula Cracium - PRNC Elections 2010

Ms. Cracium explained that Election results aren't official yet and are due March 11th. There'll be five business days for challenges; the NC "should be able to seat the new Board Members by the next [General Board] Meeting." Mr. Mitchell explained that Mr. Nagai, a founder of the NC, was outvoted in the election; Mr. Mitchell encouraged Mr. Nagai's continued participation and the Board thanked him for his service.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Semee.Park@LACity.org), announced a "Ride On" Pancake Breakfast Saturday,

9:00 – 2:00, and a Valley Wide Student Art Show March 21st, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Chatsworth Train Depot [10038 Old Depot Plaza Rd., Chatsworth, www.aieac.org, 818-610-2050]. The City Council “sent back to Committee for further study” regarding cutting ambulance services. She encouraged continuing e-mailing Council District Offices about it. Mr. Pope explained that Fire Station 28 is one of the “slowest” in the City; if it’s cut, the nearest ambulance would be at Devonshire St. and Winnetka Ave. He explained the difference between ALS (Advanced Life Support) and BLS (Basic Life Support) ambulances. He, Ms. Leveque, Mr. Cooper, Stakeholder Wendy Moore and other Stakeholders together drafted a letter about this to Councilman Smith. Mr. Mitchell added that a draft “factual” letter is on the NC website [www.PRNC.org]. Board Members agreed that the letter and the community’s efforts made an impact and a difference on this issue. Ms. Leveque suggested that one reason Fire Station 28 may be one of the “slowest” is that minor injuries are more often taken care of by Porter Ranch-area Stakeholders than, for example, in the downtown area.

Christopher Cooper, speaking as a Fire Department employee while in uniform, described Department services and the shifting of personnel and equipment due to the City financial crisis. The shifting saved the City \$40 million this year. The Department’s annual budget is 98% salaries. He encouraged complying with the City’s brush clearance Ordinance, which saves homes. Fire response time goals are for 90% of responses to be within five minutes. Medical emergency response time goals are for 90% of responses to be within eight minutes. The Porter Ranch goals are being met. Citywide, 89% of fires are responded to within five minutes and 87% of medical emergencies are responded to within eight minutes, “well above the national average . . . [of] 69%.” This is based upon a fire truck moving 35 miles per hour. The call processing standard is 45 seconds to get the name, problem, location and other information; “Firefighters have 60 seconds . . . to get dressed in the appropriate attire . . . [and] leave the Fire Station.” His Fire Station “normally does that in 35 seconds.” The standard Fire Station “coverage area is one and a half miles . . . Generally, there’s three minutes of ground time.”

Battalion 15 Chief John Biggs (818-756-8615; John.Biggs@LACity.org) described the Fire Department hierarchy, and Battalion 15 coverage area and equipment, which includes eight Fire Stations. The Battalion has 250 employees working in three shifts. Battalion 15 has “the same footprint” as the LAPD’s Devonshire Division. All badged personnel are EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians). He described Department medical services and noted that transport by the Department to a hospital costs much more than the City is charging. Chief Biggs described and answered questions regarding different Fire Department response scenarios. If you call them, first describe your request as “medical” or “fire.” Staff Assistant Adam Knabe (818-756-8623; Adam.Knabe@LACity.org) described hospital Emergency Room procedures. Chief Biggs related that, citywide, there’re 1,200 “incidents” per day; each “incident” can include multiple “responses.” He gave third quarter 2009 response statistics and relayed that Councilman Smith said at today’s City Council Meeting that there’re double the number of ambulances in the City based in Fire Stations than there were ten years ago. Chief Biggs said, “The numbers aren’t there” to support stationing an ALS in

Porter Ranch. Special events, such as Independence Day, will be supported with additional personnel and equipment. Regarding CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] and other emergency preparedness programs, the City is deciding which are core services and which are non-essential.

There were extensive questions and answers regarding Porter Ranch, City response concerns and priorities. Chief Biggs clarified that “no one’s talking about closing a Station.” He added that the City’s 60,000 fire hydrants cost \$25-\$41 per hydrant to test, while the DWP cost is around \$200 per test.

7. Update, Bright Aregs - Land Use Committee Meeting on Sat., February 27, 2010.

This Item was not addressed.

8. Motion, Paula Cracium - to amend the PRNC Bylaws: “Removal of a Board Member. A Board Member may be removed from the Board for good cause, including, but not limited to, disruptive conduct; interfering with Neighborhood Council business; violations of the Bylaws, Operating Procedures or Code of Conduct following a Board Member’s or Stakeholder’s submission to the Board of a petition which:

- 1) identifies the Board Member to be removed;
- 2) states the reason for removal in reasonable detail; and
- 3) contains the signatures of at least three (3) Board Members or fifty (50) Stakeholders.

The petition shall be delivered simultaneously to all Board Members and the matter placed on the Agenda in compliance with the Brown Act and scheduled for a vote at the next regular Board Meeting. A vote of No Confidence by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the attending Board Members shall be necessary to remove the identified Board Member forthwith. The Board Member who is the subject of the removal action shall have the right to deliver to Board Members a written statement about the matter and/or to speak at the Board Meeting prior to the vote, but shall not be counted as part of the quorum, nor allowed to vote on the matter. If a quorum of the Board is not present, the matter shall be placed on the Agenda of the next regular Board Meeting, and every Meeting thereafter, until such time as a vote is taken. The Board will consult with its legal advisor, the Office of the City Attorney, throughout the removal process.”

This Item was not addressed.

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

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Mr. Mitchell **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 8:15 p.m.