

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 6, 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 6:03 p.m. and explained procedures.

- 2. Update** - PRNC Election 2010 and welcome to incoming PRNC Board members. [This Item was addressed after #3.] Paula Cracium reviewed the March 2nd Election. Bright Aregs, Dick Rippey, Maha Batta, Mel Mitchell and Vas Singh were elected.

3. Roll Call

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

Ten of the 11 Board Members were present at this time. A quorum is seven or more, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Also attending were approximately 48 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Singh): to approve the Agenda for this April 6, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Ms. Cracium): to approve the Minutes of the February 2 and March 3, 2010 General Board Meetings as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Mr. Pope abstained regarding the February 2nd Minutes.

- 6. Treasurer**, Christopher Cooper - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the April 6, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Treasurer's Report" dated "6-Apr-2010," "DRAFT PRNC 2009-2010 Actual versus Budget YTD [FIRST DRAFT] Adjusted"; "DRAFT PRNC 2009-2010 Actual versus Budget YTD [FIRST DRAFT]" [with notes]; [PRNC] 2009-2010 Budget"; and copies of Jan. 29 and March 2, 2010 DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] Information Bulletins. He reviewed the budget

and reported that there's around \$11,000 left in the account. The \$46,196.93 in rollover funds were frozen by DONE. The credit card was used for \$9,228.86 in expenditures.

Mandhata Chauhan arrived at this time.

Mr. Cooper distributed copies of a "thank you" letter to the PRNC from Castlebay Lane Elementary School Principal Vivian Ichori. He described the School computer funding allocation status and suggested buying a fire extinguisher with surplus funds.

MOTION (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to approve the April 6, 2010 Treasurer's Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote.

7. Community speakers

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.] L.A. Fire Dept. Staff Assistant Adam Knabe (818-756-8623; Adam.Knabe@LACity.org) introduced himself and described Porter Ranch equipment and services. "Nothing has been decided yet about the Basic Life Support ambulance coverage . . . as of now, no cuts have been made." Some services shift to other Fire Stations, depending upon the time of day and conditions.

Mr. Mitchell introduced and Mitch Englander, Chief of Staff for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Mitch.Englander@lacity.org), agreed to make remarks. He described a community meeting this day and the City budget crisis. The City is close to agreeing to a deal with the LAUSD about the new school, which will have "added value to the community" with "a community room and a gym . . . at no cost to the community . . . a first . . . in the history of the LAUSD and the City . . . [There'll be a] new shopping center . . . [that's] family-oriented . . . [with an] upscale small movie theatre . . . [and] boutique restaurants." He presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mr. Nagai and Mr. Cooper for their "time and service to the community." Councilman Smith will "introduce a package of Motions" regarding DWP financial management, "a major [City] Charter reform effort." The Mayor wants to make one of the DWP Commissioner positions "available to the [NCs]." Mr. Nagai said "it's been an absolute privilege to serve this community . . . [and] this Board."

8. Motion, Christopher Cooper – [See below Motion.]

Mr. Cooper further reviewed the budget and remaining fiscal year needs. It was recommended and agreed to shift surplus funds into the Shepherd of the Hills Church July 4th event allocation to balance and zero out the budget. There was discussion regarding whether and how much to allocate for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new K-8 School at Mason Ave. and Sesnon Blvd., and for a local movie event. \$1,000 was shifted to "Gym Equipment" for the LAPD Training facility; \$2,000 for the Church's July 4th event; \$500 for the movie event; \$1,000 into the "Emergency Preparedness" category; and \$1,000 for the School groundbreaking ceremony, leaving a balance of \$1,152. There was extensive discussion regarding a film "sponsored by [City] Council District 12" to be shown at the Church. Ms. Hammarlund was concerned that the movie is "questionable." Mr. Mitchell believed that "it's an outreach opportunity for the [PRNC]." He requested and a straw poll of the Board indicated that a majority would support allocating funds toward the event. There was discussion regarding outreach since \$13,310 was just allocated.

MOTION (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Singh): to approve the revised PRNC Budget through June 2010.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote.

9. **Motion**, Becky Leveque – to donate up to \$999.00 from the PRNC Public Safety Fund to purchase items needed for Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire’s Annual Pancake Breakfast on May 15, 2010.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after City Controller Greuel’s presentation.] Ms. Leveque distributed a “SOLID” Pancake Breakfast” needed items list.

MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Singh): the PRNC collaborates with Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire for their annual Pancake Breakfast on May 15, 2010 in the form of allocating funds not to exceed \$1,000 to purchase needed event items and including outreach for the PRNC.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leveque described that the event gets 600-1,000 people and that the [event] money is going to be used to buy a new training facility for LAPD Devonshire Division Officers.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote.

10. **Motion**, Bright Aregs – for reform of the city’s regulation of wireless facilities as discussed during Land Use Committee Meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2010. Mr. Aregs distributed copies of a letter he wrote as the Land Use Committee Chair to the City regarding cell phone tower “pole installation/wireless regulation issues.” He described the urgency of the below Motion and that cell towers are being installed “around the City in public rights-of-way . . . There is no law controlling how they should look . . . [It was] discussed . . . twice at the Land Use Committee . . . We’re just following what 29 or 30 other [NCs] have passed.” There was discussion regarding that the Motion is very long and would best be presented at the next General Board Meeting. Mr. Aregs agreed to e-mail the Motion to Board Members and the Webmaster for [www.PRNC.org] website posting.

11. **Motion**, Bright Aregs – [See below Motion.]
Mr. Aregs described challenges regarding accidents at Rinaldi and Amigo.

MOTION (by Mr. Aregs, seconded by Mr. Dabirian): to write a formal letter regarding the stoplight at Rinaldi St. and Amigo Ave. to change the stoplight to three distinct arrows.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Aregs diagrammed and further described traffic conditions at the intersection. Stakeholder David Hassan clarified that “a separate phase” is being requested and recommended sending the letter to Caltrans, the LADOT and City Council District 12.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote.

Stakeholder Wes Rogers described that the Gas Company is “looking to expand the facility above Sesnon” to include installation of more high-voltage power lines from there to

Valencia. He reminded that it was determined that the Sesnon Fire was started by a downed power line. A judge allowed his protest of the project and there'll be a Hearing in San Francisco April 13th; he asked the CPUC for a Public Hearing in Porter Ranch. The project is "on private land on Gas Company property." He described legal and jurisdictional challenges and believed that "there should be an accounting of the management and safety of that facility." He'll return to give an update and has inquired about restitution of the \$12.5 million cost of fighting the Fire.

12. Election of PRNC Executive Officers

Mr. Mitchell introduced the new Board Members and Mr. Rippey and Ms. Batta spoke briefly about themselves.

President: Ms. Leveque nominated Mr. Mitchell, who was elected by a unanimous hand vote.

Vice-President: Mr. Mitchell nominated Ms. Cracium, who was elected by a unanimous hand vote.

Secretary: Ms. Cracium nominated Mr. Dabirian, who was elected by acclamation.

Treasurer: Ms. Batta volunteered and was elected by acclamation.

Ms. Cracium had to leave at this time.

City Controller Wendy Greuel swore in the new Board.

Presentation: City Controller Wendy Greuel, "The recent budget challenges and how the community and Neighborhood Council will be affected."

Mr. Mitchell introduced Ms. Greuel. She said that "the Controller's Office is most known for auditing," yet the staff is very small compared to other cities. They "do fiscal . . . and management audits" and are "responsible for letting the Mayor and the City Council know where we are in our fiscal situation." They process "vendor payments across the City . . . [and] payroll . . . [NCs] are a critical part of [how the City] operates . . . We can't function without Stakeholders being a part of the solution . . . [NC] funding process improvement recommendations are available on the City Controller website . . . 46% of City Controller recommendations in recent years were never considered by the City Council." Ms. Greuel described the City current fiscal year (ending June 30th) \$212 million budget deficit and next year's (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) projected \$484 million deficit. She "advocates that [the City] have a 5% Reserve Fund . . . around \$250 million . . . The Mayor said he'll transfer . . . \$90 million from the General Fund to the Reserve Fund . . . It'll leave us with around \$30 million in the Reserve Fund . . . Revenue will be around \$141 million less next year than this year . . . We . . . see property tax [revenue] going down . . . The City [is] looking at layoffs to help meet the budget deficit . . . We haven't made the structural change critical to the future of the City . . . This is not a time for politics; this is a time for leadership . . . It's an unknown" what the annual NC funding level will be. She guessed the amount to be set at between \$22,000 and the current \$45,000 per year. DONE is being downsized and on "DONE's website you can see any of the NC expenditures."

Mr. Mitchell declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:10 p.m.