

**PORTER RANCH**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**General Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

at 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., explained procedures and encouraged Stakeholders to complete a form to receive e-mailed information.

**2. Roll Call**

The Secretary noted that only Mandhata Chauhan and Paula Cracium (Vice-President) were absent. Board Members present: Mel Mitchell (President), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Bright Aregs, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Pat Pope, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh.

Nine of the 11 Board Members were present and no Board seats were vacant at this time. A quorum is seven, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Paula Cracium (Vice-President) arrived later. Also attending: 38 Stakeholders and guests.

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

Mr. Dabirian explained and it was agreed to TABLE approval of the Minutes until next month's General Board Meeting while more information is collected.

Mr. Mitchell mentioned that the letter to the City in support of the completion of the proposed bicycle lane on Rinaldi St. from Tampa Ave. to Mason Ave. is "underway."

**4. Treasurer, Maha Batta - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the September 7, 2010 meeting.**

Ms. Batta reviewed the Budget and expenses. There's \$55,000 left in this fiscal year's Budget. There was extensive discussion regarding the need to confirm a total of approximately \$2,500 for the "Commercial Photography" and "Wholesale Medical and Dental" allocations.

Ms. Cracium arrived at this time.

**5. Discussion: consider the VST letter request for funding of three GPS Kits at a cost not to exceed \$500.**

Mr. Mitchell explained that the best way to fund this would be as a grant and that the GPS kits "were priced at Best Buy." Ms. Leveque will have a Public Safety Committee Meeting discuss this and said that the VST (Volunteer Surveillance Team) is "very valuable to Porter Ranch." Mr. Pope explained the purpose of VSTs. Mr. Mitchell suggested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item until the next General Board Meeting.

**6. Update, Sue Hammarlund - PRNC Annual Retreat**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.] Ms. Hammarlund announced the October 2<sup>nd</sup> North Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair at Fire Station 87. It'll cost \$479.63. She described Preparedness Kit supplies.

Ms. Hammarlund suggested possible Retreat arrangements. Castlebay Lane Elementary School is a possible location. Mr. Mitchell asked and Mr. Aregs and Ms. Hammarlund will work together on arranging the event.

7. **Motion**: Sue Hammarlund – [see below Motion]

**MOTION** (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Ms. Batta): The PRNC will write a letter requesting that parking on Sesnon Blvd. bordering Bernson Park be allowed due to the limited number of parking spaces in the Park. Hours can be the same as the Park, sun-up to sun-down. This request will go to Councilman Smith's office and the L.A. Department of Transportation.

**DISCUSSION**: Ms. Leveque described the parking need. There was discussion regarding an action plan. Mr. Pope offered to call the Shapell/Porter Ranch Development Company.

**MOTION to TABLE** (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Ms. Cracium): The PRNC TABLES the above Motion pending further information from the PRNC Public Safety Committee, the developer Shapell and City Council District 12.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

8. **Motion**, Dick Rippey: [see below Motion]

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12 Mr. Martin's comment.] Mr. Rippey explained that there're Stakeholders who want a "Porter Ranch" sign. He described some history of the efforts and the City recognition procedure.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Rippey, seconded by Mr. Aregs): The PRNC approves an expenditure of \$300 to \$3,000 to have the City of Los Angeles officially recognize Porter Ranch as a community.

**DISCUSSION**: Mr. Rippey suggested installing signs on Rinaldi at Aliso Canyon; at the 118 Freeway at DeSoto; and at all major north-south streets such as Reseda, Wilbur, Tampa, Corbin, Winnetka and Mason, for around eight signs. Each sign costs around \$300. Signatures of 500 Stakeholders are needed who are "living or working in the area . . . They don't have to be registered voters . . . There's no age distinction." There was extensive discussion regarding Porter Ranch boundaries and sign placement.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Singh, accepted by Mssrs. Rippey and Aregs): The PRNC approves an expenditure of up to \$3,000 to have the City of Los Angeles officially recognize Porter Ranch as a community.

**DISCUSSION**: Stakeholder Beverly Mitchell expressed concern regarding spending funds on this while medians, parkways and other items need maintenance. There was extensive discussion regarding funding priorities and services needs. Stakeholder Ron Nagai suggested having "Residential Improvement Districts." Ms. Leveque responded that she contacted "hundreds of homes . . . No one wanted to do it." Stakeholder Irv Cohen stated that "we are responsible for our own private property . . . The government is responsible for public property." Mr. Mitchell noted that the PRNC has \$17,000 to spend.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with nine in favor and Mr. Mitchell opposed.

Mr. Mitchell clarified that the funds will be allocated from the “Community Beautification” Budget category.

**9. PRNC Committee Reports**

Ms. Leveque “already gave her report.” Ms. Hammarlund, for the Education Committee, referred to Castlebay Lane Elementary School Principal Vivian Ichori, who described their equipment need. Mr. Rippey volunteered to post Meeting Agendas. Ms. Cracium reported that the Outreach Committee will meet September 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. at Porter Valley Country Club and all are welcome. Mr. Aregs said that there was no Land Use Committee report.

**10. Update, Wes Rogers - status of the Canary Island Pine Tree Bark Beetle Infestation throughout Porter Ranch and Northridge.**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12 Ms. Phillips’ presentation.] Mr. Mitchell introduced Stakeholders Wes Rogers (WRogers1@socal.rr.com) and Jane Lowenthal. Mr. Rogers distributed flyers regarding dead Canary Island pine trees in street parkways. The trees on public and private property are being eaten by the beetles. “Deep watering two times per month to 12” below the surface” is recommended by the City Urban Forestry Division. Dead tree parts must be immediately removed to possibly save a tree. Dead trees attract termites and are a fire, pedestrian and traffic danger. There was extensive discussion regarding the extent of the problem and what can be done. The trees need to be ground up on site or the beetles will be moved in the dead tree.

**11. Presentation by Jessica Yas, Field Representative for Congressman Brad Sherman - National Park Service's "Natural Resource Survey of the Rim of the Valley Corridor"**  
Ms. Yas could not attend and there was no report.

**12. Community speakers**

[This speaker spoke after Item #5.] 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) and Senior Lead Officer Jeanine Angeles spoke. Officer Del Valle reported that property theft from vehicles is still a problem, especially on Canoga Ave. at the north end of Porter Ranch, including at the shopping center by Wal-Mart. He encouraged giving accurate location information when reporting crime. The VST is the Police’s “eyes and ears.” Recently the VST helped catch identity thieves breaking into cars. VST information is at (818) 363-1726; ask for Officer Mark Blizzard. Mr. Mitchell reminded that the PRNC has supported the VST for a long time. Officer Del Valle announced the Halloween Haunt; they’re also asking other NCs for \$500 funding. There’ll be 13 and under, and 14 and over sections. Officer Angeles said they “need people who know how to build sets . . . a couple thousand [people] visited last year.” She announced an October 15<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Italian fundraiser dinner at the Devonshire Station and clarified that Officers do traffic enforcement “when they’re not responding to other requests for help.”

There’ll be a “Community Advisory Meeting” at Patrick Henry Middle School September 15th at 6:00 regarding Valley Region High School #4. Contact George Bartleson at GBartles@lausd.net.

[This speaker spoke after Mr. Diaz-Carreras' presentation.] JoAnn Phillips, Northridge West NC Board Member, announced they "started operation Clean Sweep . . . on Tampa Blvd. . . Please join them . . . Saturday morning at Superior and Tampa at 7 a.m. . . . Bring gloves and a hat." Fifteen to 20 people are regularly there. She reported that the City said "they're no longer going to maintain the medians." She'll let the PRNC know the contractor cost. There was discussion regarding possible plants and procedures for maintaining and beautifying medians and parkways; "approved materials" must be used.

[This speaker spoke after Item #10.] Diana Shaw, 38th State Assembly District Candidate, introduced herself and mentioned that Assembly Bill 2756 regarding unhitched trailers is "on the Governor's desk."

Stakeholder Joe Martin was concerned about potholes.

**Presentation** by Juan Diaz-Carreras, Lead Supervising Environmental Scientist for MWH Americas, Inc.

The LADWP's Sylmar Ground Return Replacement Project is to increase the reliability of the existing electric grid. It includes replacement of overhead lines and underground electric cables that run from the Sylmar Converter Station in Sylmar to the Pacific Ocean. The project team is pleased to attend the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council to provide some background about the project, how the project may impact the community, and solicit feedback about the project.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Mr. Diaz-Carreras stated that "this system ensures reliability of the electric grid . . . Put in place in the 60's, it's deteriorating . . . There'll be an Environmental Impact Report [EIR] . . . [including] a traffic study . . . The existing towers will remain; a new line will be put [in place] of the existing line . . . That may require some street closures . . . [They're] anticipating construction . . . in 2012 . . . This is purely an emergency facility." The line won't carry electricity except when it's tested around twice a year and in emergencies. The nearest north-south street impacted is expected to be around Wilbur Ave.; part of the line runs along the 118 Freeway. Mr. Nagai was concerned that overhead lines are a possible terrorism target; he encouraged underground installations. Mr. Diaz-Carreras noted that "information is available on the [DWP] website [www.ladwp.com] . . . You can submit questions and comments . . . The Initial Environmental Study is expected to come out this month . . . The [EIR] will come out . . . next Spring."

**MOTION** (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): The PRNC ADJOURNS this Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

Greg Bartz, Neighborhood Council Liaison, L.A. Dept. of Water and Power (213-367-2800, Greg.Bartz@ladwp.com), distributed flyers and business cards for and reported on the LADWP 2010 Integrated Resource Plan, www.LAPowerPlan.org and LADWP "2010 Draft Power Integrated Resource Plan Public Workshops"; they'll discuss renewable energy.

Mr. Mitchell **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 8:47 p.m.