

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 5, 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 6:04 p.m. and explained procedures.

2. Roll Call

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Maha Batta (Treasurer), 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 take binding votes on Agendized Items. Also attending: approximately 126 Stakeholders and guests.

Board Members absent: Mandhata Chauhan (excused) and Ali Dabirian (excused).

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

Mr. Mitchell said that, due to Mr. Dabirian's absence, approval of the [September 7, 2010] Minutes would be **TABLED** until the next General Board Meeting.

4. Treasurer, Maha Batta - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the October 5, 2010 meeting.

Ms. Batta reported that DONE has charged \$7,862 to the PRNC so far this Fiscal Year, including \$888 from the Purchase Card. After DONE corrects an allocation the Purchase Card will again be available for use. No Motion was made.

5. Motion, Becky Leveque – [see below Motion]

MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Pope): The PRNC allocates an amount not to exceed \$500.00 for the S.O.L.I.D. pasta dinner to be held on Oct. 15, 2010.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leveque distributed flyers for a "S.O.L.I.D. `All You Can Eat' Pasta Dinner" fundraiser October 15th from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church and explained that the proceeds from the dinner will go toward a Police Simulator Training Center.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Pope); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED with five in favor and one opposed.

6. **Motion**, Becky Leveque – [see below Motion]

MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Pope): The PRNC allocates an amount not to exceed \$500.00 for the Volunteer Surveillance Team to purchase GPS systems.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leveque explained the VST.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

7. **Motion**, Becky Leveque – [see below Motion]

MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Pope): The PRNC allocates an amount not to exceed \$700.00 to be used to purchase items needed for the Halloween Festival at the LAPD Devonshire Division that will be held on October 29th and 30th.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leveque described that Officers build a haunted house, “a safe haven for children to go trick-or-treating.”

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

8. **Motion**, Outreach Committee – [see below Motion]
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.]

Mr. Singh left at this time.

Ms. Cracium reported that the Outreach Committee met and discussed “in great detail” the Moore Business Results contract regarding website maintenance and outreach.

MOTION (by the Outreach Committee): The PRNC allocates an amount not to exceed \$12,000 for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 for Website, Stakeholder Communications and Public Relations services by Moore Business Results.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Englander voiced that “a big part of Neighborhood Council work is outreach . . . [The City Council] looks to you . . . [Councilman Smith] wanted to offer [his] Office’s support.”

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Rippey); there were no objections.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote.

9. **Launch** a "Name the School" project to name the new Porter Ranch School that will serve 1,000+ K-8 grade students at the corner of Mason and Sesnon.
[See Item #12.]

10. **Update**, Dick Rippey - Rim of The Valley Special Resource Study meeting that was held on September 14, 2010.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Mr. Rippey described the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study covering 650,000 acres in L.A. and Ventura Counties “to determine if any of the area is eligible” to become part of the National Park System; part of Porter Ranch is included. There’ll be public input Meetings October 13th in Sylmar and later in Altadena. “The Study will not be finalized until 2014 . . . They only acquire land from willing sellers.” Jessica Yas, Field Deputy for U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; Jessica.Yas@mail.house.gov; www.house.gov/sherman), described that the area has drinking water, hiking trails and wildlife habitat. More information is available at www.nps.gov/pwro/RimOfTheValley and www.PRNC.org.

11. PRNC Committee reports

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.] Ms. Hammarlund reported for the Emergency Preparedness Committee that the recent “Preparedness Fair was extremely successful . . . [They] distributed 300 kits, one per family.”

12. Community speakers

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.] Mitch Englander, Chief of Staff for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Mitch.Englander@LACity.org), announced a cleanup October 9th 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. starting at Northridge Christian Church. “The YMCA parking lot expansion is almost complete . . . You’ll be able to access the trails from the parking lot.” The CD12 Office is “trying to get rid of the convicted felons” living in group homes; there’ll be a Public Hearing October 9th at 10:00 at the Braude Government Center. Unhitched trailer legislation was signed by the Governor “to give municipalities” the ability to restrict or eliminate them from parking on streets. “If the intent is advertising, they’re gone” whether hitched or unhitched. Legislation was submitted to the City Council “to get rid of them . . . The intension is not to issue permits for them.” Some Wilbur Avenue residents support the recent LADOT work there because traffic is slower and safer. The DOT did striping and other work without getting requested community input. CD12 will work to get the restriping undone before the holidays.

Flyers were distributed for and an October 7th, 7:00 p.m. “Devonshire Area . . . District Meeting” with Officer Mark Cronin at Shepherd of the Hills Church was announced.

7:00 p.m. Presentation – Shapell Homes will be presenting a check for about \$900,000 for the new Porter Ranch school as part of the Joint Use Agreement. These funds will provide special community enhancements such as bleachers in the gym and amenities in the multi-purpose room. LAUSD Board Member Tamar Galatzan will be on hand to accept the check on behalf of LAUSD.

Eric Fowler of Shapell Homes presented an \$894,322 check to Tamar Galatzan, L.A. Unified School District 3 Board Member (213-241-6386; Tamar.Galatzan@lausd.net). She thanked Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Leveque, Ms. Moore, Shapell Homes and others for their help in creating the School. Ms. Leveque described the need for the School and thanked Stakeholder Dave Hasson, Mr. Englander and Councilman Smith. The School conforms with the Porter Ranch

Specific Plan. She added that the Porter Ranch Homeowners Association will install “the wrought iron fences in the School . . . [It’s] scheduled to open in September 2012 . . . They’re broken ground . . . It’ll have a full gym [and] a Community Room . . . [They’re] hoping to partner with the YMCA . . . This School is going to serve a lot more purpose than educating our children” and Tamar Galatzan “was incredible in helping to get this School.” Mr. Mitchell noted that Stakeholders can submit possible School names by contacting the Board through www.PRNC.org. A School name will be recommended to the LAUSD in January 2011.

CSUN students in Health Sciences Public Education distributed copies of a “[CSUN] Health Science . . . Key Informant Survey” with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and seek feedback and information regarding Porter Ranch health concerns.

Ankwar Patel announced that L.A. Clean Sweep (<http://LACleanSweep.com>) is seeking City Council candidates.

7:15 p.m. Presentation - Ms. Rita Robinson, General Manager, Department of Transportation, City of Los Angeles.

Mr. Singh introduced Ms. Robinson. Her staff is reviewing e-mails regarding the Wilbur Avenue re-striping. She related that the re-striping process started with a State-required speed study “controlled by State standards”; they’re “trying to get more local control over speed limits” and many people expressed “concerns about speeding” and crosswalk safety, for which they used “traffic calming measures . . . We need to allow for multiple ways to travel . . . besides cars.” They needed “something there before school started” to avoid there being no striping on the streets, which would’ve caused liability and safety issues. “The decision needed to be made” so she ordered the work done. They’re “working on workable solutions . . . [and] trying to accommodate all the voices” requesting different transportation and safety solutions. Outreach funding increased to let the community know what’s happening. Ms. Robinson is “committed” to “make it better.” Stakeholders expressed concerns through questions to which Ms. Robinson responded. Holleigh Bernson Park was designated as Open Space and they’re working on parking issues.

Mr. Mitchell announced that the next PRNC General Board Meeting will be Tuesday, November 9, 2010, not the usual first Tuesday, due to November 2nd being election day.

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

MOTION PASSED and Mr. Mitchell **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 8:20 p.m.