



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 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 6:05 p.m. and explained procedures.

2. Roll Call

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Pat Pope, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh.

Nine of the 11 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The PRNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven, so the Board could take such votes. No Board seats were vacant at this time. Also attending: approximately 25 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent: Bright Aregs (excused) and Mandhata Chauhan (excused).

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

The following correction to the October 5, 2010 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested:

Page two, Item #8: strike "Ms. Singh left at this time"; Mr. (not "Ms.") Singh did not leave the Meeting early.

The following correction to the September 7, 2010 General Board Meeting Minutes was requested:

Page one, Item #4: strike the following last sentence of the Treasurer's Report: "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."

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 7, 2010 and October 5, 2010 General Board Meetings as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

4. **Treasurer**, Maha Batta - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the November 9, 2010 meeting.

Ms. Batta reported that the PRNC is experiencing trouble with DONE [the L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment] due to the fact that DONE posted other Neighborhood Councils' expenditures onto the PRNC account. The PRNC has approximately \$45,000 left in this year's Budget. DONE told the PRNC to rely on Purchase Card expenditures from the Credit Card Statements and not from the DONE website.

No Motion was made to allow more time for research with DONE.

5. **Motion**, Becky Leveque - to purchase three GPS Units for Fire Station 28, for an amount not to exceed \$750.

Ms. Leveque WITHDREW this Agenda Item because FS 28 had already acquired the GPS Units.

6. **Motion**, Pat Pope – [See below Motion.]

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Leveque): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council allocates an amount not to exceed \$500 for the purchase of a cordless Milwaukee Sawzall and blade kit for rescue work by L.A. Fire Department Fire Station Eight.

DISCUSSION: This allocation would be from Budget Line Item 300.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

7. **Motion**, Pat Pope – [See below Motion.]

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Leveque): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council allocates an amount not to exceed \$700 for the purchase of a Stihl 16" chainsaw primarily for brush and tree removal work by L.A. Fire Department Fire Station Eight.

DISCUSSION: This allocation would be from Budget Line Item 300.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

8. **Discussion** - about the City's Animal Services Motion to amend the Municipal Code to increase the allowed number of dogs and/or cats that a Los Angeles resident may own from three up to five.

Mel Mitchell stated that L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Greig.Smith@LACity.org; www.LACity.org/Council/CD12) wants the PRNC to weigh

in on his City Council Motion. Stakeholder Irv Cohen stated that he would be against the law. Ms. Cracium believed that the PRNC cannot make a determination at this time based on a lack of facts. A straw [unofficial] vote was held and a majority of Stakeholders present at the meeting were against the Motion.

9. PRNC Committee reports

Outreach Committee - Ms. Cracium announced a PRNC Holiday Party December 7th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Musashi Restaurant [19713 Rinaldi St., 818-360-8884] in Porter Ranch.

Police/Fire/Safety Committee - Ms. Leveque advised that for the holiday season Stakeholders should stay vigilant about leaving items visible in their cars.

Mr. Rippey reported that a petition for the City to install “Porter Ranch” signs has been circulating since September. Mr. Cohen was recognized for getting 60 names for the petition for the signs in Porter Ranch.

Stakeholder Wes Rogers reported that the Gas Company is attempting to expand their capacity by changing compressors from gas to electric. He believed that this would cause the Gas Company to double the amount of power lines.

10. Community Speakers

- a) Megan Cottier, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Megan.Cottier@LACity.org), reported that the Councilman introduced some reform measures that will be on the ballot next year. An LAPD Devonshire Division Toy Drive for at-risk youth is collecting toys in the CD12 Chatsworth Office.
- b) Brad Smith submitted a letter on behalf of some of the CD12 Candidates requesting that the PRNC hold a Candidates forum (see attached).
- c) Glenn Bailey reported that construction of the bicycle lane on Rinaldi St. should be started within 30 days.
- d) Mr. Mitchell spoke with Mitch Englander, Chief of Staff for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Mitch.Englander@LACity.org), who told Mr. Mitchell that the City Department of Transportation brought a change for striping Wilbur Avenue to the CD12 Office. The CD12 Office told the DOT to engage the community by working with a special committee, the Wilbur Working Group, which will hear the plans. Public meetings will begin by January 2011. Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Leveque and Stakeholder Guillermo Seta will attend as Porter Ranch representatives on the Wilbur Working Group.

11. Presentation by Jarrod DeGonia for Assemblyman Cameron Smyth.

Jarrold DeGonia, District Director for State 38th District Assemblyman Cameron Smyth (661-286-1565; Jarrod.DeGonia@asm.ca.gov), presented. The State has

lost a lot of revenue in the past three years. A Budget was enacted in October in which tax credits were retained. The State Correctional System was fully funded to avoid the early release of prisoners. Proposition 98 allows the State to spend 40% of the Budget towards education. The Budget approves the borrowing of five billion dollars from the federal government.

12. Adjournment

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

MOTION PASSED.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:15 p.m.