



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

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 6:09 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, 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 51 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent: Maha Batta (Treasurer) (excused) and Ali Dabirian (Secretary) (excused).

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

Mr. Mitchell explained and it was agreed to **TABLE** approval of the November 9, 2010 and August 10, 2010 General Board Meeting Minutes until the next [February 1, 2011] General Board Meeting. Copies of those draft unapproved Minutes were distributed to all present Board Members.

4. **Treasurer**, Maha Batta.

Ms. Batta was not present. Mr. Mitchell noted that, at the [July 1, 2010] beginning of the fiscal year, the PRNC had \$62,904 in available funds. Approximately \$8,100 in payments were made in the July-September first quarter and around \$10,800 in the October-December second quarter. It was agreed that around \$17,000 remains unallocated. Few funds have been spent on "Community Improvement." Ms. Hammarlund announced that she'll present funding requests at the February General Board Meeting on behalf of Castlebay Lane Elementary School Principal Vivian Ihori. Mr. Mitchell recommended having another Board Members projects planning breakfast meeting; Ms. Cracium explained that the annual meeting is usually held on a Saturday morning and attended by 30-40 people. The Board agreed to tentatively schedule the meeting for Saturday, February 5, 2011 at the Porter Valley Country Club. A Stakeholder wants more tree-trimming.

Megan Cottier, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Megan.Cottier@LACity.org), agreed to call the L.A. Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding getting radar speed signs installed on Rinaldi St. between Wilbur Ave. and Reseda Blvd., and on Reseda Blvd. north of Devonshire St. She encouraged calling 3-1-1 for pothole repairs and explained the street repair procedure, which usually includes either slurry sealing or, less often, complete repaving. She also encouraged chopping up and recycling Christmas trees.

Ms. Cottier noted that the unlicensed trailers law started January 1st; if you see one anywhere in Los Angeles, call 3-1-1 or her Office (818-756-8501). The DOT Parking Enforcement Bureau will tow them; no more tickets will be issued or having to wait 72 hours. They are allowed if attached to a vehicle. If you see an abandoned vehicle, call 1-800-ABANDON; give the license number and other identifying information, including what's being advertised, and the location. Mr. Pope noted that State 38th District Assemblyman Cameron Smyth and [now former] State 20th District Senator George Runner voted against the legislation. [Note: Wikipedia, 1-6-11: Runner "resigned on December 21, 2010 in order take a position on [the] Board of Equalization." There'll be a Primary Election on February 15th and a Special Election on April 19th.]

Ms. Cottier added that, regarding the Wilbur Avenue re-striping, there'll be a joint Meeting of CD12, the DOT and Neighborhood Councils. Also, if you see motor homes parked on Tampa call Jim Dellinger, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8784; Jim.Dellinger@LACity.org), or 3-1-1 with the license number, description and location; it can be towed after 72 hours. If you have a concern regarding cell towers or other land use issues, call CD12.

Donna Smith of the LAUSD distributed a "Valley Academy of Arts & Science" brochure regarding Hospital High School #4 on Balboa Blvd. by Devonshire St. opening in August. There're three proposals submitted to the LAUSD for running the School; the Board of Education will decide on one in the third week of February. There'll be Public Forums January 20th, January 25th 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 29th, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Monroe High School. Public non-binding advisory voting will be held at the January 25th and January 29th Forums. She explained who's eligible to vote and that the advisory-only voting will be conducted by the League of Women Voters.

Mr. Mitchell said that the L.A. City Fire Dept. thanked the PRNC for its support. Stakeholder Glenn Bailey thanked the PRNC for supporting construction of the bicycle lane on Rinaldi St. from Tampa to Mason; it's already being used. He added that sidewalk repair needed due to tree damage is now property owners' responsibility; if the City issues a Notice to repair the damage owners have 90 days to repair it or the City will do it and bill the owner for the repair cost plus a 40% administrative fee. See Council File #051853 at www.LACity.org. Ms. Cottier agreed to later report the Councilman's position on this.

5. **Discussion & Motion** - "Name the New Porter Ranch School Project" suggestions. Mr. Mitchell explained that Stakeholders can suggest a name for the School, 49 have so far been suggested and the most suggested is "Porter Ranch Community School." Ms. Leveque expressed that "the name should reflect what our community is." Stakeholders and Board Members suggested additional names.

6. **PRNC Committee reports**

There were no Committee reports at this time.

7. **Community speakers**

There were no community speakers at this time.

Presentation:

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Andy Carrasco, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) -- SoCalGas proposes to replace existing storage facility compressors with state-of-the-art technology to help meet the region's demand for natural gas. This project known as the "Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement Project" (ACTRP) also will result in a significant reduction of emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases at the site located in the Aliso Canyon area in Porter Ranch. Mr. Carrasco will speak about the ACTRP as well provide a pipeline safety briefing.

Andy Carrasco, Public Affairs Manager, Southern California Gas Company (310-578-2606), distributed a "[SCGC] Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement Project" handout, a "Gas Transmission and High Pressure Distribution Pipeline Interactive Map" and a "Be Safe" brochure and presented about the Project. He introduced himself and other SCGC and SoCal Edison staff and gave a slide presentation. Mr. Carrasco reminded not to heat with a stove or oven; it can cause carbon monoxide poisoning. You can call 24 hours a day for emergency service. More than 75% of pipeline damage is done by contractor or homeowner digging; if it happens immediately call 9-1-1 or the Gas Company [1-800-427-2200]. He described their operations and coverage area. Gas is stored 7,000 – 9,500 feet underground. Transmission is through "porous rock"; there are no Gas Company tanks and no pipelines that far underground.

The Project is just west of Tampa Ave. and north of Sesnon Blvd. in the hills. The Project is necessary because the California Public Utilities Commission is requiring them "to replace the obsolete turbine-driven compressors at the Aliso Canyon Storage Field." It will enable them to reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases by an estimated "reduction . . . [of] between 75% and 90%." Electric compressors will be installed 1 ¼ miles from the property line and make less noise than the turbines.

Construction traffic will increase for approximately 2 ½ years. However, after the Project is completed expect less traffic because less maintenance will be needed. The Project will be staffed all day, everyday. Expect construction to begin in 2011 and the Project to be operational by 2014.

Stakeholders expressed strong concerns regarding what they believe is the insufficient amount of and want more brush clearance under transmission lines, which is believed to have contributed to the October 2008 Sesnon Fire. Mr. Carrasco said that Gas Company brush clearance is in compliance with all governmental guidelines. Ms. Leveque believed that LAFD Fire Stations 8 and 28 should be fully staffed 24-7 due to the area's frequently high fire danger. Mr. Carrasco reported that records and testing have been checked since the recent San Bruno incident.

A Stakeholder was concerned that the facility's guard house being moved farther back into the hills could allow motorcycle riders and others to ride around the hills as they did years ago.

Mr. Carrasco announced that the Gas Company will host an Open House Community Meeting to discuss the Project on Tuesday, February 15th anytime between 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Porter Valley Country Club [19216 Singing Hills Dr., Northridge, CA 91326]. See <http://www.socalgas.com/aliso> [or call Susan Trigueros, Regional Public Affairs Manager, 1-877-830-2669].

Mr. Mitchell **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 8:39 p.m.