



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 1, 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 6:05 p.m. and explained procedures.

2. **Roll Call**

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Bright Aregs, Mandhata Chauhan, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Pat Pope, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh.

Ten 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. Also attending: up to approximately 85 Stakeholders and guests. Board Member absent: Paula Cracium (Vice-President) (excused).

3. **Secretary**, Ali Dabirian - Motion to approve unapproved Minutes: August 2010, November 2010 and January 2011.

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Singh): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 4, 2011 General Board Meeting as written and TABLES approval of its November 9, 2010 and August 10, 2010 General Board Meetings to the next General Board Meeting.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote without any objections.

4. **Treasurer**, Maha Batta - Motion [see below].

Ms. Batta showed a slide of the "PRNC Treasurer's Report 2010-[2011]" "Expenses," "Credit Cards" and "Checks." Expenses in the first two fiscal quarters totals \$19,047; \$43,858 is available for allocated and unallocated expenses. Mr. Mitchell announced Saturday's "Planning Meeting . . . [will discuss] new projects [the PRNC is] going to work on this year." Approximately \$17,000 in unallocated funding is available.

MOTION (by Ms. Batta, seconded by Mr. Dabirian): to accept the February 2, 2011 Treasurer's Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with no objections.

5. Ad Hoc Committee, Mel Mitchell - to appoint Irv Cohen as Chair of the PRNC 2011 Bylaws Committee.

Mr. Mitchell explained that BONC (the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) wants all Neighborhood Councils to “adapt their existing Bylaws structure to a standard format.” Stakeholder Irv Cohen reported that he, Mr. Rippey and Mr. Mitchell are reviewing the PRNC Bylaws “to reconcile . . . with the format” and he “hopes to give a final copy to [Mr. Mitchell] this Friday.” Mr. Mitchell encouraged comments.

6. Committee Reports

Ms. Leveque encouraged Stakeholders to sign the Sign-up Sheet to volunteer for the Public Safety and Hospitality Committees. Mr. Mitchell encouraged signing up to receive weekly PRNC e-blasts.

7. Community speakers

Mitch Englander, Chief of Staff for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Mitch.Englander@LACity.org), reported that “the DOT [L.A. Dept. of Transportation] has come back with a re-engineered plan” for the Wilbur Avenue re-striping to “go back to two lanes in each direction down to south of Devonshire, then gradually change to one lane . . . the bike lanes will stay but they won’t be as wide . . . there’ll be a public meeting within the next few weeks.” He described the no-unhitched trailers legislation recently implemented and encouraged completing the Mayor’s Budget Survey available at www.LABudgetChallenge.LACity.org [by February 27th].

Danny Del Valle, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (cell 818-634-0362; 27677@LAPD.LACity.org, or DelVallesw.45@att.net for urgent), reported that “crime for the area overall [is] doing pretty good . . . be aware when you’re using the ATMs.” Mr. Englander encouraged attending the LAPD Meeting here on February 24th.

Mr. Mitchell introduced U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; www.house.gov/sherman). The Congressman introduced and encouraged contacting Lisa Montano, Constituent Services Advocate (818-501-9200) or Deputy John Alford (818-501-9200) if you have any questions. The Congressman described his Office’s services. He “secured \$2.4 million to repave streets in the northwest Valley” and listed some other local projects. There’ll be a Town Hall Meeting at the new CSUN Performing Arts Center (www.ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org) on May 15th at 2:00 or 3:00; admission will be free. He described some current issues, including the Egyptian crisis and believed that “we should have a counter-terrorism policy, not a counter-insurgency policy” in Afghanistan. He spoke about the U.S. economy and the challenge of setting national policies that can effectively apply to the whole country. This area “is like the rest of the country except we make around \$5,000 more and spend it all on housing” and he believed that “gradually . . . [Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac] need to be pulled

back from the role they play in the economy.” He encourages all political parties to “tone down the rhetoric” and opposes the elimination of the home mortgage tax deduction. He was opposed to a plan for the Sepulveda VA that “didn’t include enough competitive bidding . . . we forced them to go back and give what they promised.” Congressman Sherman thinks “it should be a full-service hospital . . . in a clean and sober facility” and he worked to include community protections.

Mr. Mitchell introduced Tamar Galatzan, L.A. Unified School District 3 Board Member (213-241-6386; Tamar.Galatzan@lausd.net), who reported that “in the last two years the District has been hit by more than \$1.5 billion in cuts from Sacramento . . . it’s going to mean a lot of layoffs . . . the budget is bad.” It’s now okay “to put private business names on school buildings and fields,” which is expected to raise \$15-20 million per year. She explained non-Title One schools as having “fewer than 40% of the students qualify for a subsidized lunch” and believed that all “non-affiliated Title One schools will be charter schools within two years because of the [State] funding formula.” She continued that “it’s not true” that LAUSD schools “are sitting on millions of dollars . . . almost 100% of LAUSD’s money comes from the State . . . and a little bit of federal dollars.” She “votes every week” to put air filters in schools. The new Porter Ranch school “is a community school for the children of Porter Ranch . . . the attendance boundaries are partly a demographic issue.” The LAUSD is “moving towards . . . re-drafting the teacher evaluation tool . . . [and] including student achievement as one of the tools . . . The early-in-early-out calendar has been postponed for one year.” She described the challenge of charter schools “cherry-picking” students.

Stakeholder Natasha Ang expressed concern that library cuts have reduced services “vital to the community” and encouraged supporting Measure L on March 8th (www.YesOnLibraries.com) to increase the City Libraries budget.

Stakeholder Sean Nguyen, representing future Porter Ranch Town Center tenant Jazmine Thai Cuisine, said they’re requesting support for their Conditional Use Permit request for on-site consumption of beer and wine. They’ll open in the Spring.

Mr. Singh announced that the Gas Company will present about the Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement Project on Tuesday, February 15th, 4:00-7:00 at the Porter Valley Country Club.

Mr. Mitchell announced that “an equestrian center” will come to Aliso Canyon Park.

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

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:19 p.m.