



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

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

2. Roll Call

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Bright Aregs, 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: 28 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent: Ali Dabirian (Secretary) (excused).

[The following announcements were made at this time.] Mr. Mitchell announced that City Councilman Smith mailed a letter, available on the www.PRNC.org website, to the City Department of Transportation. He stated that "Councilman Smith is recommending that the LADOT immediately implement the Alternative Striping Proposal as presented to the Joint Neighborhood Councils Meeting on March 15, 2011." Also, the revised Bylaws was submitted to the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) before the deadline.

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

Mr. Mitchell indicated that, because Mr. Dabirian was not present, the Minutes of recent Meetings are unavailable to approve. There was discussion regarding how to approve those Minutes.

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

Ms. Batta reviewed the "[PRNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011: Revised on 3/1/2011." "Total Funds Available" is \$32,877. She reviewed recent expenses and the need to allocate remaining funds or risk losing the funding. Demand warrants must be submitted by April 15th. DONE indicated that no rollover funds will be available next fiscal year starting July 1st.

MOTION (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Ms. Leveque): to accept the April 5, 2011 Treasurer's Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote.

5. **Appointment**, Mel Mitchell - Dick Rippey as Chair of the PRNC 2012 Elections Committee and update.

Mr. Rippey described that the next Neighborhood Council elections will be in 2012. At a special Meeting of the City Education & Neighborhoods Committee also attended by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) and many NC Board Members the following was discussed 1) the City Clerk's running of the 2010 NC elections; 2) NC election voting alternatives; 3) NC elections outreach; and 4) NC election challenges. The City Clerk charged \$1.9 million, or around \$5,000 per vote for the last NC elections. It appears that NCs will run the next NC elections with around \$800,000 in help from the City Clerk.

6. **Appointment**, Mel Mitchell - Mandhata Chauhan as Chair of the new PRNC City Services Committee.

Mr. Mitchell described the mission of the new PRNC City Services Committee. He appointed and Mr. Chauhan agreed to serve as the Committee Chair.

7. **Motion**, Mandhata Chauhan - to approve the LADWP "Draft Citizen Committee Resolution."

Mr. Chauhan described attending the L.A. Dept. of Water and Power MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] Committee Meeting. Stakeholder Jim Savitz described the concept of an Office of Public Accountability and the time constraint for the NC to support it or not. There was discussion regarding whether and how to support the proposed Charter Amendment and extensive discussion regarding whether and how Mr. Savitz would have a continued role in representing the PRNC.

MOTION (by Mr. Chauhan, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council supports establishing a City Office of Public Accountability for the DWP as described in the proposed Motion (see attached).

DISCUSSION: Mr. Savitz noted that the proposed Motion will be updated.

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

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Batta abstained.

8. **Motion**, Bright Aregs – [see below].
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.]

MOTION (by Mr. Aregs, seconded by Ms. Cracium): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves an expenditure not to exceed \$10,000 for chairs for the Porter Ranch Library.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Irv Cohen described the Library's importance to the community and the need "to upgrade the Library's capital equipment."

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

9. **Motion**, Bright Aregs – [see below].

Mr. Aregs described landscaper estimates of \$3,800-\$4,600 to upgrade the exercise equipment in the park in Limekiln Canyon.

MOTION (by Mr. Aregs, seconded by Ms. Cracium): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves an expenditure not to exceed \$4,000 for Porter Ranch Beautification projects in Limekiln Canyon.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Aregs confirmed that it's a City park. There was extensive discussion regarding whether the PRNC can and how to work with the City to upgrade the exercise equipment.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

10. **Motion**, Sue Hammarlund – [see below].

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.]

MOTION (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves an expenditure not to exceed \$8,000 to purchase Document Camera and Projector bundles at the cost of \$1,200 each to meet the needs of Castlebay Lane Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: Vivian Ihori, Castlebay Lane Principal, described the projectors. There was discussion regarding the total and distribution of funding allocations in this Meeting and going forward. Mr. Pope was concerned whether funding is available to fulfill proposed allocations. Mr. Mitchell explained that around \$25,000 in unencumbered funds is available through the [June 30th] end of the fiscal year but must be allocated by April 15th and that other proposed allocations could be processed during the next fiscal year starting July 1st.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote.

11. **Motion**, Becky Leveque – donate up to \$5,000 for the LAPD FOSM (Force Option Simulator) Project at the Devonshire Division.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.] Ms. Leveque introduced L.A. Police Dept. Devonshire Division Assistant Training Coordinator Officer Mike Judge. She related that the total project cost will be \$30,000-\$40,000. Officer Judge described the specific training provided and that a new training facility is being built. The FOSM is to train Officers to choose which force, if any, to use, not only firearms. He showed a video regarding the Simulator and discussed its value to the Devonshire Division. Ms. Leveque confirmed that other Neighborhood Councils will also be asked to fund it.

[This Agenda Item was continued after Item #9.]

MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council allocates \$5,000 now for the LAPD FOSM (Force Option Simulator) Project at the LAPD Devonshire Division Station and allocates the

remainder of the PRNC funding available on June 15, 2011 for the rest of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 to the FOSM.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

12. Community speakers

[This and the following Public Comments were made after Item #1.] Student Yena from Cleveland High School announced the U.N. Global Debate (818-665-9380; ClevelandUN2011@gmail.com) Sunday, April 10th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. [at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 15950 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, CA 91344].

A Stakeholder announced a BudgetLA Meeting Saturday, April 16th, 10:00-1:00.

[The following speaker spoke after Item #7.] Megan Cottier, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; Megan.Cottier@LACity.org), reported on the recent City elections. The proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance sponsored by the Councilman is being considered by the City Council. There'll be a community cleanup Saturday; wear appropriate footwear, gloves, clothes that can get dirty, a hat and sunscreen. A Safe Center for hazardous materials drop off will be established at the site of the old Fire Station 87 on Balboa Blvd. and Devonshire St.

[The following speaker spoke after the first part of Item #11.] Jennifer Brent, Found Animals Foundation, Inc. (www.FoundAnimals.org), External Relations Manager. FAF is a Los Angeles-based privately funded nonprofit whose mission is to reduce the number of euthanized animals; 64% of sheltered animals are euthanized. Low-cost spay and neuter services are available. She described Foundation services that include free sterilizations; microchipping for easier pet identification; and adoption events. Ms. Brent encouraged to adopt, license and spay or neuter a pet.

[The following speaker spoke after the last part of Item #11.] Mr. Pope announced that a CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] class will be held at Sorrento in September or October. Contact PatrickPope@PRNC.org.

MOTION (by Mr. Rippey, seconded by Ms. Leveque): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:37 p.m.