



## PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

at Shepherd of the Hills Church, 19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch, CA 91326

#### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Vice-President Paula Cracium called the Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and announced that President Mel Mitchell was unable to attend.

#### 2. **Roll Call**

Board Members introduced themselves: Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Bright Aregs, Mandhata Chauhan, Sue Hammarlund, Pat Pope, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh. Becky Leveque arrived later.

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. Also attending: 43 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent: Mel Mitchell (President).

#### 3. **Secretary**, Ali Dabirian - Motion to approve unapproved Minutes: March 15, 2011 Joint NWNC/PRNC Meeting; May 3, 2011 and June 7, 2011.

The following corrections to the March 15, 2011 Joint NWNC/PRNC General Board Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page two, Item #7, last paragraph: add the sentence "Board was instructed that abstention for the purposes of this meeting equals a vote of NO. Board was instructed that 10 yes votes were required to pass LADOT compromise plan."

Page three, Item #9, first paragraph: "Robert Boulware has "had three accidents in front of his own house"" should read "Robert Boulware has "had three accidents in front of his house under 4 lane configuration. Much better with new configuration. Thanks Rita Robinson.""

Page three, Item #9, first paragraph: "Mary Finley said the current plan "cuts us off from our homes"" should read "Mary Finley spoke in favor of the current road diet because it added a center turn lane for left turns into and out of the street-locked communities that adjoin Wilbur."

Page three, Item #9: after the first paragraph add the paragraph "Alex Thompson asked "what would be an acceptable number of fatalities"

Page three, Item #9, third paragraph: "Paul Kirk said "85% of those 110 homes" along Wilbur "like what's out there" because they feel it's safer and "we should be encouraging people to walk"" should read "Paul Kirk said "85% of the 110 homes" in his street-locked community along Wilbur "like what's out there" because they feel it's safer, that the road diet makes the school crosswalks that lack traffic signals safer, and "we should be encouraging people to walk.""

Page four, Item #9, fourth paragraph: "Paul DiSimone said "the lights are backing up the street"" should read "Paul Di Simone lives on Wilbur spoke in favor of new config said Plummer light needs to be timed better."

Page four, Item #9, fourth paragraph: "He later said that he asked the DOT and was told that "there are less collisions now with the bike lanes in place than there were before"" should read "LAPD officer Krumer quoted Devonshire division officers "Incidents are down since the road diet was implemented.""

Page four, Items #10 and 11: add the following third paragraph: "Several members of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council objected to both alternatives presented by the DOT and said they would abstain from voting instead of endorsing either plan."

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 15, 2011 Joint NWNC/PRNC General Board Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections; Mr. Dabirian abstained.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 3, 2011 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections; Mr. Dabirian abstained.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 7, 2011 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections; Mr. Aregs and Mr. Dabirian abstained.

**4. Treasurer**, Maha Batta - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the July 12, 2011 meeting.

Ms. Batta reviewed the PRNC Treasurer's Report, and reported that DONE (the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) will pay outstanding Demand Warrants this week and that the Purchase Card is again available for purchases. No Motion was made.

5. **Discussion/Motion**: Mandhata Chauhan - status update regarding the LADWP proposed rate increase.

Mr. Chauhan reported that the DWP wants to use wind, not water to cool equipment. He encouraged feedback to the DWP regarding proposed rate increases.

Stakeholder Glenn Bailey announced a July 23<sup>rd</sup> special meeting for NC Board Members with the DWP. He recommended telling the DWP to postpone infrastructure replacement and rate increases until the economy improves. Megan Cottier, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Megan.Cottier@LACity.org), distributed a "Councilmember Englander Introduces Motion to Increase the Transparency of the DWP Rate Process" News Release and explained that the Councilman supports the Ratepayer Advocate Office being established before rate increases are considered. Ms. Cracium said that the www.PRNC.org website will have information. No Motion was made.

6. **Discussion/Motion** - Moore Business Results proposal for website and public relations services for fiscal year 2011/2012.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the Community Speakers.] There was discussion regarding services provided by and costs of the Webmaster. Wendy Moore described that she's "been working with the [PRNC] Board since 2004" and recently redesigned the www.PRNC.org website. She's gotten PRNC articles published in local newspapers and regularly e-mails information to Stakeholders. She noted that PRNC Board Meeting attendance is better than for most Neighborhood Councils. She explained that her quote of \$10,800 is 10% less this year to match the NC's 10% budget reduction and is within the DONE-recommended annual outreach allocations amount.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Rippey, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council accepts the Moore Business Results proposal and allocates \$10,800 for website and public relations services to be provided by MBR during the fiscal year 2011/2012.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

7. **Discussion**, Pat Pope - PRNC Bylaws Section 7.

Mr. Pope distributed copies of page four of the proposed "Bylaws for the [PRNC]" regarding Section Seven's Board Member absences from Board Meetings, as follows: "A Board Member shall be allowed no more than three (3) consecutive or a total of four (4) absences from Board Meetings per calendar year. Upon the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) absence the seat shall be declared vacated by the Board President. The seat shall then be filled by the procedure noted in Article V section 6." He was concerned that missing four of the 11 yearly Meetings is missing an unacceptable more than one-third of the Meetings. Some Board Members thought the Section unnecessary. There was extensive discussion regarding whether to enforce or revise Section Seven. A straw (unofficial) poll of Board Members indicated that three wanted to keep the Section as is and five wanted to change it. Everyone agreed that the Section is not personal and is about keeping the Board going.

## **8. Committee Reports**

There were no Committee reports at this time.

## **9. Community speakers**

Ms. Cottier introduced Erik Richardson, a new Field Deputy for Councilman Englander (818-756-8501; Erik.Richardson@LACity.org), who was born and raised in the area and graduated from CSUN. She reported that Movie Night was attended by around 400 people. The Councilman introduced a Motion “to provide shuttle service . . . to a lot of the businesses” in the area from the Orange Line extension; introduced a Motion “to install a remote access weather station” to better monitor fire conditions; and co-authored a Motion to strengthen unhitched trailer legislation. The Motions are available on the [<http://CD12.LACity.org>] website where you can sign up to receive weekly information e-mails. There’ll be an LAPD Devonshire Division Town Hall Meeting here August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The Holleigh Bernson Park basketball courts are temporarily closed to repair slippery surfaces.

L.A. Fire Dept. Station 28 Captain Jones introduced herself. She’s one of three new area Captains. Battalion 15 Chief Wes Elder introduced himself and is one of three new Chiefs. They both are familiar with staffing and other local issues. There’ll be a community fire drill later this year.

[The following Speakers spoke after the presentations.] Mr. Bailey reported that June 15th the City Recreation and Parks Dept. adopted policy Report #11-185 (available at [www.LAParks.org](http://www.LAParks.org)) allowing cell towers to be installed in City parks. The policy does not include any “time frame for notice to Neighborhood Councils.” He encouraged contacting City Councilmembers to request such notice to have a say in where towers are located.

Stakeholder Don Kramer of the Bellagio Homeowners Association reported that a cell tower was installed at Porter Ranch Dr. and Sesnon Blvd. 50 to 60 feet west of Porter Ranch Dr. by Sesnon by the Renaissance gate on public property. He believed that there were “irregularities and illegalities . . . in the way AT&T pulled this Permit.” Specifically, notice to nearby residents and the Neighborhood Council that AT&T claims to have provided was not provided and that the tower violates HOA covenants. He reported that “70% of the people who were supposed to receive letters did not.” AT&T testified to the City that “they had no other place to put it.” He relayed that the Bellagio and Renaissance HOAs want the cell tower moved “to a more appropriate location.” He’d like the PRNC to write a letter indicating they were never contacted despite AT&T’s claim. Mr. Kramer will send “a two-page executive summary” to Board Members.

LAUSD consultant Donna Smith reported that the voluntary Language Program at Topeka Elementary School will be moving to the new Porter Ranch school and that “boundaries are going to be decided” around the beginning of August. “Most of the students will be coming from Castlebay Lane; some from Germaine . . . there’s no

busing.” It’s part of a citywide program involving multiple languages. Ms. Leveque and Ms. Hammarlund expressed support for the program. Ms. Smith said “it’s still a neighborhood school . . . the principal is going to be selected . . . this month . . . this is not ESL.” Some Topeka students may move over, but “they won’t all be brought over.” The new school will start “K” through six or “K” though seven.” Ms. Leveque noted that “as the demographics change the boundaries of the school will change” and that the landscaping will be nice.

**Presentation and Motion** - Presentation by Meegan Taylor, TMG Solutions about the pending Permit by Whole Foods Market. Approval of Plans per 12.24M as required by the sunset clause of 10 years under condition No. 7 of ZA 2001-3076 (CUB) and to permit the continued sale of beer and wine for off-site consumption from an existing supermarket. The applicant is requesting no term limit for the grant. Ms. Taylor explained that it’s time to renew the beer and wine sales Permit for the store at Tampa and Rinaldi. It will have the same hours of operation and security arrangements. They’ve not had any citations for alcoholic sales to minors.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Aregs): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council recommends that the City of Los Angeles approve the Plans of the Whole Foods Market at Tampa and Rinaldi per 12.24M as required by the sunset clause of 10 years under condition No. 7 of ZA 2001-3076 (CUB) and to permit the continued sale of beer and wine for off-site consumption from the existing supermarket with no term limit for the grant.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

*Board Member Becky Leveque arrived at this time.*

**Presentation** - The Porter Ranch Development Company (PRDC) plans to substantially complete grading around the Porter Ranch Community School before opening which is scheduled for Fall 2012. They have some significant grading to do in close proximity to the school and want to have it largely completed prior to the arrival of students to avoid dust and noise concerns that could arise. They provided notice to the community in a letter dated April 6, 2011 that grading will occur north of Corbin between Porter Ranch Drive and Mason Avenue and around the school site, which is under construction at the corner of Mason and Sesnon.

Teresa Sousa of the PRDC (818-332-7224) introduced herself and distributed a “Porter Ranch Development Company Grading Operations FAQ Sheet” and a letter from the PRDC regarding “large-scale activities” at the project. The new school asked them “to do as much of the grading as possible before school starts.” John Muller of the PRDC introduced himself and displayed maps, saying “it’ll be a continuation of the Milano and the Renaissance projects.” He said “close to three million yards” of dirt will be moved and described the “haul route” and movement of dirt from the project. “The equestrian trail will be shut down during the grading operation for safety reasons.” The proposed 50-acre “park has not yet been designed or been approved by [City] Recreation and Parks.” He described the project’s eventual grading and topography. CEQA [California

Environmental Quality Act] and EIR [Environmental Impact Report] reports are done. Mr. Pope requested that local streets slurry-sealing work be coordinated with project dirt removal. A Stakeholder was concerned regarding grading and environmental impacts. Mr. Muller said the topography will “vary upwards to 100 feet” and they’re “a couple of weeks away” from starting construction. He encouraged making an appointment to visit their office and calling or e-mailing Robin Rattelsdorfer at RRattelsdorfer@Shapell.com to get and discuss more information.

Board Members expressed concerns about the amount and spreading of project dust. Ms. Sousa and Mr. Muller assured that they’ll handle it. Operations are scheduled for Mondays through Fridays from 7:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. except holidays. Ms. Cracium noted that the [www.PRNC.org](http://www.PRNC.org) has a previous Aldea presentation. A Bellagio Homeowners Association Board Member stated that their Board is against the project. Ms. Sousa said the project concept was approved ten years ago. A Stakeholder was concerned that the PRDC “has no contingency plan” in addition to the haul route that runs 30 feet from his door. Another Stakeholder replied that new construction is part of living in this area. Ms. Sousa and Mr. Muller encouraged contacting them if there is street damage, work outside of operating hours or other problems and indicated a willingness to consider alternative haul routes. A Fire Dept. Captain asked what plan the PRDC has if their heavy equipment starts a fire; Ms. Sousa and Mr. Muller responded that they’ll consider this.

*Board Member Maha Batta left around this time.*

Ms. Cracium declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:50 p.m.