
Paula Cracium, President Patrick Pope, Vice President, Eric Nam, Secretary,
Sean O'Rourke, Treasurer 1, Armando Nunez II, Treasurer 2 Becky Leveque,
Susan Hammarlund, Alex Kim, Cindy Lee, Cheri Derohanian, David Balen

General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 1, 2015

Porter Ranch Community School Multipurpose Room, 12450 Mason Ave., Porter Ranch

1. Welcome -- President Paula Cracium called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

a. Reminder to sign in and that it is completely optional and not required for attendance Ms. Cracium noted the above.

2. Roll Call – Secretary Eric Nam

Board Members who were present introduced themselves: Paula Cracium (President), Pat Pope(Vice-President), Eric Nam (Secretary), Sean O'Rourke (Treasurer 1) Armando Nunez II(Treasurer 2) Cheri Derohanian, Susan Hammarlund Becky Leveque. Board member Cindy Lee arrived at 6:07 p.m. Board member Alex Kim arrived at 6:09 p.m. The PRNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needed to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven.

Please see http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Porter_RanchNC-Bylaws.pdf so the Board could take such votes. 10 of the 11 Board Seats were filled either by appointment or election. Also in attendance were approximately 20 stakeholders and guests.

3. President's Comments and Updates - President Paula Cracium

Ms. Cracium just wanted to let everyone know that the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council's primary function is to give stakeholders access to City officials and agencies.

4. Community / Governmental Updates and Announcements

Mr. John Lee, CD12 Chief of Staff announced that the Los Angeles City Council has newly elected members who have just taken their seats. There have been new committee assignments and almost all of those committees have 5 members up from the previous 3 members. However, there are still some committees that have stayed with only having 3 members. Councilman Englander remains on the Public Safety Committee, Budget and Finance Committee and the Planning & Land Use Committee to name a few.

Jarrold DeGonia, Field Deputy, San Fernando Valley, Mayor, Michael D. Antonovich, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors informed everyone that the Hidden Creek project would be going back to the County as the developer of the property was amending his originals plans and would now be putting in fewer homes and adding a community center.

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Mr. DeGonia also wanted everyone to know that the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission had just opened and that the facility is a ninety-bed transitional facility geared towards families.

5. Presentation- Council staff from Councilmember Englanders office on New Park Design in Porter Ranch

Megan Cottier, CD12 District Director as well as three representatives from Toll Bros. were there to update the PRNC and the stakeholders on the development of the new park. The basic park design is similar to the current one being proposed. Ms. Cottier said while they want to make the park different, they want it to remain family oriented. Trails will be preserved and the parking will be ample which will accommodate approximately 170 vehicles within the park and an additional 75 parking spots for vehicles along the main driveway.

The proposed park will included equestrian trails which may connect with some of the existing trails, a community pavilion on 1 acre of land that can be used for things such as farmer's market and movies under the stars. There will also be two playgrounds that will accommodate different age groups of children. Other features may include a basketball court, tennis court and an area for pickleball. Ms. Cottier says they are hoping for conceptual approval in August 2015. The projected opening of said park would not happen until approximately two years for approval. Ms. Cottier would be leaving feedback forms to fill in their questions and information and return to her. As updates happen with the proposed park those individuals would then be informed.

6. Election of new PRNC board member- President Paula Cracium:

The PRNC had several applicants who expressed their interest in being appointed to the Board. Each applicant spoke about their desire to become part of the PRNC and what they hoped to accomplish by doing so. Each candidate also took questions from the board. The following applicants were considered prior to the PRNC vote:

David Balen
William Shin
Thomas Stramat

After some discussion, Mr. David Balen was voted in as the newest PRNC board member. Megan Cottier, CD12 District Director swore Mr. Balen in who then took his seat with the board.

The vote count was as follows: David Balen with 7 votes (Cracium, Derohanian, Leveque, Nam, Nunez, O'Rourke, Pope). William Shin with 3 votes (Hammarlund, Kim, Lee). Thomas Stramat with 0 votes.

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4. Community / Governmental Updates and Announcements

Kevin James, President, Public Works Board of Commissioners, stated that the Department of Public Works has approximately 3,000 employees making it the 3rd largest department in the City of Los Angeles. There are five bureaus which are broken into 15 Council Districts. Mr. James represents Council Districts 3, 12 and 15.

Mr. James stated that it is the goal of the Public Works Department to repave 2400 miles of streets citywide with the same budget as the previous year. There is also a \$1.4 billion sidewalk repair plan which will average out to approximately \$31 million dollars a year to complete said project. The sidewalk repair plan is a direct result of an ADA lawsuit filed against the City of Los Angeles wherein the plaintiffs demanded that the City of Los Angeles fix its damaged sidewalks. Repairs would happen in order of priority i.e. government facilities, hospitals, etc. During the 1st wave of repairs residential properties would be included. Mr. James also spoke about the gas tax distribution stating revenues for the City of Los Angeles have not increased because people are now driving more fuel efficient cars.

M. Jerry Gonzalez, Caltrans Manager says that although his department is equally manned and funded, they are also spread thin. The three things his department strive for is Safety, Preservation (maintenance) and Routine (graffiti and trash). Mr. Gonzalez also said that items such as graffiti that include profanity are given priority within the department. Several board members inquired as to why it seems that the 118 freeway constantly seems cluttered with large amounts of trash. Mr. Gonzalez says his crew regularly cleans up and down the 118 freeway, however he stated that he can clean-up one day and within 2-3 days trash has accumulated again. He also stated that his crew is responsible for other freeways. Mr. Gonzalez told the PRNC if they wished to "adopt" part of a freeway he would be more than happy to help facilitate that.

7. Motion – Secretary Eric Nam: Motion to approve June minutes. Ms. Leveque seconded the motion.

The June 3, 2015 minutes were approved as amended.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of nine of the ten eligible voters present with nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Derohanian, Hammarlund, Kim, C. Lee, Leveque, Nam, Nunez, O'Rourke and Pope). Presidents/Presiding Officers can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

8. Treasurers' Report -- Treasurer 1 Sean O'Rourke

This item was tabled until the August 5, 2015 at the request of Mr. O'Rourke.

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9. Motion – Treasurer 1 Sean O'Rourke: Motion to approve MER for June

This item was tabled until the August 5, 2015 at the request of Mr. O'Rourke.

10. Motion - Alex Kim: Motion to approve \$1000. To Northridge Host Town -Special Olympics World Games LA 2015. Funds will be used to support the housing, feeding, and presentation of Southern California cultural opportunities to these very special delegates from Azerbaijan, Malta and Vietnam to the Special Olympics World Games 2015 in Los Angeles. Ms. Lee seconded the motion:

Mr. Kim introduced Mr. David Honda, Special Olympics Fundraising Chair, says that the Special Olympics will are set to begin in Los Angeles on July 21, 2015. The PRNC would be listed in the program as a sponsor for their contribution.

After some discussion, Mr. Kim agreed to amend his motion as follows:

“Motion to approve \$1000. To Northridge Host Town -Special Olympics World Games LA 2015. Funds will be used to support the housing, feeding, and presentation of Southern California cultural opportunities to these very special delegates from Azerbaijan, Malta and Cambodia to the Special Olympics World Games 2015 in Los Angeles upon the successful completion of a Neighborhood Purpose Grant”

Megan Cottier, CD12 District Director stated that she would be more than happy to help Mr. Honda complete the necessary paperwork in regards to the Neighborhood Purpose Grant.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of nine of the ten eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Derohanian, Hammarlund, Kim, C. Lee, Leveque, Nam, Nunez, O'Rourke and Pope). Presidents/Presiding Officers can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

11. Discussion - Vice President Pat Pope: Discussion on submitting a Community Impact Statement regarding Council File 13-1493 to legalize and regulate sidewalk food vending.

Pat Pope began the discussion stating that he previously had sent the entire board an email regarding this issue. Mr. Pope also handed out an overview on the Sidewalk Food Vending issue with three alternatives going before the City Council.

1. Status Quo: Make no changes in the code
2. Full access: Allow vendors to operate anywhere in the city, as long as they are licensed and meet new city regulations and County health standards

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3. Limited access: Allow vendors to operate in Special Districts, as long as they are licensed and meet new city regulations and county health standards

Sidewalk food vending is currently illegal to do so but is rarely enforced. However, the issue has gained support for it to become legal with neighborhood council's having some input as to how it should be regulated.

Although sidewalk food vending is not an issue in Porter Ranch and after some discussion, it was voted upon via a straw vote that the PRNC would support such issue with limited access to the sidewalk food vendors. The wording of the Community Impact Statement was agreed upon to reflect proposals to make sidewalk vending legal in special districts, to urge the city to hire the maximum number of inspectors, to have Neighborhoods Councils approve all permit requests, and that there be an annual review of all permits by NC's.

STRAW VOTE PASSED by a hand vote of nine of the ten eligible voters present with eight in favor (Pope, Nam, O'Rourke, Nunez, Leveque, Kim, Lee, Derohanian) and one opposed (Hammarlund). Presidents/Presiding Officers can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.

12. Discussion - Armando Nunez: Discussion regarding sending a letter in support of the CSUN Sustainability Department- offering to partner with and assist their efforts at hosting workshops in Council District 12 in which will inform residents and business owners on the following topics:

- 1. Residential Energy Savings, Tips and Rebates**
- 2. Community Solar Program**
- 3. Water Conservation and Landscaping Alternatives**

This is motion would only be in effect if they receive the grant from DWP which would fund the workshops. This letter would not be submitted with their grant proposal.

Mr. O'Rourke seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion it was voted upon unanimously via a straw vote that the PRNC would provide a letter of support. The CSUN Sustainability Department would have an answer regarding the grant sometime in September 2015.

13. Public Comment

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Mr. Glenn Bailey informed everyone that VANC meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Sherman Oaks Hospital which is located at 4929 Van Nuys Boulevard, Sherman Oaks beginning at 6:00 p.m. VANC discusses items such as the neighborhood council budget as well as neighborhood council policies. They also have featured monthly speakers from the city. Mr. Bailey said he was re-elected as a budget advocate and that PRNC board member Becky Leveque was also now a budget advocate.

Mr. Bailey also announced that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners rotates their monthly meetings throughout the City and that on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 they would be having their meeting at Van Nuys City Hall located at 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys beginning at 6:00 p.m. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Richard Fiss stated that the Annual State of the County Luncheon would be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at the Woodland Hills Country Club from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Everyone wishing to attend would need to RSVP to (818) 981-4491 by July 29th. Single tickets cost \$35.

Mr. Fiss also informed everyone that Mr. Kevin James, President of the Department of Public Works Commissioners would be speaking at Granada Hills High School on July 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Future meetings

The next meeting of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council would be on August 5, 2015. Future speakers would include Shappell in September, LAPD Deputy Chief Green (unconfirmed), Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer in November and the PRNC Holiday Party in December.

15. Motion to adjourn

Ms. Cracium made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Eric Nam seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.