



**Issam Najm, President; Susan Gorman-Chang, Vice President; Gabriel Khanlian, Secretary;  
Andrew Krowne, Treasurer; David Balen, Signer; Asaad Alnajjar  
Jason Hector; Alex Kim; Becky Leveque; Hassan Memarian; Jennifer Milbauer**

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC)  
Special Board Meeting  
Monday, 12 February 2018  
Porter Ranch Community School (PRCS)  
12450 Mason Avenue, Porter Ranch 91326**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

1. Meeting call to order
  - President Issam Najm called the meeting to order at 6:25PM.
2. Welcome
  - President Issam Najm welcomed over forty stakeholders and guests.

3. Roll Call
  - Jennifer Milbauer performed the roll call and the results were:

Here (5)	Asaad Alnajjar, Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Jennifer Milbauer; and Issam Najm
Absent (6)	David Balen, Gabriel Khanlian, Alex Kim, Andrew Krowne, Becky Leveque, and Hassan Memarian

- Quorum requires six (6) board members. Therefore, there was no quorum.
  - President Issam Najm informed everyone that without a quorum, there will be no meeting. However, David Balen and Gabriel Khanlian were at their HOA Board meeting next door and were going to come to the meeting as soon they are done at 7:45 PM.
  - President Issam Najm informed everyone that the meeting will not begin until we have quorum. In the meantime, he will open the floor for two agenda items only to proceed as planned:
    - Presentation from representatives of public officials to the Stakeholders
    - Presentation from the AQMD staff on the feedback they received from the community on the health study plan, and their path forward
  - However, President Najm noted that only stakeholders may ask questions and make comments to the representatives of public officials or the AQMD, and not Board members present until (and if) we have a quorum.
4. At 7:50, President Issam Najm called the meeting to order.



5. Roll Call: Secretary Gabriel Khanlian called the roll:

Here (6)	Asaad Alnajjar, David Balen, Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Gabriel Khanlian, and Issam Najm
Absent (5)	Alex Kim, Andrew Krowne, Becky Leveque, Hassan Memarian, and Jennifer Milbaur (had left at 7:40 PM).

- With six (6) Board members present, the quorum requirement was met. The meeting was officially open.
6. Motion to approve the January 10 PRNC Meeting Minutes
- David Balen made a motion to approve this agenda item; Asaad Alnajjar seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously
7. Motion to approve the January 30 PRNC Meeting Minutes
- Jason Hector had a correction to the minutes, reflecting conversation(s) with the Tree People (rather than Marina Landscaping).
  - Gabriel Khanlian made a motion to approve these corrected minutes; Jason Hector seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
8. Motion to Approve the January 2018 MER
- David Balen made a motion to approve this agenda item; Asaad Alnajjar seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
9. Discussion and possible action regarding the SCAQMD Presentation and Planned Health Study
- Asaad Alnajjar thanked Dr. Ghosh for her presentation, all the stakeholders who showed up.
  - Susan Gorman-Chang was interested in slide 24 which discussed getting the National Institute of Health (NIH) involved. The NIH funds intramural (college) research. Issam mentioned that PRNC would need to partner with an academic person who has a background with grant requests. PRNC may seek researchers from an R1 university (focusing on research, rather than teaching) such as UCLA, rather than CSUN, which is not R1, and is more focused on education.
  - Gabriel Khanlian would like the SCAQMD to hold an open forum Q&A town hall meeting not affiliated with the PRNC. This will give a chance for everyone including Board members to ask questions and get answers as stakeholders.
  - Jason Hector asked if Dr. Ghosh had reached out to the Regional Water Quality Control Board; “not yet” was her reply. Jason replied that the Water Board, especially Mr. Tang, is waiting for the root cause analysis. He feels that this requires more outreach. The Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) meetings often have over 300 attendees, whereas this meeting had less than forty people.
  - David Balen concurred with the remainder of the PRNC.
  - Issam reiterated that this was an informational session of data from the SCAQMD and he urged the SCAQMD to work with CD12 (as Councilman Englander represents the north valley) to host a town hall meeting. He asked if there was anything that the people of Porter Ranch can do to facilitate this town hall meeting.
  - Matthew Pakucko from Save Porter Ranch reported that the SCAQMD could have acquired \$22m, but settled for much less (merely \$1m). An underfunded bad health study is worthless.
  - Lane Semper reflected back on the last meeting in Diamond Bar. If the entire community would show up for these meetings, the people of Porter Ranch would fare better and not settle for merely a \$1m (rather than \$40m) health study.

- Issam noted that the community should express its dissatisfaction with the settlement to the AQMD Governing Board, which meets at Diamond Bar and receives public comments at all its meetings.
- A stakeholder thanked the PRNC as no one is getting rich volunteering for the neighborhood councils.
- Stakeholder Helen requested that the next time the SCAQMD hosts a town hall, please have someone at the meeting who can answer questions.
- Issam responded that when government attorneys get involved, their goal is to settle. The governing Board signed off, and the attorneys moved on to the next case. We should submit comments to the right people (which is the Governing Board) and not yell at the staff assigned to manage the health study.
- Stakeholder Helen replied that this is not just a simple case; this is the biggest methane explosion in the USA. The Department of Health and SCAQMD should protect the people of Porter Ranch, yet they take money from So Cal Gas.

10. Board member comments and committee updates

- The Safety and Transportation Committee, represented by Asaad Alnajjar, David Balen, and Gabriel Khanlian, introduced Francis Chuatoco from LADOT.
- Gabriel requested the return of stop signs to the intersections of Sesnon Boulevard and Via Palladino. This stop sign was removed after the new home constructions on the south side of Sesnon. He advised that the intersection was and is still used by kids to cross Sesnon to get to Porter Ranch Community School. It is very important to have a safe route for kids and parents to cross safely from the north side of the street to the south side of the street. He also stated that Porter Ranch Dr. North Bound at Sesnon Boulevard needs a dedicated left-turn lane. Currently there are 2 lanes. Both lanes are used for everything which causes a traffic backup for drivers making a left, making a right, guests entering Renaissance as well as Renaissance residents. There is plenty of room to make 3 lanes. One should be a left turn lane only, Middle lane should be for vehicles entering Renaissance ahead, and a right turn lane that should be used to make right turns onto Sesnon. That intersection gets congested frequently due to long lines entering Renaissance, which prevents cars making a left onto Sesnon.
- Gabriel Khanlian mentioned that the traffic light at Sesnon Boulevard and Mason Avenue needs updating. He also expressed concern about street racing in that area; perhaps rumble strips could be installed to slow the racers and make it a safer intersection which is located next to a new community being built, PRCS School and Renaissance.
- Asaad recommended a stop sign to allow for pedestrians (and reduce racing) along Reseda Boulevard between Sesnon Boulevard and Rinaldi Street. This is a one-mile steep stretch lacking a pedestrian crossing area. A month ago, a speeding car killed a male pedestrian.
- Asaad also reported that parts to repair the backlit traffic lights are on order.
- David Balen added that construction vehicles near Mason Avenue and Sesnon Boulevard lack guidance to return to the 118 freeway.
- Issam mentioned that there are many accidents at the 118 exit at Reseda Boulevard and Amigo Avenue. The vehicles coming down Amigo Avenue do not acknowledge traffic coming off the freeway (as their orientation is a little "off"), and those coming off the freeway do not acknowledge that people coming down Amigo Avenue can continue straight across Rinaldi to enter the freeway onramp.
- A stakeholder mentioned that the nearby intersection of Reseda Boulevard and Devonshire Street was recently rated as the #1 worst intersection in Los Angeles.
- If anyone has any further concerns regarding transportation issues, please telephone the LADOT's West Valley District Office at 818-774-4306.



- David Balen reported that he recently met with the crew at Fire Station #8 at 11351 Tampa Avenue. They would like a light to stop traffic as they leave their station at 60+ MPH. This traffic light could be very beneficial to protect the children in the area, especially those near the adjacent library. The firemen requested this safety feature several years ago but nothing happened.
  - Susan Gorman-Chang reported that the Sustainability Committee would meet at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 20, at Starbucks, 19759 Rinaldi Street. They look forward to having solar [rather than diesel power] at their April 14<sup>th</sup> event at the Holleigh Bernson Memorial Park.
  - Jason Hector reported that the Beautification Committee is planning participation in the April 14<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Celebration. The Tree People will be giving away trees at this event. The Beautification Committee needs to establish an RSVP system for this tree distribution.
  - There are approximately 51 pine trees along Tampa Avenue and many others throughout PR that are infested with the bark beetle. Jason has been discussing this issue with the LA Department of Urban Forestry. When you see the limbs and pine needles turning brown, than the tree may be infested with bark beetles. We need to get these trees trimmed, and possibly removed and replanted. However, if trees are replanted, they need watering commitment.
  - Perhaps the PRNC can host an “Adopt a Tree” drive at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Event? If residents commit to two-years of watering, than Porter Ranch can get new trees from the city. Issam recommended that we try to reach out to kids who would then take it to their parents. Then, the kids put ribbons around their trees. We cannot involve the schools, as that will involve the LAUSD. Jason added that the trees along Tampa Avenue could not be adopted for watering, as someone would require a 200’ hose to access the trees.
  - The Beautification Committee will bring some funding requests to the March PRNC meeting.
  - The Aliso Canyon Ad Hoc Committee will meet at 5PM on Monday, February 26, at the Porter Ranch Library, 11371 Tampa Avenue. They are working with SCAQMD to get a permanent fence line around the So Cal Gas facility. A backyard monitor reported very strong and reliable leaks throughout Porter Ranch. They hope that one day Porter Ranch has a permanent and independent fence line monitor around the So Cal Gas Facility, with no relationship with So Cal Gas.
  - Susan Gorman-Change and Gabriel Khanlian attended the DONE event in Tujunga and received PRNC’s 15-year anniversary certificate.
  - David Balen from the Homelessness Solutions Committee reported that they are moving in leaps and bounds; their last meeting had attendees from Shepherd of the Hills, as well as Clean Streets, Clean Starts.
  - Issam reported that the Outreach Committee modified the look of the survey card. They are waiting to hear back from the city if they can establish a business account for return postage. Otherwise, if they ask people to return the survey by using their own postage, there may be a significant decrease in survey returns. Jason recommended visiting the Post Office at 15701 Sherman Way to get return postage for approximately \$198. Issam asked Jason if he can look into the business account cost and logistics.
  - Wednesday, February 14, Issam will be in Sacramento to meet with Governor Brown’s office, as well as the Chairman of the California Energy Commission (CEC). He will report back to the board on those meetings.
  - Prior to tonight’s meeting, Issam had an interview with ABC/Channel 7, discussing the chemicals that were released by So Cal Gas at Aliso Canyon.
11. Public Comment on Matters not on the Agenda
- Stakeholder Lane Semper mentioned that attending hearings are imperative, yet people often have other things to do. Saturday, February 10, she met with representatives of the climate change division of NASA; they are interested in getting a table at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Porter Ranch Earth Day event.

12. Discussion and possible action for the PRNC board to send a letter to Council District 12 and Shappell Liberty Investment Properties requesting the formation of the Porter Ranch Arts Council
  - This agenda item was tabled because Susan would have to recuse herself, and this would break quorum.
  
13. Discussion and possible action to purchase a mobile solar power generator with a battery system for a cost of no more than \$3,000
  - Asaad Alnajjar and David Balen thought this was a great idea. In addition to public events, such as the Earth Day Festival, in the event of an emergency, PRNC will be the first neighborhood council to have people lined up to use it.
  - Jason Hector recommended purchasing something that is scalable, able to be altered and increased (via additional panels). Perhaps PRNC could get a better-quality item that is made in the USA. A cheaper version may lack a battery backup.
  - As this item could be purchased at the Home Depot, one could see it, inspect it, and [worst case scenario] return it.
  - Issam recommended that the Sustainability committee take on this purchase responsibility.
  - Stakeholder Lane Semper thanked the PRNC for considering this.
  - Gabriel Khanlian a motion to purchase this system with a battery backup; Susan Gorman-Chang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
  
14. Discussion and possible action to verbally define the PRNC boundaries for inclusion in the PRNC by-laws
  - The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reached out to Issam to say that they had a map of Porter Ranch, but did not have the specific street boundaries of the PRNC in the by-laws.
  - Issam Najm made a motion to define the PRNC boundaries as follows:
    - Northern Boundary:** City of Los Angeles boundary line from Browns Canyon Road in the west to the Northeast corner of Porter Ridge Park in the east.
    - Eastern Boundary:** The Eastern side of Aliso Canyon Park from the Northeast corner of Porter Ridge Park to Hesperia Avenue. Hesperia Avenue to the 118 Freeway. Aliso Canyon Park is a public area shared with the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council.
    - Southern Boundary:** The North side of the 118 Freeway from the Eastern side of Aliso Canyon Park to the East side of De Soto Avenue.
    - Western Boundary:** The East side of De Soto Avenue North of the 118 Freeway to Browns Canyon Road. East side of Browns Canyon Road North to the City of Los Angeles boundary line. City of Los Angeles boundary line.
  - Gabriel Khanlian seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
  
15. Meeting Adjournment
  - Issam Najm adjourned the meeting at 9:17 PM.