



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)
General Board Meeting
Wednesday, 8 November 2017
Porter Ranch Community School (PRCS)
12450 Mason Avenue, Porter Ranch 91326**

DRAFT MINUTES (PENDING BOARD APPROVAL)

1. Meeting call to order
 - President Issam Najm called the meeting to order at 6.19PM.
2. Welcome
 - President Issam Najm welcomed over thirty-two stakeholders, along with ten board members.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
 - Issam Najm led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call
 - Gabriel Khanlian performed the roll call and a quorum was declared.

Here (10)	Asaad Alnajjar, David Balen, Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Gabriel Khanlian, Alex Kim, Andrew Krowne, Becky Leveque, Hassan Memarian, and Issam Najm
Absent (1)	Jennifer Milbauer

5. Motion to Approve the September 23 PRNC Retreat Minutes
 - Gabriel Khanlian made a motion to approve this agenda item; Susan Gorman-Chang seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (9)	Alnajjar, Balen, Gorman-Chang, Hector, Khanlian, Krowne, Leveque, Memarian, and Najm
Abstain (1)	Kim
Absent (1)	Milbauer

6. Motion to Approve the October 11 PRNC Meeting Minutes
 - David Balen made a motion to approve this agenda item; Gabriel Khanlian seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (8)	Alnajjar, Balen, Gorman-Chang, Hector, Khanlian, Krowne, Memarian, and Najm
Abstain (1)	Kim
Recused (1)	Leveque
Absent (1)	Milbauer

7. Motion to Approve the September 2017 MER
 - Susan Gorman-Chang mentioned that she likes the new format.
 - Becky Leveque asked about the storage fees; those were pro-rated, as the storage facility was acquired mid-month.



- Andrew Krowne made a motion to approve this agenda item; David Balen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Treasurer’s Report

Budget Amount		\$69,506.35
Expenses to Date	Funding Requests	1,999.91
	Credit Card	3,104.89
Total Outstanding	Commitments	1,350.00
	Pending Payments	1,177.72
Net Available		\$61,873.83
Cash Balance		\$64,401.55

- Treasurer Andrew mentioned that the recovered funds from the prior fiscal year have been returned; PRNC now has their full amount of money. As the net available is nearly \$62k, it was requested that funding requests be brought forward. Otherwise, the unused funds must be returned to the city at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2018), and PRNC will never see it again. Issam mentioned that he has no problem not spending the money, and prefers that the money be spent wisely. Currently, there are no submitted Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) requests.
- A stakeholder thanked the PRNC for being a clear and positive voice.
- Stakeholder Maureen requested an explanation of the NPGs.

9. Presentation from Budget Advocates and Responses to Board/Stakeholder Questions

- Brian Allen, Treasurer for the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC), reported that the budget advocates are currently working on committees (he serves on five). He urged anyone with an interest in the city’s budget to please speak up and come forward.
- The annual regional budget day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2018.
- The city has assembled a 300+ page book about the conditions of the homeless, yet it remains unknown why we continue to have homeless, and why their population is growing. Susan asked about the research and funding for the homeless research; Brian replied that there is no funding; it is just a personal opinion that they will bring forward. He mentioned that these passed forty-years have seen an environment whereby people lack the resources to become or remain employed, and feel they do not have to earn their living.
- Susan urged Brian and everyone with a concern about the homeless to attend the Homeless Committee’s monthly meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month (December 7) at Starbucks in Porter Ranch.

10. Presentations from Representatives of Elected Officials

- Jarrod DeGonia from Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s office reported Ms. Barger and Councilman Englander from CD12 have tried to solve the homelessness problem; they see homelessness in areas where it never appeared before.
- The voters of LA County recently adopted Proposition H for a \$.25 sales tax increase, as well as Proposition HHH to help provide housing. In addition, the approved proposition 47, which reduced the penalty of certain crimes, has led to fewer arrests.
- Supervisor Barger feels that mental health is the key component in homelessness. It is debated if the jail system is the best place for the homeless. However, in jail, they are off than on the streets, protected from the elements, and receiving care. Ms. Barger feels that we cannot allow someone to die on the street.



- Section 5150 is part of the California Welfare and Institutions Code that authorizes an officer or clinician to involuntarily confine a person suspected of having a mental disorder that makes them a danger to themselves, others, and/or gravely disabled. Perhaps we should go to the state for a more uniform definition of gravely ill.
- Laura's Law is a California law that expands the definition of involuntary holds and allows for court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment for more than three-days. To qualify for the program, the person must have a serious mental illness plus a recent history of psychiatric hospitalization, jailing, or threats of serious violent behavior. However, a judge cannot mandate treatment.
- Jarrod reported on a homeless woman in Northridge who receives occasional treatment. However, she has developed a resistance to the drugs that are given to her.
- Someone asked Jarrod about the current status of mental health services; Jarrod feels that we must increase the quantity of available beds. Years ago, while Jarrod worked for Supervisor Mike Antonovich, the Olive View Medical Center of Sylmar expanded, leading to additional bed spaces.
- David Balen asked where we could place the homeless. A possibility was the veteran's administration; however, that is a very contentious issue.
- Jarrod reported that his deputy [Jason] is in Sylmar, discussing their National Guard Amory becoming a women's shelter. They also hope to renovate a 160-room abandoned hotel in the San Gabriel Valley into a homeless shelter.
- Becky asked that since LA is a sanctuary city, does that affect the homeless population? Jarrod did not have an answer to this issue.
- Jason Hector asked if perhaps we could have Kathryn Barger's road show to a PRNC meeting. Jarrod sounded very receptive to that idea.

- SoCal Gas Company sent a request to the state to reopen Aliso Canyon. Supervisor Barger immediately drafted a response. However, before that was sent, the state replied that they would maintain the status quo.
- During a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, Janice Hahn and Kathryn Barger directed the county health to increase their rules and environmental issues; this motion passed unanimously. At this time, the board feels they lack the authority to strengthen the code.
- Matt Pakucko, president and co-founder of Save Porter Ranch (SPR), asked about a long-term health study. There is currently \$1M set aside for this study. Assemblyman Dante Acosta requested \$3M. There was a request in the state assembly for \$35m, but that died in the appropriations committee. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) may be the best state agency to deal with this.
- Brian from the GHNNC asked about street vending and the 58,000 new homes coming to Valencia. Balboa Boulevard is already a disaster area, and there should be additional routes between the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. It is hoped that Newhall Ranch will increase truck as well as HOV lanes along the 5 Freeway. There may also improvements to the Old Road, but that could lead to more traffic along Balboa Boulevard and San Fernando Road.
- Gabriel Khanlian asked if Newhall Ranch could ever connect to Simi Valley. There are no plans, but there may be plans to expand Santa Clarita westwards, towards Fillmore and Lake Piru.
- A stakeholder mentioned that several years ago, while purchasing his home, a Chappell agent told him there were plans for Porter Ranch to expand over the hillside to Stevenson Ranch. Nothing ever became of that.
- In addition, someone expressed concern about street vending. Many street vendors lack any clean-up area, and are passing their germs along to people. A stakeholder mentioned that he saw on Next

Door.com a story of a corn vendor relieved himself on someone's front lawn, and then returned to selling corn without washing his hands. It is sometimes difficult to prove such violations.

- The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) has been a leader in the fight to end Homelessness and has implemented measures to accomplish this goal. HACLA has partnered with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to provide homeless incentive payments (HIP) to landlords to house applicants from HACLA's homeless assistance programs. LAHSA will transfer City funds to People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), who will issue a check directly to a landlord upon receiving the HIP request packet from HACLA.
- Stakeholder Lane stated that we should get the ball rolling by working with Senator Henry Stern and his senate bills 801 (Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility: electrical grid data: electricity demand reduction and response: energy storage solutions) and 57 (calling for a natural gas storage moratorium). Perhaps the city and county could advertise the advantage of electric vehicles.
- Hassan Memarian asked how families can apply for section eight and halfway housing permits; Jarrod replied that these are difficult as every situation is unique. He told the story of a landlord in Chatsworth who is running a halfway home. When confronted, he replied that these people are his family. The county cannot determine if they truly are his relatives. If you find that you are living next door to a halfway home, please develop a paper trail to research these sober living homes.
- Another stakeholder asked why Aliso Canyon is so different. When the blowout happened, there were questions about which government entity should take responsibility. The actual Aliso Canyon determination rests with the state.

11. General Public Comments on matters that are not on the Agenda

- Stakeholder Lane Semper has asked for vegan food at PRNC meetings for two years; she is thrilled that this has been accommodated. She also brought vegan cookies. It is best to adopt a healthy vegan diet; factory farming causes 15% of pollution.

12. Motion to Approve NPG Request from the Granada Hills Charter High School (GHCHS) for their Robotics Team

- Nahia and Michael, Co-Presidents of the Robotics team at GHCHS reported that 15% of the 44-members Robotics Team comes from Porter Ranch. They mentor nine schools in the San Fernando Valley, including PRCS and Castlebay Lane Charter School.
- This student-led team is 60% female and 40% male. Twelve individuals are elected each year by the students to coordinate the treasury, operations, safety, outreach, etc.
- They are now working on a narcotics detection robot for the LAPD. This could go into attics where it is not safe for the LAPD officers. They are also working on an underwater robot. They demonstrated one of their robots in the back of the meeting room.
- A stakeholder mentioned that although the PRNC funds are available, these funds should be spent within Porter Ranch.
- Becky Leveque asked what kind of publicity would PRNC receive for this donation; the PRNC logo will appear on the robots, as well as on banners and brochures.
- Someone asked which other neighborhood councils has the team reached out to; they have reached out to five, including three in Granada Hills, one in Northridge, and PRNC. The GHNNC pledged \$500; the robotics team may returned and ask for another \$2k. They also do fundraising via restaurant-hosting events.
- Asaad mentioned that he was impressed, had seen them in competitions, and urged them to continue to take Castlebay and PRCS under their wing.



- Jason Hector, Gabriel Khanlian, and Hassan Memarian appreciated the science, and thanked them for their presentation.
- Someone asked if PRNC representatives were invited to competitions; the answer was affirmative. Saturday, November 18, GHCHS will host thirty-four other schools for a competition at GHCHS, 10535 Zelzah Avenue.
- Someone asked if the students pay out of their own pockets. There is no mandatory payment to be on the team; the majority of funds come from major sponsors, including \$6,000 from GHCHS.
- You must be a GHCHS student to participate in the robotics team, but their volunteers can come from anywhere.
- Issam reported that his daughter was on her school’s robotics team, and she gained a great deal from the experience.
- Hassan recommended that they continue to use their robots for search and rescue; the students replied that is one of their focuses.
- David Balen mentioned that the Sunshine Dump donated \$50k to GHCHS, which was to be dedicated to Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); it was unknown if the Robotics Team received any of that money. \$6k of that \$50k may have been the funds from GHCHS to the Robotics Team.
- Andrew Krowne made a motion to approve this agenda item; Becky Leveque seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (9)	Alnajjar, Gorman-Chang, Hector, Khanlian, Kim, Krowne, Leveque, Memarian, and Najm
Abstain (1)	Balen
Absent (1)	Milbauer

13. Discussion of how water providers address chemical constituents in the drinking water they serve to the public
- Issam agendized this to provide information, not for it to serve as a judgment call. He reported that there are chemicals everywhere in nature, including arsenic, chromium, magnesium, uranium, etc. Wherever there are volcanic formations, high levels of metals result. The calcium deposits result in hard water (versus soft water).
 - The California Division of Drinking Water (DDW) sets drinking water limits in California.
 - DDW either adopts the federally accepted level, or sets a lower level for California. Once that level is established, all drinking water suppliers in California must abide by that level.
 - Stakeholder Greg asked about lithium in the water; apparently, the EPA has not yet investigated lithium in water. Simi Valley and Pasadena have undetectable levels of lithium. Their water supply comes from Aqueduct and the Colorado River’s water supply. The LADWP (whose water comes from the High Sierra) has not yet provided specifics about the tolerable levels of minerals in our drinking water. They may go to OEHHA for these tolerable levels of lithium.
 - A Burbank resident asked if the water from the Colorado River Water is less expensive. That is unknown; however, much of Burbank’s water is groundwater.
 - Becky asked about the PRNC water dispenser; Susan replied that that water comes from a vending machine in front of Ralph’s.

BREAK

14. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Sustainability

- The Sustainability Committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Porter Ranch Library, 11371 Tampa Avenue. Their biggest event of the year is the Earth Day Celebration, which will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018.
- They recently reached out to PRCS and Castlebay to sponsor the “Kids Making Sense” science program. This is an exciting nationwide environmental education curriculum that teaches students about air quality and how to measure air pollution using hand-held sensors and mobile phones, empowering them to drive positive change in their communities. PRCS did not express interest, yet the Sustainability Committee continues to work with Castlebay.
- The Sustainability Committee is also very concerned about gas-powered leaf blowers.
- Susan reported that the Office of Sustainability has a dashboard that shows what percentage of homes and businesses go solar, gallons of water saved, which areas have draught-tolerant lawns, how many have participated in the LADWP energy audit, number of leaf blowers, etc. Perhaps we could do that for Porter Ranch? PRNC cannot name the businesses, as that may exhibit favoritism.
- For the solar portion, the first step would be to collect data. Much of this data may be available from Jason of the LADWP and/or via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. This would be followed by an integration of the data for the best visual presentation.

B. Land Use

- John Love gave an update on the shopping center, which will have its ground-breaking in the next few months, with a scheduled opening in late 2018. We may learn the names of the vendors in the next month.
- After the shopping center, they will build the apartments.
- The Kaiser medical facility will not be occupied until mid to late 2019.
- David Balen met with Frank Su, Vice President of Operations for Toll Brothers; they are moving forward with a new park south of the PRCS, East of Mason Avenue and west of Porter Ranch Drive; the groundbreaking is scheduled for January 2018.
- The new hotel, adjacent to the Kaiser facility, will be merely four-stories (rather than five); however, they will still have a lit billboard. Stakeholder Lauren asked if they would be one or three signs; David believes that it will be merely one lit sign. A stakeholder asked if the new light was going to be LED, dimmable, and [if so] who would control the dimmer? That is unknown.
- With the development of 2,000 new homes, with 2 ½ cars per household, the developers will need to answer to the community.

C. Public Safety and Streets

- Gabriel Khanlian reported that many people are complaining about the area around Braemore Road. They are working with the LAPD to resolve that. A few months ago, someone set-off fireworks; now the area is used for smoking and hanging out.
- They are also working with the LAPD to address speeding, donuts, and high-speed u-turns along Mason Avenue; rumble strips may be the answer.
- Reseda Boulevard’s speed limit will be reduced from 50-mph to 45-mph.
- The stop sign on the corner of Sesnon and Via Paladino was removed after the construction of housing across Renaissance community was completed. He witnesses near misses daily around the school. Parents are double parking, triple parking, making illegal u-turns and endangering



our Children and theirs; they hope to replace that stop sign ASAP for the safety of children or find a way to install a street light in the intersection and / or apply for the Safe School Program to have light up crosswalks.

- Gabriel urges everyone to continue to speak up regarding such issues.
- Andrew Krowne commented that he is continuing to work with CD12 regarding left turn arrows for Mason and Wilbur Avenues.
- A stakeholder mentioned that she videotaped the intersection outside the Noble School. Her recordings resulted in the re-timing of the lights at the Lassen Street and Tampa Avenue intersection.
- A stakeholder mentioned that these reports have greater universal appeal, and requested that they be moved to earlier in the meeting.

D. Community Beautification

- The last PRNC meeting include acceptance of the Tampa Avenue median; however, nothing has been finalized.

E. Education

- Jason Hector reported that the Castlebay School got a new crosswalk, but speed humps and four-way stop signs have not yet been developed.
- The Education Committee has an NPG that may be discussed at the next meeting.
- Issam mentioned that two months ago, representatives of the adult literacy program of the LA Library program, appeared before the PRNC. David Balen mentioned that he reached out to them, but the representatives have not yet returned his calls. Jasmine Elbarbary from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) reminded the PRNC that this literacy group is looking for volunteers.

F. Outreach

- Issam is currently the de facto pseudo chair. As the chair and vice chair Krissie are no longer available, PRNC will dissolve this committee, start from scratch, and re-format this committee.
- In the interim, the Outreach function must continue, with three key activities:
 - Holiday Celebration
 - Mail In Survey (PRNC has the funds to send this out to stakeholders within the community). Jasmine is very excited about this, as she can provide PRNC with heat maps, outlining residents and businesses, etc. Issam may bring this up in December, for a February implementation.
 - Organize a community event, not necessarily around Earth Day. This event, partnered with another neighborhood council, may occur during the end of the fiscal year.
- Becky mentioned that PRNC has a camera, and she would like to see photographs of meeting, etc. Issam mentioned that the camera is currently at the storage facility, along with other supplies for the meeting. Perhaps whoever brings the meeting supplies could also retrieve the camera for the next meeting.
- A stakeholder mentioned that she has election banners in the trunk of her car.

G. Homelessness Solutions

- This committee meets at Starbucks on the 1st Thursday of each month.
- David and Susan showed a Zip-Lock baggie of supplies, including a toothbrush and chicken salad. This was distributed to the six homeless individuals they have met.



- They hope to develop an NPG for Don Larson’s “Clean Streets, Clean Starts (CSCS)” program. Don supervises homeless individuals with street maintenance tasks via CSCS, a 503c organization. His team has already cleared weeds and added mulch to seven medians along Tampa Avenue. Don and CSCS staffers screen homeless individuals; then [in groups of ten] Don puts them to work (like a regular job) taking care of streets throughout the west valley. After three hours, Don turns them over to his associate, Laura Rathbone, who assists them with full-time employment and housing. The cost is \$33/person per day. They first start with breakfast; afterwards, they are given a \$25 gift card to Vons (which cannot be used for cigarettes, alcohol, or lottery tickets) and bus fare.
 - They also discussed the mobile therapy group, the San Fernando Rescue Mission (which will take in families), as well as things that individuals, residents, and business-owners can do.
 - A few years ago, a homeless person was found dead in their car in front of Wal-Mart; since then, Wal-Mart does not allow people to camp in their parking lot.
 - A stakeholder who lives near Limekiln Canyon Park mentioned that homeless people have campsites in that area. They built fires in the areas, resulting in a tree going up in flames. Thank heavens there was no strong winds at the time.
 - An overnight shelter will open in Pacoima on Friday, December 1; perhaps we can give the homeless individuals bus tokens from Porter Ranch?
 - Becky added that Chatsworth has a significant increase in homeless individuals since the Orange Line went in.
- H. Budget and Finance
- Andrew Krowne had no news to report.
15. Discussion and possible action to approve holding the PRNC Holiday Celebration at Castlebay Lane Charter Elementary School on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, to be catered by Stonefire Grill at a not-to-exceed cost of \$3,000
- Issam met the Principal, and they are excited to host the PRNC holiday celebration. However, they will not have the children perform as they did last year. Issam has also reached out to area restaurants for catering. The biggest challenge is that PRNC does not know how many people will anticipate. They estimate it may be 100 to 150 people.
 - Jasmine recommended that the Homeless and/or Sustainability Committees donate the leftover food to shelters. Susan reported that she took last year’s leftover food to the Genesis House Rescue Mission.
 - Issam Najm made a motion to approve this agenda item, with the PRNC to provide drinks and cookies; Susan Gorman-Chang seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
16. Motion to purchase 50 traveler mugs with PRNC inserts with a cost of mugs, professional printing and dye cut of inserts not to exceed \$120
- Susan reported that PRNC is currently out of the mugs. For Earth Day on Saturday, April 14, Susan would like metal mugs, as she is not a fan of plastic.
 - David asked to amend the motion to explore the cost of engraved metal cups. However, this was never seconded, so there was no active amendment.
 - Susan Gorman-Chang made a motion to approve this agenda item; David Balen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.



17. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Outreach committee to design a mail-in survey card to be mailed to all PRNC residences and businesses
 - A stakeholder recommended adding a QR to this design.
 - Issam Najm made a motion to approve this agenda item; Gabriel Khanlian seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

18. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Homelessness Solutions Committee to design and purchase 200 business cards with three reference numbers regarding engagement with homeless individuals in our community, for an amount not to exceed \$200
 - These cards would be distributed to stakeholders, to provide guidance in dealing with homeless individuals. If the homeless are families, they may be referred to the San Fernando Rescue Mission. If threatened, the stakeholder would be urged to call 911.
 - Susan Gorman-Chang made a motion to approve this agenda item; Andrew Krowne seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

19. Motion to nominate the Board President, Issam Najm to represent the PRNC on the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Technical Working Group that will conduct periodic reviews of the progress of the health study and provide technical guidance, as needed, to the contractor conducting the study
 - Issam withdrew his nomination and recommended Dr. Nordella for this position. He then recused himself from the discussion, and departed the room.
 - Stakeholder Lane mentioned that this is imperative.
 - Matthew Pakucko mentioned that this is a no-brainer; Porter Ranch’s Dr. Jeffrey Nordella knows more about this issue than anyone.
 - Stakeholder Craig thanked PRNC for acquiring a seat at the table. He feels Dr. Nordella has a very approachable demeanor and he fully endorses Dr. Nordella. The PRNC plays to its strengths by nominating Dr. Nordella.
 - Leeor Alpern from the South Coast Air Quality Management mentioned that earlier in the meeting, Jarrod referenced the settlement with SoCal Gas; currently, those are the only funds going towards the health study.
 - David asked about the format of the technical advisory committee. It is unknown if they are public meetings. The minutes are probably viewable, as this is a government agency.
 - Susan Gorman-Chang made a motion to nominate Dr. Jeffrey Nordella to represent PRNC at the SCAQMD Technical Working Group; David Balen seconded the motion, and it passed.

Aye (8)	Balen, Gorman-Chang, Hector, Khanlian, Kim, Krowne, Leveque, and Memarian
Recusal (1)	Najm
Absent (2)	Alnajjar and Milbauer

20. Board Member Statements and Comments
 - David Balen mentioned that it is great that PRNC supports GHCHS’s robotics program, yet it is important that we also support the Porter Ranch Schools, including PRCS.
 - Becky asked what other schools received; David replied that GHCHS received \$400k.

21. Meeting Adjournment
 - Issam adjourned the meeting at 9.32PM.