

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

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 6:07 p.m. and explained procedures.

2. Roll Call

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Christopher Cooper (Treasurer), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Bright Aregs (late), Mandhata Chauhan, Irv Cohen, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, and Vas Singh (late).

Eight of the 11 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, and the business of the Council could be conducted. Absent: Ron Nagai. Also attending were approximately 75 Stakeholders and Guests.

3. President, Mel Mitchell - Motion to approve proposed agenda

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Cracium): to approve the Agenda for this April 7, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections

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

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Ms. Cracium): to approve the Minutes of the March 10, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

Semee Park, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Greig Smith (818-756-8501; semee.park@lacity.org), announced that the Councilman introduced a Motion asking the DWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) to strategize energy audits and efficiency to be eligible for federal funding. April 16th will be a Tip-a-Cop at the Claim Jumper Restaurant; proceeds will benefit the Special Olympics. For details call the LAPD's David Bush at 818-599-3538. April 25th, 9:00-11:30 a.m., at Chatsworth Park North will be an Earth Day Environmental Cleanup. Citrus Sunday is being planned and your participation is encouraged; call CD12 at 818-756-8501 for information.

5. Treasurer, Christopher Cooper - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the April 7, 2009 meeting

Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Treasurer's Reports" dated "10-Mar-2009" and "7-Apr-2009," and the "DRAFT PRNC [Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council] 2008-

2009 Actual versus Budget YTD [FIRST DRAFT] Corrected” for both dates. “Total Funds Available” as of April 7th is \$52,699.78. There was extensive discussion regarding the “Moore Business” [Results] (MBR) contracts and the budget expenditure process. Mr. Mitchell explained that the MBR contracts represent “website services” and “public relations,” and that “[the NC] is going to look into . . . competitive bidding.” Mr. Cohen is “concerned about the fact that [the NC is] spending so much money for public relations.” Mr. Aregs agreed that the contracts need to be “competitive . . . open . . . and reviewed.” Mr. Mitchell believes that the expense has been “worth it.” Ms. Leveque expressed that the articles “are saving \$4,500 per month . . . It’s worked really well.” Ms. Cracium said that the NC will agendaize for the next General Board Meeting to vote to create a standardized bidding process.

MOTION (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to approve the March 10 and April 7, 2009 Budgets as presented.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Jim said that the “coverage has been outstanding.” The Valley Voice \$500 ad was for a special event.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

6. **Motion:** to support the Shepherd of the Hills Church proposed expansion plans. Mr. Mitchell explained that Land Use Planner Tom Stemnock asked for NC help.

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to issue a PRNC letter of support of the Shepherd of the Hills Church proposed expansion plans.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mitchell observed that there was no opposition to the project at last month’s General Board Meeting. Concern was expressed regarding “whether it’s appropriate for a government entity to meet in religious institutions.” Ms. Cracium noted that the City Attorney said it’s okay. Mr. Cohen is “against” the expansion because Porter Ranch is “turning from . . . a quiet residential community . . . into an urban center . . . with traffic.” Mr. Aregs is concerned that the Church didn’t address the NC’s Land Use Committee before asking the NC for the letter. There was extensive discussion regarding whether the NC did enough outreach regarding this issue. Mr. Cohen Called for the Question. Mr. Mitchell did not accept the Call.

It was discussed that the letter would go to the City and Public Hearings will be held later. Judy Daniels, Chatsworth NC President, explained the City’s public comment process. Stakeholder Susan is concerned about whether the NC should take a position regarding the project. Mr. Mitchell conducted a straw poll which indicated that approximately 14 people were in favor of the project, 12 opposed and 15 neutral.

MOTION PASSED with six in favor, one opposed and three abstaining (Aregs, Cracium Dabirian).

Mr. Singh encouraged Stakeholders to visit the NC website [www.prnc.org] and submit questions. At the next [May 5th] General Board Meeting, there’ll be a City Bureau of Street Lighting speaker. Mr. Aregs explained that Stakeholders can write letters to the City. Ms. Leveque invited Stakeholders to the April 17th Outreach Committee Meeting at Dupar’s (formerly Baker’s Square) Restaurant.

7. **Discussion**, Becky Leveque - process to change the PRNC Budget allocations through fiscal year-end on June 30, 2009.
This Item was not addressed at this Meeting.
8. **Update**, Mandhata Chauhan - repair of the northeast and northwest corners of Tampa and Sesnon
This Item was not addressed at this Meeting.
9. **Update**, Bright Aregs - upcoming Land Use Committee meetings
This Item was not addressed at this Meeting.
10. **Discussion**, the Valley Interfaith Council's Grant Proposal to support the Interfaith Food Pantry Coalition
This Item was not addressed at this Meeting.
11. **Discussion**, to acquire a PRNC phone number
This Item was not addressed at this Meeting.
12. **Discussion**, to subscribe to an Internet-based email service
This Item was not addressed at this Meeting.

Presentation: "LADWP approves Shortage Year water rates effective June 1."
[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.]

Jim Savitz of the DWP announced that water rationing will begin June 1st. Nance Walker-Bonnelli, DWP Utility Services Manager (213-367-3869; nance.walker-bonnelli@ladwp.com), introduced Staff Member Simone Taylor, who introduced Water Conservation Team (formerly known as the Droughtbusters) Members. Ms. Taylor explained that water conservation needs led to the Team formation and legislation by Mayor Villaraigosa. Ms. Walker-Bonnelli continued that the Team responds to reports of wasted water and sometimes issues citations. The most common violations include hosing hard surfaces; irrigating while it's raining; washing a vehicle with a hose that doesn't have a shut-off valve; and allowing a pipe leak. The first violation is a "warning"; the second violation can be a fine of \$100-\$600. The City may implement additional water use restrictions as needed.

Four things determine a property's water allotment: lot size, temperature, the number of people in the household, and the season. The current proposal is to reduce water consumption by 15%; this amount can change. It's important to know what your "first tier allotment" is to avoid paying higher second tier rates. Stakeholders were concerned that, if pools are not filled, the filter can be damaged and create conditions that breed West Nile Virus. The DWP has a number of water conservation and rebate programs. There was extensive discussion regarding water conservation concerns and ideas. Mr. Mitchell encouraged people to see the www.prnc.org website.

Mr. Mitchell **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 8:46 p.m.