

**PORTER RANCH**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**General Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, August 11, 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 6:08 p.m. He explained that the Meeting needs to end at 6:59 because of the LAPD [L.A. Police Dept.] Meeting downstairs at 7:00. He and other Board Members introduced themselves.

**2. Roll Call**

Board Members present: Mel Mitchell (President), Christopher Cooper (Treasurer), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Bright Aregs, Irv Cohen, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Ron Nagai, and Vas Singh.

Nine of the 11 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Absent: Paula Cracium (Vice-President), and Mandhata Chauhan. Also attending were approximately 28 Stakeholders and Guests.

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

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Leveque): to approve the Agenda for this August 11, 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 Mr. Nagai): to approve the Minutes of the July 7, 2009 General Board Meeting as written.

**DISCUSSION:** The following correction was requested:

Page three, Item #7: the "**AMENDED MOTION** (by Mr. Aregs): to allocate up to \$500 for the Disaster Preparedness Event at the Granada Hills Street Fair" was **NOT ACCEPTED** by Ms. Hammarlund. "The **AMENDED MOTION PASSED** with six in favor and four opposed" should read "The **ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED** with six in favor and four opposed."

**MOTION** [Mr. Dabirian's Motion] **PASSED** without any objections.

5. **Treasurer**, Christopher Cooper - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the August 11, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Treasurer's Report" dated "11-Aug-2009"; a template of the "DRAFT PRNC [Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council] 2008-2009 Actual versus Budget YTD [FIRST DRAFT] Corrected, Current as of 8-11-09"; and a "[PRNC] Funds Yearly Allocation" list. Approximately \$500 in petty cash was available. The beginning balance for this period was \$46,196.93. The Treasurer's Report category "Street Services" actually equals up to \$8,000. The "DRAFT . . . Budget" template will be completed at the next Budget Committee Meeting.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Singh): to accept the August 11, 2009 Treasurer's Report as presented.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

Melvin Canas, Neighborhood Empowerment Analyst, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9953; cell 323-972-7782; melvin.canas@lacity.org), introduced himself and explained his role for the City with NCs. He distributed and encouraged Board Members to complete the DONE survey, also available online [[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jZ0Ur9VqItmM1aohu0KtmQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jZ0Ur9VqItmM1aohu0KtmQ_3d_3d)] regarding what DONE services NCs can use. Mr. Canas announced a September 10<sup>th</sup> Outreach Forum regarding the 2010 NC elections. He also distributed flyers regarding and noted the September 12<sup>th</sup> NCs Regional Roundtable & Training [at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys; RSVP 213-485-4415]. The PRNC needs to appoint two representatives to the event by the next General Board Meeting. He distributed flyers regarding and noted the October 10<sup>th</sup> Congress of Neighborhoods [[http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Empower\\_LA\\_2009/home](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Empower_LA_2009/home); 213-485-1360] will be combined with the Mayor's Budget Day. The Congress will have workshops regarding Board Member liability and safety issues, and gang reduction efforts.

Ms. Leveque and Mr. Mitchell agreed to agendaize discussing NCs having a say in selecting the next LAPD and LAFD [L.A. Fire Dept.] Chiefs.

6. **Motion**, Paula Cracium - to spend up to \$2,000 to promote the September 1, 2009 Meeting with special guest Mitch Englander.

Mr. Mitchell explained that Ms. Cracium was unable to attend this Meeting. He asked and Stakeholder Wendy Moore explained the Motion and that an effort is being made to reduce advertising costs. Several local newspapers could publish ads for the Meeting at a low cost.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Dabirian): to allocate up to \$800 to promote the PRNC September 1, 2009 General Board Meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Leveque described that the funds would be used to promote attendance at the Meeting. Mr. Cohen is concerned that this would support a future "political candidate," Mitch Englander, who would be the main speaker at the

Meeting. Newspaper ads would mention Mr. Englander. Mr. Canas opined that “the Motion . . . is a safe Motion . . . It’s just promoting [NC] outreach.” Mr. Aregs is concerned that this Motion is a special mention for Mr. Englander. A Stakeholder noted that the Meeting and the speaker, Mr. Englander, are already mentioned in PRNC e-mails and on the PRNC website, and believes that no further expenditures for this are needed.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Mitchell); there were no objections.

**MOTION FAILED** with four in favor and five opposed, including Mr. Mitchell, who broke a tie vote.

7. **Update** - Aliso Canyon PRNC eastern boundary issue.

Kim Thompson of the Granada Hills North NC [GHNNC] briefly explained the issue, saying “any boundary issue needs to go through BONC [the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners]. Anne Ziliak, GHNNC Vice-Chair, expressed that the GHNNC never wanted all of Aliso Canyon; they prefer to share the boundary with the PRNC. Mr. Mitchell noted that the PRNC Land Use Committee will meet regarding this issue.

8. **Discussions**, Irv Cohen

Mr. Mitchell explained the procedure for discussing Mr. Cohen’s Items and read the first Item on Mr. Cohen’s list.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Nagai): the PRNC shall send a letter to the L.A. Dept. of Recreation and Parks requesting the construction of a children’s swing set area near the present children’s play area in Bernson Park. The swing set area shall be approximately 20 feet by 20 feet and contain four to six swings.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Cohen described that, of the three parks in the area, Bernson Park has no swing set. Mr. Mitchell encouraged Mr. Cohen and Ms. Hammarlund to combine their efforts about this.

**MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION** (by Mr. Mitchell); there were no objections.

**MOTION PASSED** with five in favor and three opposed.

Mr. Mitchell assigned Mr. Cohen to prepare the letter.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Cohen; no one seconded the Motion): the PRNC shall send a letter to Congressman Sherman in support of construction of a bridge spanning Aliso Canyon at Sesnon Blvd., thereby providing a thruway for Sesnon Blvd. from Porter Ranch to Balboa Blvd. The money, estimated at \$30-\$40 million, to come from the Federal stimulus package.

**MOTION FAILED** for lack of a second.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Cohen; no one seconded the Motion): copies of the Minutes of a prior PRNC [General Board] Meeting shall be available for distribution to Board Members and Stakeholders at the following PRNC [General Board] Meeting.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Mitchell noted that the PRNC Board Meeting Minutes are already available for distribution, including on the PRNC website [www.prnc.org] and through him. Therefore, this Motion is improper, as it is about a procedural matter

Mr. Mitchell mentioned that there will be future discussion about preparing a letter to the L.A. Unified School District regarding Castlebay Lane Elementary School and the newly opening School.

Mr. Mitchell announced that there'll be a PRNC Planning Meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>, probably here at Shepherd of the Hills Church.

9. **Adjourn**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 7:03 p.m.