

PORTER RANCH

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 2, 2010
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 6:05 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, Mandhata Chauhan, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Ron Nagai, and Vas Singh.

All 10 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum, so the Board could make Motions and take votes. Also attending were approximately 38 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 February 2, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Singh): to approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2010 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

5. Treasurer, Christopher Cooper

Mr. Cooper distributed and reviewed the "Treasurer's Report" dated "5-Jan-2010," the "DRAFT PRNC [Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council] 2010 Actual versus Budget YTD [FIRST DRAFT] Adjusted, Current as of 1-5-10"; the "DRAFT PRNC [Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council] 2010 Actual versus Budget YTD [FIRST DRAFT] Adjusted, Current as of 2-2-10"; a "[PRNC] 2009-2010 Mid Fiscal Year Budget Review"; and a letter to the PRNC Board requesting "Bookkeeper" and Treasurer assistance, and "that this proposal be placed on the March 2, 2010 agenda for discussion/action." "This fiscal year, the NC spent \$20,191.31"; the balance is \$66,208.81, with the rollover funds." There was discussion regarding the City Chief Administrative Officer's recommendations, the City Council decision-making process,

and currently allocated funds. The City may prohibit further allocations except administrative.

MOTION (by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Nagai): to accept the February 2, 2010 Treasurer's Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

6. **PRNC Board Update** - Selection of a new PRNC Board member to fill the vacant at-large position.

Mr. Mitchell explained this and introduced three Stakeholders interested in filling the position: Pat Pope, Dick Rippey, and Guillermo Seta. [See below "Candidates Forum."]

7. **Motion**, Mel Mitchell – [See below Motion.]

MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to accept changes made, since the January 5, 2010 PRNC meeting, to the PRNC Policy Regarding Use of Joint Facilities at the Porter Ranch School.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote, with two recusals (Leveque, Mitchell).

8. **Motion**, Ron Nagai – [See below Motion.]

MOTION (by Mr. Nagai, seconded by Mr. Singh): that the PRNC draft a letter to the VA asking the VA to rescind the Enhanced Use Leases with New Directions, et al and recommission Buildings 4 and 5 for medical purposes at the 160-acre Veteran's Administration facility in North Hills.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nagai voiced that the NC "heard testimony from each side . . . saw documentation . . . This Motion is necessary." Ms. Leveque "wants to be sure the land is protected for the veterans." There was discussion regarding the signed Lease Agreement not seen by the NC Board; Mr. Mitchell "feels the Board should" see the Lease. Ms. Cracium was concerned that it could be perceived that all Porter Ranch Stakeholders agree with the Motion. Mr. Chauhan expressed that "veterans put themselves in harm's way for us . . . This land was donated" for veterans medical facilities . . . "They need to have a facility in the San Fernando Valley." There was discussion regarding the purpose and scope of the Motion. Mr. Singh believed that the letter should "make clear" that it's the Board, not all the Stakeholders, voting on the Motion. Mr. Cooper remarked that "the intent of New Directions is good, but the overall effect is not good for our veterans." Ben Rosen, Project Manager, A Community of Friends, encouraged reading a VA Fact Sheet and said "opposing housing for homeless veterans will not produce a hospital." Mr. Mitchell "would like to build in guarantees" in the Lease. Peggy Burgess, Member, North Hills West NC Land Use Committee, read a letter from Lara Kazanjian, North Hills West NC President, regarding that NC's repeated opposition to the project. Ms. Cracium believed that it'd be "irresponsible" to vote without seeing the Lease.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote, with seven in favor, none opposed and three abstained.

Danny Del Valle, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (818-634-0362, cell 818-634-0362; 27677@LAPD.LACity.org, or DelVallesw.45@att.net for urgent), reported “a huge problem with burglary theft from vehicles . . . including in Limekiln Canyon from cars people parked to go hiking . . . Pass on the word: get your valuables out of sight . . . If you see suspicious activity, report it . . . have found evidence in pawn shops and other areas . . . Just close” your garage door if you’re not there. If needed, he encouraged calling 911 from a land phone, rather than a cell phone, because the police can track the land line to an exact location; a cell phone gives an approximate area. He described the police’s emergency call handling process. Several Stakeholders expressed crime concerns.

Melvin Canas, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (818-374-9953; cell 323-972-7782; Melvin.Canas@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), introduced himself and praised the Board for recruiting 10 Board Candidates for the March 2nd NC election. He explained that “certain rules will need to be followed because NCs are City entities.” Also, there’ll be a Candidates Training February 25th, 6:30 p.m., at San Jose Elementary School, Mission Hills. Contact him or 311 for information.

Candidates Forum

Ms. Cracium explained the Candidates process and that there’re ten Candidates for five Board positions. Candidates made statements regarding their qualifications, community interests and visions for Porter Ranch. Ms. Cracium reminded that the NC election will be March 2nd at the Korean Church.

She explained the voting procedure for the currently open seat and that the voting for this position is a Board vote, not a public election; as such, the vote must be public. Voting for the open seat was as follows:

Pat Pope: five Board votes.

Dick Rippey: two Board votes.

Guillermo Seta: one Board vote.

Mr. Pope was congratulated by Mr. Rippey and Mr. Seta and welcomed to the Board.

MOTION (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Mitchell): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 8:11 p.m.