



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

at Shepherd of the Hills Church, 19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch, CA 91326

At 6:18 p.m. President Mel Mitchell announced the Saturday, September 17th 8:00 a.m. PRNC Planning Retreat at the Porter Valley Country Club. The PRNC will host breakfast; wear business casual clothes. To attend please RSVP to Board@PRNC.org. Also, on September 10th at 4:00 and the 11th at 7:30 a.m. Shepherd of the Hills Church will host memorial services; information is available at www.PRNC.org. Board Member Vas Singh announced the Saturday, September 24th Neighborhood Councils Congress at City Hall. The Mayor and Department General Managers will attend. Sign-in starts at 7:45 a.m. Register through www.EmpowerLA.org. Mr. Mitchell read a letter from L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Councilmember.Englander@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>) regarding Holleigh Bernson Park parking; increasing parking may require local streets “to be completely reconfigured.” He recommended that the PRNC ask Stakeholders about their views.

Mr. Mitchell read a letter from Stakeholder Mike Dobry regarding Palisades Park late-night illegal activity concerns; Councilman Englander assisted in getting signs for law enforcement. Mr. Mitchell displayed a Certificate from Shepherd of the Hills Church thanking the PRNC for its Independence Day event help. Also, Friday September 23rd at 2:00 at the Braude Government Center in Van Nuys there will be a Hearing regarding the Hidden Creeks project.

Erik Richardson, Field Deputy for Councilman Englander (818-756-8501; Erik.Richardson@LACity.org), reported that the Councilman is working on improving sidewalks on Rinaldi and elsewhere. Also, the City Council Motion by former Councilman Greig Smith regarding increasing DWP transparency and more was approved. There will be a 9-11-01 observance at the Porter Ranch Shopping Center from noon – 4:00. The Holleigh Bernson Park basketball court resurfacing should be finished within a week. He will “look into” installing a turn signal at Reseda and Amigo. Mr. Mitchell noted that Mr. Aregs has worked on this; Mr. Richardson will contact Mr. Aregs.

Brian Cummings, Chief, L.A. City Fire Dept. (911 in progress/emergency; 311 non-emergency; www.lafd.org), and a number of LAFD staff introduced themselves. He encouraged visiting Fire Stations and have an emergency preparedness kit ready to go. Information is available at the LAFD.org, FEMA.org and Ready.gov websites. He also encouraged completing CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. He described deployment of staff and equipment regarding medical services and firefighting needs. Chief Cummings reminded to maintain a 200-foot brush clearance “defensible

space” around structures. Youth Cadet and internship programs available. Fire Station 88 will be having a 9-11-01 remembrance. Mr. Richardson reported that the Gas Company has worked to lower fire danger in the Aliso Canyon project area.

Danny Del Valle, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 818-363-1726; mobile/text phone 818-634-0362; 27677@LAPD.LACity.org, or DelVallesw.45@att.net for urgent), reported that “overall crime for the area is down.” There are still burglary thefts from vehicles at hiking sites and shopping centers; put valuables in the trunk before you arrive where you’ll park and don’t leave them visible. He encouraged attending the Basic Car Meeting on the usual fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at St. John Eudes Church [9901 Mason Ave. at Lassen]; they’ll discuss crime prevention and issues. If you see suspicious activity call 1-877-ASK-LAPD; if you see a crime in progress call 9-1-1. There will not be a Haunted House this year at the Devonshire Station. There will be a November Open Forum at which the Narcotics, Vice and Gang Units will present. Call the West Valley Alliance (818-885-8885) immediately for graffiti removal. The Division is “restructuring itself” regarding the expected October release of prisoners by the State.

1. Welcome and Introductions

At approximately 7:47 p.m. Mr. Mitchell called the Meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh.

Six of the 11 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is not a quorum. The PRNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven, so at this time the Board could only have discussions without making any Motions or taking any binding votes. No Board seats were vacant. Also attending were 35 Stakeholders and Guests. Board Members absent: Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Bright Aregs, Mandhata Chauhan and Pat Pope (all excused).

3. Secretary, Ali Dabirian – Minutes approval.

The Minutes could not be approved because a voting quorum was not present.

4. Treasurer, Maha Batta

Ms. Batta was not present and there was no report.

5. Motion, Sue Hammarlund - to approve contributing to the Annual North Valley Emergency Preparation Fair scheduled in Oct. for the amount of \$350.

This Motion could not be voted upon because a voting quorum was not present.

6. Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports at this time.

7. Community speakers: Presentation:

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council welcomes Victoria Cross, LADWP Neighborhood Council Liaison to our September 6, 2011 meeting. She will be discussing the current DWP objective to provide 33% of energy from renewable resources by 2020, as mandated by law. The DWP will also be reducing the amounts of purchased water provided and moving towards ground water and storm water. The water and power infrastructure is aging and preemptive replacement strategies are necessary to safely and effectively deliver service according to DWP General Manager Ronald Nichols. All of these enormous changes have significant impacts on our costs. The DWP is currently exploring options and seeking your input. You can find out more and take the DWP Rates Process Online Survey at <http://www.ladwp.com>.

Victoria Cross, DWP Government and Neighborhood Relations Liaison (213-367-4141; Victoria.Cross@ladwp.org), introduced herself. Power companies across the country are asking for rate increases to perform maintenance and for new programs. 15-20% of the requested rate increase is for pensions and salaries. Much DWP equipment is more than 100 years old and needs to be replaced. All recycling programs except one have been cancelled because of funding challenges. Rebate programs are still available. Avoid using appliances between the noon – 5:00 p.m. peak hours. She encouraged conserving water, especially in January, because the yearly rate is set at the end of that month. They're shifting emphasis to eventually getting most of their water from local sources; long-distance supplies have decreased. The DWP is mandated by the City to not use any coal by 2030. Current energy use is 39% from coal; it mainly will be replaced by natural gas.

Ms. Leveque distributed Supporters of Law Enforcement in Devonshire “All you can eat’ pasta dinner” (818-718-9498; www.SolidDevonshire.org) fliers for the Friday, October 14th 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. event at St. Nicholas Church at Balboa and Plummer in Northridge.

A Stakeholder distributed fliers for the Granada Hills Rotary Club’s Blood Drive (www.RotaryGivesBlood.org) Saturday, October 1st 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the North Valley Youth Sports Complex at Balboa and Woodley and at the Granada Hills Recreation Center at Chatsworth St. and Petit.

Mr. Mitchell **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 8:12 p.m.