



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

at 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. and announced the December 6th 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. PRNC Holiday Party at the Porter Valley Country Club, 19216 Singing Hills Drive. See www.PRNC.org.

2. **Roll Call**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.] Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Mandhata Chauhan, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Pat Pope, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh. Board Members absent: Maha Batta (Treasurer), Ali Dabirian (Secretary) and Bright Aregs, all excused.

Eight of the 11 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. The PRNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven, so the Board could take such votes. No Board seats were vacant. Also attending: 52 Stakeholders and guests.

3. **Secretary**, Ali Dabirian - Motion to approve unapproved minutes for September 17, 2011 Planning Retreat and October 4, 2011 General Board Meeting.

Mr. Mitchell said Minutes approvals are postponed to the January 3, 2012 General Board Meeting.

4. **Treasurer**, Maha Batta - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the November 1, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Mitchell reported that approximately \$15,000 in unallocated funds is available and encouraged contacting the PRNC with project ideas.

5. **Discussion and Motion** - Case # ZA 2011-1734, Conditional Use Permit / Alcohol (CUB) to permit the sale of beer, wine, and spirits for off-site consumption at the existing Wal-Mart store in Porter Ranch.

Mr. Mitchell introduced Victor Franco, who distributed a "Memorandum" from Ek & Ek, "a lobbyist and public advocacy firm," in support of Wal-Mart's CUB application, and Wendy Nichols Julian, an attorney for Manatt, Phelps & Phillips also representing Wal-Mart. Mr. Franco described the CUB application and confirmed that it is for a "beer, wine and hard liquor" license. Ms. Julian said a Zoning Administrator Hearing about it will be held November 7th at 2:30 p.m. at the Braude Constituent Services Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, Room 1B. She added that "customers had asked" to be able to buy alcohol at the store and that an ABC analysis indicated that "crime is not an issue at this store." Employees are trained "to sell alcohol responsibly and in compliance with California law" including not selling "to underage or intoxicated people." Mr. Franco described Wal-

Mart's community involvement and their work with the Police Dept, and Ms. Leveque said that Wal-Mart "has come through" for the community.

Ms. Hammarlund was concerned that there already are five liquor stores within a one-mile radius of the Wal-Mart. Ms. Julian responded that the ABC analysis indicated "there's not an overconcentration" of liquor stores in the area. Mr. Franco said that Wal-Mart "won't sell single-sales" alcoholic beverages. Concern was expressed regarding traffic, possible negative impacts on smaller "mom and pop" stores and that cars are being broken into in the parking lot. Mr. Franco responded that there are cameras in the Wal-Mart area of the parking lot. Concern was expressed that Wal-Mart sells weapons in the same store as the alcohol would be sold.

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council opposes the Conditional Use Permit / Alcohol (CUB) permit application for the sale of beer, wine, and spirits for off-site consumption at the existing Wal-Mart store in Porter Ranch.

DISCUSSION: Board Members and Stakeholders offered their views. A straw (unofficial) poll of Stakeholders by a hand vote showed that approximately three-quarters of the Stakeholders present were opposed to the application and approximately one-quarter would support the application if only beer and wine were sold and the security staff doubled.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote with four (Chauhan, Hammarlund, Pope and Singh) in favor, two (Mitchell and Rippey) opposed and two (Cracium, Leveque) recused (self-declared as ineligible to vote on this Motion due to a possible or known conflict of interest; recusing is not the same as abstaining from voting, which is simply declining to vote). It was discussed that, since four of the six Board Members present who were eligible to vote on this Motion voted in favor of the Motion, therefore the Motion passed. The Board agreed to check with the City Attorney to confirm that the Motion passed.

6. Committee Reports

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #1.] Ms. Leveque reported that the City Street Services Dept. estimated that it would cost \$900,000 to repair the sidewalks on Rinaldi between Wilbur and Tampa, so the PRNC will not be able to help at this time.

7. Community speakers

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the Presentations.] Faramarz Nabavi, Legislative Director, The Transit Coalition (Faramarz.Nabavi@TheTransitCoalition.us; 818-362-7997; www.TransitCoalition.org), explained that 2008's Measure R funded a future north-south transportation corridor. Scoping Meetings will be held in early 2012 to help determine whether there should be a busway on Van Nuys Blvd. or a rail line paralleling the 405 Freeway. Sepulveda Blvd. may also be considered. A map and other information is available.

Presentation #1:

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Victoria Littlejohn, Principal, Castlebay Lane Elementary School and Mary Melvin, Principal, Porter Ranch Community School. Former Castlebay Lane Elementary School Principal Vivian Ithori, Ms. Melvin and Ms. Littlejohn introduced themselves. Ms. Littlejohn thanked the PRNC for its support. Castlebay Lane will have 808 students with 32 to 36 students per upper-grade class; they

“may lose up to 70 students” and will “not open the school gates until 7:50 a.m. when there’s supervision.” The gates will be “closed within five minutes of” the end of classes; they need parents to pick up their children as soon as classes end. Soon staff will be trained in CPR and first-aid and there will be painting and landscaping. The MPR (Multi-Purpose Room) holds 129 people. A \$3.5 million MPR expansion project starting in 2012 and finishing in 2013 will increase the MPR square footage to 4,400 square feet.

Ms. Ihori thanked Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Leveque and the Board for its support. The Community School (818-654-3614; MEP4799@lausd.net; www.PorterRanchCommunitySchool.org, includes a map), which is planned to open August 14, 2012, “will be an [LAUSD] school . . . we’ll be able to offer some permits.” It will have a Leadership Academy teaching life skills. Languages requested to be taught include Korean and Spanish and may include Mandarin Chinese. She encouraged program ideas feedback. She described where students will attend based upon their residences; “the boundaries have been finalized . . . The 118 [Freeway] is definitely the boundary line” and when Porter Ranch Estates is built the school is expected to be full. The Middle School student limit will be 300. Fliers were distributed for a “Community Meeting” November 30th, 6:30 p.m. at Germain Elementary School Auditorium, 20730 Germain St., Chatsworth.

Presentation #2:

Presentation by the Oakridge Estate Park Advisory Board about the Oakridge Estate, which is located on Devonshire St., just West of Reseda Blvd. It is a 9.5 acre property with an English Tudor style house designed in 1937 by noted architect Paul R. Williams for actress Barbara Stanwyck. In December 2009 Councilman Greig Smith’s office secured Quimby funds to purchase, restore, and improve the Oakie House and grounds preserving it in perpetuity as a community recreational site. The Department of Recreation & Parks appointed the 11 members of the Park Advisory Board to serve as a panel of community stakeholder who will make recommendations for the uses of the property to the Recreation Commission. The Advisory Board will provide PRNC stakeholders more information about the property and the preservation plans.

Dave Beauvais of the Oakridge Estate Park Advisory Board (OakridgePAB@gmail.com) displayed slides and described history and possible design and uses of the Estate. “The entire property is 9.47 acres” and 6,500 square feet. The Advisory Board has been creating a property use plan and will meet again on the fourth Thursday in January. Donations are needed and can be made to Friends of Oakridge, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt fundraising foundation. You can sign up for information at the website www.TheOakridgeEstate.org which has a map, preliminary site plan and virtual tour. Mr. Beauvais said “we want to make this a recreation area . . . without any type of activities that’ll generate a lot of noise or a crowd.” Advisory Board Member Dave Hasson indicated that the Advisory Board is considering allowing outdoor weddings and receptions and is applying for Prop K funds.

Presentation #3:

Dr. Gerald R. Fecht, President of the Museum of the San Fernando Valley will be speaking about the history of Porter Ranch.

Dr. Fecht spoke about cultural, geological, environmental and other parts of Porter Ranch and San Fernando Valley history, which he encouraged embracing as “our history.”

Mr. Mitchell **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 8:32 p.m.