



## PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

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 6:12 p.m.

#### 2. **Roll Call**

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Bright Aregs, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Pat Pope, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh. Board Members absent: Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Maha Batta (Treasurer) and Mandhata Chauhan, 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: 31 Stakeholders and guests.

#### 3. **Secretary**, Ali Dabirian - Motion to approve unapproved Minutes.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Mr. Singh): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 4, 2011 and November 1, 2011 General Board Meetings as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with six in favor, one opposed and one abstained.

#### 4. **Treasurer** - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the January 10, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Mitchell distributed and reviewed the "[PRNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Approved on 8/9/2011"; "Treasurer's Report 2011-2012 – Credit Cards" and "Treasurer's Report 2011-2012 -- Checks." No Motion was made.

#### 5. **Motion** - Becky Leveque [See below Motion.]

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.] Ms. Leveque introduced Wendall Durant, President, LAPD Devonshire Division Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST).

**MOTION** (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves an expenditure of up to \$1,980 for an Autodialing System for the LAPD Devonshire Division Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST).

Mr. Durant described the Auto Dialing System and VST operations. "Fifty people, will-trained by the LAPD" are volunteering for the VST. The System would facilitate VST volunteer scheduling. The VST has facilitated 4,833 arrests by the LAPD in 20 years. The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council is already funding up to \$700 of the approximately \$1,975 cost for the System. The VST covers the entire Devonshire Division area from the 405 Freeway west and from Roscoe Blvd. north. Mr. Pope volunteers one to two days per week at three to four hours each time for the VST. Suspicious activity is observed and can be videotaped. There was discussion regarding what amount to allocate.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Ms. Hammarlund and accepted by Ms. Leveque):  
... allocates a minimum of \$700 and not to exceed \$1,400 . . .

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote; Mr. Pope recused himself from voting because he is a VST Member.

Mr. Durant said that interested volunteers can call the LAPD Devonshire Station for information regarding the VST volunteers recruiting process and training.

6. **Discussion and Motion** - Proposed bicycle lane project on Porter Ranch Drive between Rinaldi Street and Corbin Avenue, a distance of 0.41 mile (2,165 feet) by Glenn Bailey, Vice-Chair Bicycle Advisory Committee, City of Los Angeles. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.] Glenn Bailey, Chair, L.A. City Bicycle Advisory Committee (818-453-3407; GlennBaileySFV@yahoo.com), reported on projects planned for Porter Ranch. "There would be no parking elimination"; there will be a buffer next to the bike lane. There will still be two vehicle lanes the same size as now in each direction on both sides of Rinaldi between Corbin and Porter Ranch Drive. There was discussion regarding traffic and safety considerations. Stakeholder Dave Hassen clarified reasons for the bike lanes and was concerned that the new shopping center to be built at the end of Porter Ranch Drive may necessitate increasing the number of driving lanes on Porter Ranch Drive. There was extensive discussion regarding the merits of bike lanes and the co-existence of bicycles and vehicles. Ms. Leveque reminded that a 20-year-old Porter Ranch Specific Plan exists.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Aregs, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council defers action on the proposed bicycle lane project on Porter Ranch Drive between Rinaldi Street and Corbin Avenue pending further information from shopping center developer Shapell Homes and the L.A. City Department of Transportation.

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Mitchell will Agendize this issue for the February 7, 2012 General Board Meeting. Mr. Bailey will e-mail information from Paul Meshkin, LADOT Engineer, to Mr. Mitchell.

7. **Discussion** - Mayor's Community Budget Survey for Fiscal Year 2012-13 - In each of the last six budget cycles, the Mayor's Office, with help from the Budget Advocates, has facilitated a structured process for gathering budget input, primarily through an annual community Budget Survey. This year the Budget Survey will be released by January 15. In order to get input from all 95 Neighborhood Councils, every Neighborhood Council is kindly requested to Agendize the topic of the Budget Survey for their monthly board meeting occurring between January 15 - February 15. Survey instructions are forthcoming. The deadline for submission of survey responses is February 22.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Mr. Bailey announced that the Survey [<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012LABudgetSurvey>] will be distributed January 15th, including on the Internet, and replies must be made by February 15th. Mr. Mitchell will Agendize this for the February 7th Meeting.

8. **Committee Reports**

Mr. Rippey noted that the "PRNC Bylaws state that we will elect half our Board every two years." The City eliminated City Clerk funding for running Neighborhood Council (NC) elections. He described that an NC can have a selection (not an election) and the different forms of selections, possibly in late 2012. Mr. Bailey reported that the City Attorney will write an Ordinance moving NC elections (and selections) from the City Clerk to DONE (the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment).

Mr. Mitchell announced that John Alford, Deputy for U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; [www.BradSherman.House.gov](http://www.BradSherman.House.gov)) contacted him to ask whether the PRNC would like to host a Candidate Forum for the Congressional election to which all Candidates of all parties would be invited. There was extensive discussion regarding whether, how and when the PRNC could do it. The PRNC will explore hosting or co-hosting a Candidate Forum, probably around March 2012.

9. **Community speakers**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.] 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), distributed a flier describing suspects and a vehicle and reported on recent burglaries north of Rinaldi and east of Tampa. Stakeholder Dave Hassen volunteered to distribute the fliers to gated communities and Ms. Leveque said there will be information on the [www.PRNC.org](http://www.PRNC.org) website. Officer Del Valle encouraged calling 9-1-1 if you see suspicious activity. Keep your doors locked and music or TV on when you are not home. Instead of the Basic Car and District Meetings this month there will be a Meeting at the Greek Orthodox Church, 17037 Plummer St. Cable-tie SUV third-row seats; thieves steal them within 45 seconds. Back your vehicle next to your garage so that the rear SUV door cannot be lifted. Do not leave valuables in your vehicle or "Lock It, Hold It, Keep It" for GPS's, laptop computers

and mobile phones. Officer Del Valle will advise Ms. Leveque and/or Mr. Pope regarding "Lock It, Hold It, Keep It" sign prices for PRNC funding consideration.

Erik Richardson, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Erik.Richardson@LACity.org), reported that Councilman Englander "is in full support of the bike path." The Councilman also introduced a Motion for the City to do "performance-based budgeting." Mr. Richardson encouraged feedback regarding traffic and speeding problems and answered a number of Stakeholders' information questions.

LAFD Captain Jones described the recent Wal-Mart traffic, crowd control and safety situation during which a customer pepper-sprayed other customers. The Fire Department "will be addressing" with Wal-Mart regarding the issues and considerations.

Edward Heddington, GHNNC Board Member and 38th State Assembly District Candidate (Edward2012.com) (Cameron Smyth will be termed out) briefly described himself and his candidacy; the primary election will be June 5th.

[The following speakers spoke after Item #8.] Mr. Hassen reported that Dave Anton and the Renaissance at Porter Ranch Homeowners Association Board are asking the LADOT to re-stripe the intersection of Porter Ranch Drive and Sesnon because of recent multiple vehicle collisions and the impending school opening. There was discussion regarding traffic and safety concerns.

Stakeholder Irv Cohen was concerned and urged the Board to clarify PRNC Committees membership, structure and operations.

Stakeholder and L.A. City Firefighter Mark Kleckner requested assistance getting the Limekiln Canyon bridge rebuilt that was washed out; it cannot be driven on for rescue or other operations. Mr. Aregs noted that it is an L.A. City bridge. Mr. Mitchell said the PRNC will work on the issue.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.