



## PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 7, 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 6:07 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

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

Nine 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: 38 Stakeholders and guests.

#### 3. Secretary, Ali Dabirian - Motion to approve the unapproved Minutes for August 9, 2011 and January 10, 2012.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Ms. Leveque): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 9, 2011 [as written] and January 10, 2012 General Board Meetings as corrected.

**DISCUSSION:** The following corrections to the January 10, 2012 Minutes were requested: page one, Item #5: "Wendall" should be "Wendell." Page two: "will-trained" should be "well-trained." Item #6; and page three, Item #9: "Dave Hassen" should be "Dave Hasson." Page three, Item #9: "there will be a Meeting at the Greek" should be "there will be a Police Commission Meeting at the Greek." Item #9: it was requested that "Cable-tie SUV third-row seats; thieves steal them" be reworded to "Officer Del Valle recommended to tie third-row SUV seats with a cable because thieves steal them."

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote; Ms. Cracium abstained.

#### 4. Treasurer, Maha Batta - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Ms. Batta distributed and reviewed the "[PRNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012" for the second quarter October-December 2011 and the "PRNC Treasurer's Report 2011-2012 - Credit Cards" and "Checks." Funds in the amount of \$27,935 remain.

She requested to submit project requests as soon as possible because of the upcoming City deadline.

5. **Discussion and Motion**, Paula Cracium [see below].

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.] Ms. Cracium described that Shepherd of the Hills Church is partnering with City Council District 12 and other governmental offices to host a Job Fair. The two-day event on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. will include job interview and resume writing skills. As many as 100 employers and organizations and 5,000-6,000 attendees are expected. There will be symposiums on social media, dressing for interviews and hiring benefits, and much media coverage. Thirty employers have already committed to attend. The total budget is approximately \$50,000, they are seeking more sponsors and volunteers are welcome to help.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Pope): the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council supports the Job Fair hosted by Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch on June 4-5, 2012 by partnering with funding not to exceed \$1,000.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote; Ms. Cracium recused.

6. **Discussion and Motion**, Becky Leveque - to appoint a representative from the PRNC Land Use Committee to contact the owners of the commercial building located on the southeast corner of Wilbur Avenue and Rinaldi Street regarding the size of the lease signs and the use of the corner property as a parking lot. Ms. Leveque described that 20-30 cars are being parked there. Mr. Mitchell suggested and she agreed to ask Land Use Committee Chair Bright Aregs to research this. No Motion was made.

7. **Discussion and Motion** - Mayor's Community Budget Survey for Fiscal Year 2012-13. The deadline for submission of Survey responses is February 22. Mr. Mitchell encouraged taking the Survey.  
[<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012LABudgetSurvey>]

8. **Discussion and Motion** - Continued discussion from the January 10, 2012 Meeting about the proposed bicycle lane project on Porter Ranch Drive between Rinaldi Street and Corbin Avenue, a distance of 0.41 mile (2,165 feet). Mr. Mitchell described previous discussion and invitations to speakers. L.A. City Dept. of Transportation (LADOT) Bike Lane Section Engineer Abbass Vajar (Abbass.Vajar@LACity.org) described the .4 (four-tenths) of a mile-long project, part of the proposed 2010 Citywide Bicycle Plan that would connect existing bike lanes. There would be "a buffer zone between the through lane and the bicycle lane" and "would be almost no impacts" on traffic. Engineer Steve Gaur (Steve.Gaur@LACity.org) explained that the project would be paid through Federal funding, not by the City, with the goal of encouraging less vehicle use and that there have already been many community meetings. Vehicle lanes would "remain two lanes in each direction."

Board Members expressed concerns regarding potential vehicular traffic impacts. A Stakeholder mentioned that the project would “bring L.A. in line with other major cities.” Stakeholder Dave Hasson believed there definitely will be negative impacts for vehicle drivers and safety issues for pedestrians. Stakeholder Tony Barton said the Bicycle Plan is “in conflict” with the 1980 Porter Ranch Specific Plan, which the engineers acknowledged. Mr. Gaur explained that the Bicycle Plan “trumps . . . the Specific Plan.” Mr. Vajar added that the LADOT “takes direction from the City Council.” Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the Porter Ranch Development Company is working on this with government agencies.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Dabirian): the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will write to L.A. City Council District 12 requesting for the City to hold off on striping bike lanes on Porter Ranch Dr. between Rinaldi St. and Corbin Ave. until the PRNC gets further community input.

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

Mr. Mitchell will send a copy of the letter to the LADOT.

9. **Discussion** - The Transit Coalition requests that the PRNC join Neighborhood Councils across the Valley in supporting the proposed concept of a Valley-Westside Rail Tunnel. Presentation by Farmarz Nabavi, Legislative Director, The Transit Coalition.

Mr. Nabavi was unable to attend and this Item was not discussed.

10. **Committee Reports**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.] Mr. Rippey reported that the City Council passed a Resolution that Neighborhood Councils can run elections or selections after June 30, 2012. He also reported that the Porter Ranch signs project is in Committee. Ms. Leveque will write a Motion regarding the LAPD’s unlicensed driver vehicle impound policy for consideration at and Mr. Mitchell will Agendize it for the [March 6<sup>th</sup>] General Board Meeting. Mr. Pope reported that Wal-Mart will counter-propose regarding their beer, wine and hard liquor license application.

11. **Community speakers**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.] Erik Richardson, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Erik.Richardson@LACity.org), reported that the “Councilman feels it’s a safety issue” regarding the LAPD 30-day vehicle impounds policy. Also, as of last week CD12 was the only City Council District with no medical marijuana shops. The Councilman voted to delay a DWP rate increase because the Ratepayer Advocate was just appointed. The Councilman proposed a City Council Redistricting map that is available online; there’s no change to Porter Ranch. There will be a February 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:00-5:00 Neighborhood Councils Service Council Meeting at the LAPD Devonshire Station. Burglaries are up 35% from last year; Mr. Richardson

encouraged reporting suspicious activities. If a stranger knocks on your door, say something like “no thanks” instead of saying nothing. Extra police patrols have reduced burglaries.

Mr. Mitchell reported that the Porter Ranch Development Company wrote to him that the hills grading is “ahead of schedule.” The letter will be on the [www.PRNC.org] website. He also received a letter from the City Planning Dept. that the size of the cell tower at ET Park at Reseda and Sesnon will be increased. Monique Lukens and Josef Dochternan announced the availability of an energy consultant regarding solar panel leasing. Joe Phillips, Sierra Club Member (RecreationByJoe@yahoo.com; 818.999.5384), is organizing monthly hikes to start at the north end of Reseda Blvd. every second or third Saturday. There are already third Tuesday evening hikes from Reseda Park and will be a February 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. hike from Caballero Canyon.

[This speaker spoke after Item #11.] Stakeholder Richard Fisk announced an April 12<sup>th</sup> Candidates Forum.

Mr. Mitchell declared and it was agreed to adjourn the Meeting at 8:04 p.m.