



## **PORTER RANCH** NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### **General Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 6, 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 6:10 p.m.

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

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

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: 41 Stakeholders and guests.

#### **3. Minutes Approval**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.]

**MOTION** (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 7, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** with no objections; Mr. Aregs abstained.

#### **4. Treasurer**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] Ms. Batta said a Demand Warrant was issued for the newspaper ad and that \$26,000 remains in the PRNC Budget.

#### **5. Discussion and Motion [see below].**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.] Mr. Mitchell described the issue. Stakeholder Richard Fisk encouraged writing the letter. Hannah Lee, Associate Planning and Transportation Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Hannah.Lee@LACity.org), reported that the Councilman awaits the LAPD response to his letter and that the Councilman's position is that it's a public safety issue. There was discussion regarding that.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Aregs, seconded by Ms. Leveque): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will write a letter of support for Councilmember Englander's stance on the unlicensed car driver 30-day car impound policy.

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

6. **Discussion and Motion**, Sue Hammarlund [see below].

There was discussion regarding how the items in this and the Item #7 Motion could be funded and when to allocate the funding. Mr. Mitchell reported that the PRNC is required by DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] to allocate funding through the Neighborhood Purpose Grant process and through a PRNC Committee. There was extensive discussion regarding how to proceed regarding funding allocation procedures and timing.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will provide funding for an amount not to exceed \$600 for safety vests (with the logo, PRNC helping to keep our kids safe) along with orange traffic cones, and an aluminum slow/stop paddle for the Porter Ranch Community School.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Hammarlund explained that the vests are needed for traffic safety volunteers.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

7. **Discussion and Motion**, Sue Hammarlund - Motion to purchase the eight I-Pad 2's for Castlebay Elem, not to exceed \$5,000.

It was agreed to Table this Item until the April 3<sup>rd</sup> General Board Meeting. There was discussion regarding the PRNC system and structure.

8. **Discussion and Motion**, Becky Leveque - to write a letter of support for one or more of the various options to handle parking needs for the Porter Ranch Community School: Regular Usage, Periodic Usage and Special Events. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.] Mr. Mitchell indicated parking challenges regarding the new School scheduled to open in August. Mary Melvin, Principal, described the challenges. She said the EIR [Environmental Impact Report] said that "no street parking would be allowed at all" because Sesnon Blvd. and Mason Ave. are "considered highways." The School is "opening with 550 students"; capacity is around 1,000. Between 114-117 parking spaces will be available, including 90 for staff. Ms. Melvin indicated that the main challenge will be where volunteers can park and when extra vehicles are expected for special events. Mr. Mitchell "will meet with the Renaissance community" and work with Shapell Homes.

*Board Member Ali Dabirian had to leave at this time.*

Mr. Mitchell noted that community organizations will use the School at night. Sesnon and Mason will have crosswalks for now, no stoplights. School speed limit signs will be posted. He described that extensive care and consideration was given to safety and traffic issues. Ms. Leveque volunteered to coordinate a community meeting regarding traffic considerations. Stakeholder Wendy Moore described strong community involvement in Porter Ranch Schools, encouraged the PRNC “to consider what kind of parking is needed,” and that City Councilman Mitch Englander “is waiting to hear what [the PRNC] recommendation is.” She noted that, for example, “on a recent morning 200 cars parked with parents walking their children at Castlebay” Lane Elementary School. No Motion was made.

**9. Discussion** - define the next steps for the PRNC to take to add additional parking at Holleigh Bernson Park.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Mr. Mitchell described the issue. Ms. Hammarlund read a letter from Shapell Homes’ traffic consultant regarding Park parking. Ms. Lee said that if the PRNC supports additional parking, she would forward it to the L.A. Dept. of Transportation. Stakeholder Dave Hasson recommended “no overnight parking.” Stakeholder Don of the Renaissance at Porter Ranch Homeowners Association indicated that the Association was okay with that and that the Association will write a letter supporting additional parking contingent upon some kind of signage and/or striping, if the City allows it. Mr. Mitchell indicated that this Item will be on the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Agenda.

**10. Discussion and Motion** - Continued from the January 10, 2012 and February 7,

2012 meetings 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 announced that the City is creating bike lanes on Sesnon from Aliso Canyon to Tampa. Mr. Mitchell described the issue. The Porter Ranch Development Co. sent a February 10<sup>th</sup> letter to the PRNC opposing bike lanes. Mr. Hasson believed there would be “numerous traffic flow” and safety problems if bike lanes are created now on Porter Ranch Dr.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Aregs): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will write a letter in opposition to the installation of bike lanes on Porter Ranch Drive between Rinaldi St. and Corbin Ave. because of the inherent risk to both cyclists and drivers.

**DISCUSSION:** Stakeholders commented for and against having bike lanes.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections; Mr. Mitchell abstained.

Ms. Cracium volunteered to write and send the letter.

**11. Committee Reports**

There were no Committee reports at this time.

## **12. Community speakers**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.] 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 crime “has dropped”; there are residential burglaries and he encouraged that, if a stranger knocks on your door to “let them know you’re home” by making some noise such as a TV. Jeanine Angeles, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 818-363-1726; mobile/text phone 818-325-7749; 30392@LAPD.LACity.org), reported that the CEP program is “flooding” the area with crime prevention resources. Officer Del Valle encouraged starting and participating in Neighborhood Watches; contact him for help. He described crime-fighting procedures. Officer Angeles cautioned “don’t leave anything in your car.”

Denise Jones, Captain, Fire Station 28, L.A. Fire Dept. (818.756.9728; Denise.Jones@LACity.org), described a system planned to coordinate Fire Dept. and Police Dept. access into gated communities; residents’ access would remain the same. Richard Elder, Chief, Battalion 15-C, L.A. Fire Dept. (818.756.8615; Richard.Elder@LACity.org), reminded to have working fire alarms and “a 280-foot defensible space” around your home. Ms. Hammarlund described a pet safety procedure.

Matt Margolis, Constituent Services Advocate for U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; www.BradSherman.House.gov), described help available regarding federal government services and announced an April 1<sup>st</sup> Town Hall Meeting.

[The following comment was made just before the Adjournment.] Ms. Leveque announced a 5K Run and Walk March 25<sup>th</sup> at Porter Valley Country Club.

Mr. Mitchell declared and it was agreed to Adjourn at 8:42 p.m.