



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 3, 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 6:06 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Ali Dabirian (Secretary), Mandhata Chauhan, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Pat Pope, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh. Maha Batta (Treasurer) arrived later. Board Members absent: Bright Aregs (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: 44 Stakeholders and guests.

3. **Minutes Approval**

MOTION (by Mr. Dabirian, seconded by Ms. Leveque): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 6, 2012 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED with none opposed; Mr. Pope abstained.

4. **Treasurer**, Maha Batta - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented at the April 3, 2012 meeting.

Mr. Mitchell said there is "about \$26,000 . . . available in our account . . . maybe \$12-\$15,000" is not allocated. If the funds are not allocated they will roll back to the City. The Demand Warrant deadline is May 16; the Purchase Card deadline is June 15th. More information will be on the [www.PRNC.org] website.

5. **Discussion and Motion** - to appropriate an amount of \$500 for the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce Senior Event.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.] Wayne Adelstein, President, North Valley Chamber of Commerce, said "a little over 300 seniors" attend the event. He described the event, which the City and the Chamber used to fund alone. Other nearby Neighborhood Councils have supported the event.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Ms. Cracium): the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council allocates \$1,000 to be used for advertising for the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce Senior Event on June 1, 2012 at the Northridge Recreation Center.

DISCUSSION: Admission is two dollars. Contact Mr. Mitchell [MelMitchell@PRNC.org] with “Senior of the Year” award nominations.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

6. **Discussion and Motion** - Sue Hammarlund - Motion to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for eight Apple iPads for Castlebay Lane Elementary School. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Mr. Wengler’s comment in Item #9.] Ms. Hammarlund described that the Education Committee considered this and it was discussed at the March General Board Meeting. She described a system that “would reach every child on the playground . . . for emergencies.” The iPads would be “battery-operated; they do not require an electrical outlet.” A Castlebay parent described that, during the Sesnon Fire, there was “chaos” and “parents panicking at the gate . . . [it was] so disorganized.” Ms. Leveque reported that the Committee “decided not to get the iPads.” Ms. Hammarlund described the iPads’ uses. There was discussion regarding whether to purchase the iPads.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Dabirian): the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council allocates funds not to exceed \$7,000 for eight Apple iPads for a Castlebay Lane Elementary School sound system.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with seven in favor and two opposed (Batta, Leveque).

7. **Discussion** - finalize the next steps for the PRNC to take to add additional parking at Holleigh Bernson Park.
Mr. Rippey met with Stakeholder Dave Hasson and Hannah Lee, Associate Planning and Transportation Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Hannah.Lee@LACity.org). Mr. Rippey reported that a proposal was submitted regarding the parking at Sesnon and Porter Ranch Drive. The Renaissance at Porter Ranch Homeowners Association approves. There was discussion regarding proposed traffic flow changes and the parking arrangement.

8. **Committee Reports**
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Councilman Englander’s presentation.] Mr. Rippey reported that the PRNC election is tentatively scheduled to be held during the week of August 6-12. The L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment recommended encumbering funds to roll over to the next Fiscal Year [beginning July 1st] to pay for an Independent Election Administrator. Mr. Mitchell agreed to Agendize this for the May 1st General Board Meeting.

9. **Community speakers**
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.] Vicky Briskman, Treasurer, Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, distributed a “Valley Family Festival” flier for the

June 2nd, 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. event at Northridge Park and asked the PRNC to allocate funding for the event. The Chatsworth NC allocated \$1,000. The PRNC would have an outreach booth. Around 5,000 attendees are expected. She described event activities. She would like to present and Mr. Mitchell agreed to Agendize this for the May 1st PRNC General Board Meeting. There was discussion regarding what the funds would be used for.

Board Member Maha Batta arrived at this time.

Melody Jaramillo, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Melody.Jaramillo@LACity.org), introduced herself.

[This Agenda Item was continued after Item #5.] Ron Wengler, Northridge West Neighborhood Council Stakeholder, distributed a handout describing his idea to support cell tower installations “in the Tampa median . . . from the 118 to Devonshire” in return for the company(ies) removing dead trees, re-doing the irrigation system, planting vegetation, etc.

Presentation

Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitchell Englander.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Councilman Englander described sponsored legislation and issues being worked on. The Hidden Creek Development annex process is proceeding; his support or opposition depends upon the Development Agreement details. He asked for and received permission from the developer to share the Agreement with the community. The Councilman explained the City financial and budget situation; the City is “looking at a \$220-\$240 million deficit going into next year” [Fiscal Year 2012-2013 beginning July 1, 2012]. He has proposed a “Performance-Based Budget” which would start with two Departments this year to plan and establish goals. Councilman Englander is discussing “with some economists” floating a 40-year bond that may cost around \$3 billion, but would get the streets and sidewalks fixed “in 10 years”; he noted that the City pays “\$4-\$7 million per year in slip and fall lawsuits” against the City.

The Councilman revealed that “over 200 utilities and subcontractors cut into City streets . . . there’s a law that they . . . shall not work on major City streets during peak hours” which is often ignored. The City doesn’t “know who did the work around 90% of the time.” The work is usually for private companies, for example, cable or cell. Councilman Englander described challenges regarding communication and accountability of the L.A. City Fire Department. Some people call 9-1-1 “every day” to get a ride to their doctor.

U.S. Congressman Buck McKeon, Candidate for the 25th U.S. District, described Congressional Redistricting changes. He described various projects and statuses regarding the City.

Mr. Mitchell declared and it was agreed to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:50 p.m.