



## **PORTER RANCH** NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### **General Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, July 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 6:09 p.m.

#### **2. Appointment of Pat Pope as interim PRNC Secretary.**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.] Mr. Mitchell asked and Mr. Pope agreed to be the Interim Secretary.

#### **3. Roll Call**

Board Members introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Bright Aregs, Mandhata Chauhan, Sue Hammarlund, Pat Pope and Dick Rippey. Board Members absent: Maha Batta (Treasurer), Becky Leveque and Vas Singh (all excused). Mr. Mitchell noted that Mr. Dabirian resigned to pursue his academic career.

Seven of the 10 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. One Board Seat is vacant. Also attending: 48 Stakeholders and guests.

#### **4. Minutes Approval**

Mr. Pope requested and it was agreed to Table approval of the June 12, 2012 Minutes until the August 14, 2012 General Board Meeting.

#### **5. Treasurer**

Mr. Mitchell reported for Ms. Batta that items are being finished for the last Fiscal Year that ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. Around \$30,000 was spent of the \$40,500 allocated. This Fiscal Year Budget will be \$37,000. Allocations not paid from last year's Budget will be paid from this year's Budget.

#### **6. Election Update and Candidate Recruitment - Dick Rippey**

Mr. Rippey reported that the Candidate Filing Form is available [at [www.PRNC.org](http://www.PRNC.org)]. It can be filed online, faxed, e-mailed or delivered and must be filed by August 9<sup>th</sup>. Six Board Seats are available, including four At Large, one Youth (16-18 years of age by the September 8<sup>th</sup> Election) and one Open. Michael Camarena introduced himself as a Youth Candidate. There will be a Candidate Forum at the August 14<sup>th</sup> General Board Meeting. Vote-by-mail is available and must be submitted by August

9<sup>th</sup> or at the polling place, Shepherd of the Hills Church, 19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**7. Discussion & Motion** - approval of the PRNC Budget for 2012-2013.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.] Mr. Mitchell distributed copies of the “[PRNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 DRAFT.” The Budget was reviewed and there were no objections.

**8. Committee Reports**

There were no reports at this time.

**9. Community speakers**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.] Rana Ghadban (exec@ChatsworthChamber.com; www.ChatsworthChamber.com) of the Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce announced an all-day September 15<sup>th</sup> Family Festival at Porter Ranch Drive and Rinaldi. There will be many activities for children and adults; last year 3,000 attended. The total cost is \$10,000. Admission is free for adults and \$25 pre-event or \$30 at the event for children, who would be given a wristband to wear for access to all rides. Ms. Ghadban requested that the PRNC allocate funds for a \$100 program ad or a \$150 booth. She requested and Mr. Mitchell agreed to Agendize a funding request for the August 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Rochelle Silsby, Public Affairs Manager, Southern California Gas Company, distributed emergency preparedness, pipeline and Aliso Canyon Storage Facility Project information, and reported that the Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement Project is “still in the EIR phase” and public comments can be made. Three 1970’s-era compressor units need replacement; parts are unavailable. The natural gas field is not being expanded, contrary to media reports; they are increasing the injection rate. Ms. Silsby introduced Larry Middleton, Plant Engineer and George Cioffa, Emergency Services Manager, who explained that the three compressors will be replaced with three electric motors that are more efficient, environmentally-friendly and expected to be less noisy. The motors will increase the injection rate from suppliers for later extraction as needed to meet energy needs from a natural gas reservoir 9,000 feet below ground level.

Mr. Cioffa encouraged contacting him if you hear, smell or see evidence of a gas leak. However, in an emergency, do not shut off your gas meter’s shut-off valve. Mr. Aregs requested and Gas Company staff agreed to provide new motor sound level information. Mr. Middleton said they are considering lessons learned from the 1994 Northridge earthquake and the [September 9, 2010] San Bruno explosion. Ms. Silsby said the application is still pending with the PUC. There will be an August 14<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing and approval may be granted between December and March. [The Gas Company also presented about this to the PRNC on January 4, 2011.]

7:00 p.m. - Disaster Preparedness -- Captain Stacy Gerlich and Captain Christopher Cooper from the LAFD Disaster Preparedness Section CERT Program. L.A. City Fire Dept. Captain Cooper introduced Captain Gerlich and other Firefighters. Emergency preparedness brochures were distributed. Captain Gerlich described the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program. She urged preparing for not to receive natural disaster help for "two weeks to three weeks." Do not expect to receive help through calling 9-1-1 until "the greatest services for the greatest good" are provided. She urged having an out-of-state contact(s) and having your medications listed in your wallet or purse on paper or on a thumb drive. Ask a doctor for medication samples for your emergency bag. She reminded that grandparents may need to host grandchildren while parents are busy; have children's activities ready. Solar-powered and other emergency preparedness products are available at stores such as SOS Survival Products on Haskell just south of Roscoe and CERT classes are free. Refresher trainings are offered quarterly.

Jeff Edelstein of SOS Survival Products described some of them. Pre-made emergency kits are available; you can also self-select items. He encouraged having a bag with all supplies available under your bed. Items such as eyeglasses, flashlights and shoes that are left out are thrown around during an earthquake. Include a small crowbar in case you need to pry open a door or break a window to get out. Include a can opener; kitchen supplies are also thrown around. Free classes are available for adults and children.

Kathy Serksnes of the West Valley Animal Shelter said that "identification is critical . . . you can microchip your dogs and cats at the L.A. Animal Shelters" for \$25 each. She urged keeping pet photos in your wallet or purse to identify them. If possible, have an out-of-area contact that is used to your pet(s) and willing to host them in an emergency. If you need to evacuate, take your pets with you. Have pet medication and medical information ready to go, and at least one week's food and five gallons of water per pet available. Before a disaster, get your pet(s) used to crates/carriers. After a disaster, leave pets in crates and carriers for a few days until they are ready to go out.

Mr. Mitchell declared and it was agreed to Adjourn at 8:37 p.m.