



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Retreat Minutes

Saturday, September 29, 2012

at Porter Valley Country Club, 19216 Singing Hills Dr., Porter Ranch, CA 91326

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

President Mel Mitchell opened the Retreat soon after 8:00 a.m. A delicious breakfast courtesy of the PRNC was available to attendees. Board Members and guests introduced themselves: Mel Mitchell (President), Paula Cracium (Vice-President), Pat Pope (Secretary), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Bright Aregs, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Dick Rippey and Vas Singh. Also attending: approximately 13 Stakeholders and guests.

Mr. Mitchell announced that he will be stepping down as the President. He indicated that Vice-President Paula Cracium would be an excellent President.

2. **Discussion**, PRNC projects through the end of Fiscal Year 2012–2013 (June 30, 2013). Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Batta noted that community projects funding is available. The following topics were brought up and addressed:

Day of the Children
Trees north of Rinaldi in Porter Ranch
Freeway trash
Trees in Porter Ranch Parks
Set up a Porter Ranch non-profit
More public relations and outreach
Porter Ranch events such as a Movie Night
Mail program such as "Porter Ranch News"
Aliso Canyon Equestrian Center
Use clout to lobby elected officials
At the November General Board Meeting have a Wal-Mart update about Black Friday
Meet with and have representation from the Korean community
Fliers to schools
Sidewalk repairs
Porter Ranch Community School Joint Use Agreement
Porter Ranch concerts and public art
Public transportation to Orange Line Bus

Discussion of the above topics

Day of the Children – It was suggested that the PRNC could sponsor a Day of the Children for Porter Ranch children to be recognized.

Trees north of Rinaldi in Porter Ranch – Concern was expressed that trees burned in the Sesnon Fire, including along Tampa Ave., are a fire hazard due to being dry and brittle and that they should be removed.

Freeway trash – Concern was expressed regarding trash that accumulates along the north side of the 118 Freeway. It was explained that that area is where winds seem to converge and it is almost impossible to keep it clean.

Set up a Porter Ranch non-profit – It was suggested and discussed to create a non-profit organization through which funds could be raised and which could partner with the PRNC on community projects.

More public relations and outreach – the need for this was discussed and how social media such as Facebook and Twitter can assist.

Porter Ranch events such as a Movie Night – It was suggested to have more community and family-oriented events such as a Movie Night as other communities have successfully done.

Mail program such as “Porter Ranch News” – Having a newsletter that could be mailed and/or e-mailed to Porter Ranch residents was suggested and discussed.

Aliso Canyon Equestrian Center – It was mentioned that it would be good for the PRNC to be part of the Dedication expected in Summer 2013.

Use clout to lobby elected officials – The PRNC was encouraged to use more of its clout and influence to lobby elected officials regarding Porter Ranch interests and needs.

At the PRNC’s Tuesday, November 13th General Board Meeting have a Wal-Mart update about Black Friday – It was recommended that Wal-Mart give an update regarding traffic, crowd control, safety and security concerns in the store and parking lot.

Meet with and have representation from the Korean community – There was discussion regarding the need, opportunity and challenge of inviting and including Korean-heritage residents and church-goers of Porter Ranch to participate with the PRNC. Efforts have been made with limited results. Additional possibilities include a PRNC Board Member(s) presenting at one or more of the Korean churches, having a Pastor present at a PRNC Meeting and distributing fliers to schools regarding PRNC-sponsored events.

Sidewalk repairs – The need for sidewalk repairs was discussed. The City’s 50-50 Sidewalk Repair Program long ago was stopped; the City is trying to shift responsibility for city sidewalk damage due to tree roots to homeowners. [Note: Ms. Leveque reported at the November 1, 2011 PRNC General Board Meeting that the City Street Services Dept. estimated that it would cost \$900,000 to repair the sidewalks on Rinaldi between Wilbur and Tampa.]

Porter Ranch Community School Joint Use Agreement – There was discussion reminding that there is a Joint Use Agreement between the PRNC and the School for the PRNC to use the School’s Multipurpose Room for meetings and events and that the PRNC needs to continue to work to ensure that that privilege is retained for the community. Also, it was suggested that the School playground could be used for community events sponsored by the PRNC.

Porter Ranch concerts and public art – It was suggested that the PRNC sponsor concerts and public art in Porter Ranch as community projects that would enhance the quality of life, bring people together and increase recognition of Porter Ranch.

Public transportation to Orange Line Bus – Working to improve Porter Ranch public transportation connections to the Orange Line Bus was recommended to increase transportation options and opportunities.

The Retreat was adjourned around 11:50 a.m.