



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

at Shepherd of the Hills Church, 19700 Rinaldi St., Porter Ranch, CA 91326

1. Welcome and Introductions

President Paula Cracium called the Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Board Members introduced themselves: Paula Cracium (President), Becky Leveque (Vice-President), Pat Pope (Secretary), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Bright Aregs, Sue Hammarlund, Mel Mitchell, Sean O'Rourke, Dick Rippey and Ethan Turer. Vas Singh arrived later. No Board Seats were vacant. Ten 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. Also attending: 47 Stakeholders and guests.

2. Minutes Approval

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 8, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Aregs wanted the exact times when Board Members arrived late to be noted.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Mr. Aregs opposed; two abstained.

3. Treasurer's Report

A list of recent allocations and expenditures was distributed and reviewed.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Batta, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the February 5, 2013 Treasurer's Report as presented.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mitchell noted that a Demand Warrant was not submitted for the 2011 North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce Senior Event. Ms. Batta said she will file back Reconciliations this month. Ms. Leveque specified that the PRNC "needs more detail" about expenditures. Ms. Cracium clarified that there was one Holiday Party and that the only other food provided was at General Board Meetings.

FUNDING MOTION FAILED by a hand vote with four in favor; six opposed.

Ms. Cracium explained that the Board will wait for a detailed Treasurer's Report to approve. Ms. Batta and Ms. Leveque urged that all receipts and other supporting documents need to be submitted, including for funds that were and are to be allocated and expended by Demand Warrant or Purchase Card.

4. Mayor's Budget Survey

Ms. Cracium explained the Survey available at <http://la.budgetchallenge.org/pages/overview>. Also, the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) City Candidates Forum will be February 23rd.

5. Update on CERT

Mr. Pope announced that a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) (818-756-9674; LAFDCert@LACity.org; www.CERT-LA.com) program/training class will begin Monday, March 4th. Sign up at www.PRNC.org. Mr. Turer added that ages 14 and up can attend.

Board Member Vas Singh arrived at this time at 6:23 p.m.

6. Report on Community Impact Statement, re: Council File #12-1934

Mr. Rippey explained that the PRNC voted in January to support Grayce Liu being made permanent General Manager of the L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and he testified January 15th about that. Also, on behalf of the PRNC, he filed a Community Impact Statement with the City of Los Angeles to support having Porter Ranch officially named as a community. Mr. Rippey requested Erik Richardson, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Erik.Richardson@LACity.org), to help get the City Council to pass it.

7. Report on the Bylaws Revision Committee and propose one item to be voted on at the February Meeting

This Item was deferred to the next (March 12th) General Board Meeting.

8. Discussion on Porter Ranch HOAs

This Item was deferred to the next (March 12th) General Board Meeting.

9. Updates, 10th Anniversary, Neighborhood Council Plan Review and Reform Initiative

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.] Mr. Singh reported that BONC [the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners] recognized the PRNC's 10th anniversary; he displayed a Certificate of Recognition. He distributed handouts about and reported that "Neighborhood Council Plan Review and Reform Initiative" Meetings started. A BONC report will be considered by the City Council around July 1st. Mr. Aregs volunteered to also represent the PRNC.

Ms. Cracium had asked Mr. O'Rourke to research what could be considered a conflict of interest. He explained that "it's up to the Board Member" to confirm that. Ms. Cracium encouraged Board Members "to be careful."

10. Motion: to agree with placing bicycle lanes on Wilbur Ave., between Rinaldi St. and Chatsworth St., only if it does not reduce the traffic lanes, or the left hand turn lanes which currently exist.

This Item was deferred to the next (March 12th) General Board Meeting.

11. Proposed Motion: To provide the Devonshire Area of the Los Angeles Police Department with items donated by the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, not to exceed \$5,000.00, for the refurbishment of the officers' kitchen/break room. Items to

include a sink, garbage disposal, faucet, refrigerator, stove, table, chairs, cabinets, counters, etc.

This Item was deferred to the next (March 12th) General Board Meeting.

- 12. Proposed Motion:** To approve support of the 4th of July Spectacular hosted by Shepherd of the Hills.

Ms. Cracium recommended and it was agreed to TABLE the Motion.

- 13. Discussion, Holleigh Bernson Park pet waste issue.**

Ms. Leveque described the issue and recommended that waste bags be made available at the Park. CD12's Erik Richardson offered help. Mr. O'Rourke noted disrepair in the Park and will work with Ms. Leveque on that.

- 14. [See the below Motion.]**

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Aregs, seconded by Mr. Turer): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council allocates \$70 to cover the cost of a 3' x 5' multicolored vinyl banner, purchased from HighTech Signs and Banners in Canoga Park, for the purpose of promoting our 8th Annual Citrus Sunday event co-sponsored by Councilmember Mitchell Englander, the CD12 Neighborhood Council, and Valley Interfaith Council.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hammarlund requested and Ms. Leveque agreed to make the banner re-usable.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote.

- 15. Discussion, Year-end expenditures and remaining budget**

This Item was deferred to the next (March 12th) General Board Meeting.

- 16. Board – Lead Areas**

This Item was deferred to the next (March 12th) General Board Meeting.

- 17. Community Speakers**

[*This report was given after Item #14.*] John Alford, Deputy for U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; Brad.Sherman@Mail.House.gov; www.BradSherman.House.gov), offered home mortgage and other help.

There was a brief recess.

- 18. Committee Reports**

This Item was deferred to the next (March 12th) General Board Meeting.

- 19. Public Comments**

This Item was deferred to the next (March 12th) General Board Meeting.

- 20. Future Meetings / Guests**

[*These presentations were given after the recess.*] L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; 818-701-5253; 213-473-7012; Councilmember.Englander@LACity.org; http://CD12.LACity.org) recognized Mr.

Mitchell and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his long community service. The Councilmember described the Council File procedure. He will request the L.A. Dept. of Transportation to consider the importance of traffic safety at the Rinaldi and Amigo intersection. The proposed plastic bag ban “will apply” to places such as Target and Wal-Mart. An Aliso Canyon bridge “will never go in . . . for many reasons.” He will explain the “street cleaning process . . . in an upcoming newsletter.”

The Councilmember described street maintenance and repair methods and funding history and mechanisms, including slurry seal (a “topcoat”), reconstruction and resurfacing. He described the required procedure and actual practice of street repairs. Repaired/repaved streets are not supposed to be cut into for at least one year. The proposed Street Repair Bond would create penalties for companies that cut into the streets without authorization. Total funds available have declined, including from the gas tax. He explained the Bond and why he believed that this is a good time to pass a Bond that “would be put in a dedicated trust fund.” It would be a 20-year Bond; the work would be done in 10 years and the Bond would be paid in 29 years. The Bond may be on the June 2013 or November 2014 ballot. Around one-half, or \$3.5 billion of the \$7 billion City Budget, is controlled by the City Council.

L.A. City Attorney Carmen Trutanich (213-978-8100; <http://atty.LACity.org/index.htm>) encouraged calling him for help. He said that “70% of what the LAPD,” as well as many other City Departments, “does every single day comes through” the City Attorney’s Office. His Office has no choice and must defend the City. There are now more than 7,000 lawsuits pending against the City. While Mr. Trutanich has been City Attorney they have balanced all their Budgets and not hired anyone. He created the Reserve Deputy City Attorney Program; more than 300 attorneys have volunteered to give six months in the City Attorney’s Office in return for trial prosecution experience. Eighty-seven percent of those trials have been won at no cost to the City. They are using far less “outside counsel” than before, saving money. He described City laws that help prevent gun violence and an innovative drug dealer injunction tool. The 2009 marijuana regulation law was upheld as constitutional. Three attorneys are available to help Neighborhood Councils. Also, there are 21 Neighborhood Prosecutors who can and have tried cases. Mr. Trutanich said the proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance was not passed by the City Council because of the difficulty of implementing State law and a lack of political will.

There will be a Special Board Meeting February 16, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at Shepherd of the Hills Church to discuss the PRNC Budget.

It was agreed that, due to the March 5th City Primary Election, the next PRNC General Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 12th.

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund).

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.