



## PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 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 6:00 p.m. Board Members introduced themselves: Paula Cracium (President), Becky Leveque (Vice-President), Pat Pope (Secretary), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Sue Hammarlund, Mel Mitchell, Dick Rippey and Ethan Turer. Sean O'Rourke arrived later. Board Members absent: Bright Aregs and Vas Singh. No Board Seats were vacant. Eight 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: 38 Stakeholders and guests.

*Board Member Sean O'Rourke arrived at 6:05 p.m.*

#### 2. Minutes Approval.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 16, 2013 Board Budget Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; Ms. Batta and Mr. Turer abstained.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Turer): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 5, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; Ms. Batta abstained.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report.

The "PRNC Treasurer's Report" dated "3/12/2013" was distributed. There was extensive discussion regarding what amount of funding is available.

#### 4. Treasurer – Motion to approve revised budget.

The "[PRNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 -- Revised 3/7/2013" was distributed.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Mitchell): the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves its revised Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget as presented.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Hammarlund wanted funding to be available for local schools.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote with no objections.

Ms. Batta resigned as Treasurer as of “the end of the month,” though is staying as a Board Member, and left the Meeting at this time. She soon returned to the Meeting.

5. **Urgent memo regarding reconciliations.**

Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

6. **Motion** to approve up to \$3,000 for Porter Ranch Signs.

Mr. Rippey reported that the City Council approved the signs by an 11-0 vote. Erik Richardson, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Erik.Richardson@LACity.org), indicated that CD12 will pay for the signs. Sign locations are to be determined. No Motion was made.

7. **Motion** to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for new Porter Ranch Signs unveiling.

Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

8. **Motion** [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will provide the Devonshire Area of the Los Angeles Police Department with items donated by the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, not to exceed \$2,000, for the refurbishment of the Officers’ kitchen/break room. Items to include a sink, garbage disposal, faucet, refrigerator, stove, table, chairs, cabinets, counters, etc.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Leveque indicated that up to 10 Neighborhood Councils are considering contributing a total of up to \$20,000 toward the total equipment cost. Discussion confirmed that there was no conflict of interest for Ms. Leveque to vote on this Motion.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with five in favor; two opposed; Mr. Pope abstained.

9. **Motion** [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Mitchell): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves \$3,000 support of the 4th of July Spectacular hosted by Shepherd of the Hills Church.

**DISCUSSION:** The funding would be used to rent a Moon Bounce and related equipment.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with no objections.

**10. Motion** [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves up to \$2,000 for the purchase of various educational items for Castlebay and Porter Ranch Community School. These items include BoseR multi-media speaker system, 4 stopwatches for PE testing, Microsoft Office 2007 for Macintosh, video cameras (Koolpix) for kids to create videos about school for Castlebay. For Porter Ranch Community School: BG739LL/A Bndl iPad 2 16GB wi-fi black, not to exceed \$1,000.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Hammarlund read aloud a letter from Porter Ranch Community School Principal Mary Melvin regarding how the equipment would be used.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with no objections.

**11. Motion** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Pope requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

**12. Motion** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Pope explained the need for the equipment.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves an amount not to exceed \$1,200 for items needed for Fire Station 28: kitchen items: 1. Microwave oven (Panasonic 1250 watt – model: T945SFX); 2. Pressure cooker ( Presto 16 qt.; 3. Stock pots (3) – Tramortina Stainless Steel - 22 qt. , 16 qt. , and 12 qt. ; 4. GPS Devices for Rigs - Garmin Nuvi - model 2555MT (need total of 3, one for each emergency rig here).

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; Ms. Batta abstained.

**13. Motion** [see the below Motion].

It was agreed to **COMBINE** Item and Motion #'s 13 and 14.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves new newsletter expenses for \$1,000 and web expenses for \$1,000, both for Moore Business Results.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with no objections; Ms. Batta abstained.

**14. Motion** [see the above Motion].

**15. Discussion** regarding use of funds not allocated by May 1.

Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. *[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #23.]* Ms. Cracium requested and Mr. Mitchell agreed to work on this.

**16. Update** on CERT.

Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. *[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #15.]* Mr. Pope reported that 40-50 people attended the first class.

**17. Update** on 10th Anniversary of PRNC.

Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. *[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #16.]* Ms. Cracium announced that the PRNC is 10 years old.

**18. Government Updates:** Andre Hollings (office of Assemblyman Scott Wilk), Council District 12.

Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. *[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #17.]* See Item #20.

**19. Board – Lead Areas**

Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. *[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #18.]* There were no reports at this time.

**20. Community Speakers**

Mr. Richardson announced that April 5th there will be a Community Development Department representative at the CD12 Office. The Aliso Canyon Park Grand Opening will be March 16th. Mr. Richardson announced that he's leaving CD12 to accept a position in the Office of State Assemblyman Scott Wilk. *[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #19.]* Ms. Cracium announced that there will be a Food & Water Watch (323.843.8451; [www.FoodAndWaterWatch.org](http://www.FoodAndWaterWatch.org)) event March 20<sup>th</sup> at CSUN.

**21. Committee Reports**

Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. *[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #20.]* Ms. Cracium noted that this is the same as Item #19.

**22. Public Comments**

Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item. *[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #21.]* Stakeholder Irv Cohen requested that the PRNC allocate funding for swings at Holleigh Bernson Park. He encouraged the PRNC to provide a list of Committees. Ms. Leveque reported that [www.SpotCrime.com](http://www.SpotCrime.com) gives localized crime information. Stakeholder Glenn Bailey encouraged attending the Mayor's Budget Day 8:00 a.m. – noon at the Braude Constituent Services Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys. He reminded that the City Council is considering taking 20% of Neighborhood Councils' funding to fund the 2014 NC Elections; he encouraged feedback to DONE and the Mayor's Office.

**23. Future Meetings / Guests**

**Presentation:** Special Guest: LAPD Valley Traffic Division.

Brian Pratt, LAPD Captain, Van Nuys Patrol Division (818.644.8030;

[Brian.Pratt@lapd.LACity.org](mailto:Brian.Pratt@lapd.LACity.org); [www.LAPDOnline.org](http://www.LAPDOnline.org)), reported that the most dangerous driving behavior is speed. Many drivers drive "distracted" by calling and

texting while driving. He recommended that, if you get a traffic ticket, “be kind, courteous and respectful . . . don’t argue.” He urged not to let yourself or anyone else drink and drive; it could take as little as two drinks. He encouraged putting a club on your vehicle steering wheel and to park by good lighting. The School Visitation Program “is ongoing . . . that’s a promise from Chief Beck.” Illegally long-term parked oversized vehicles are handled by the L.A. Dept. of Transportation, not the Police Dept. Mr. Pope encouraged contacting Hannah Lee, Associate Planning and Transportation Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8501; Hannah.Lee@LACity.org), regarding motor homes regularly parked especially along Tampa Ave. LAPD Valley Traffic Officer David Hovey (818.644.8144) said to direct freeway ramp concerns to Caltrans (213.897.3656; <http://www.dot.ca.gov>). Stakeholders asked and the Officers answered questions about a variety of traffic situations.

**Presentation:** Sonny Nunez, President, Crown Castle Technical, update for proposed projects to extend 9-1-1 emergency service, enhanced voice and data for wireless users.

Mr. Nunez distributed copies of a Crown Castle “We Are Solutions” information packet and described Crown Castle as “a regulated phone corporation . . . a distributed antenna provider . . . we provide communication services over our fiber-optic networks.” He described their service features and benefits provided “at no cost to the community.” The equipment is already installed around the Valley, “can run multiple carriers through one antenna” and can improve HOA data communications. They “only build on firm commitment orders,” typically of 10 years. Mr. Nunez said they are presenting now to advise the PRNC that they may do business with Porter Ranch Estates, possibly with Sprint and others. He said wireless communications users have contacted their cell phone companies regarding service challenges; the companies contacted Crown Castle. They “have to meet State standards per the Public Utilities Commission [PUC] . . . including for windy areas.” Crown Castle Site Development Manager Gene Mitchell explained that they “respond when the carriers ask us,” including for right-of-ways and Homeowners’ Associations.

**Presentation:** Special Guest Southern California Gas Co. Advanced Meter Project. Ray Verches and Martha Solano of SoCal Gas presented. Mr. Verches indicated that in 2013 and 2014 they “will retrofit your gas meters”; signal receivers “will be co-located on City Bureau of Street Lighting poles . . . there will not be any new poles in this area.” The Gas Company will send 30-day installation notices. They displayed a sample meter and described the installation process which will be used for residential, commercial and business meters. The meter “reads four times a day for less than two minutes per year” and is powered by two batteries expected to last 20 years. It’s a one-way system; information will only go out and the Gas Company can’t send information to the meters. The Gas Company is doing this to get more accurate gas usage readings and for environmental reasons; the new meters “take about a thousand vehicles off the road each day.” All meter-readers will be offered other jobs within the Gas Company. It’s a five-year installation process; they’ve “tested this process for over 10 years.” An opt-out option “is pending approval before the PUC.” More information is available at <http://www.socalgas.com>.

**Presentation:** Special Guest Steve Gaur, L.A. Dept. of Transportation, Bikeways Section. Update on bike lanes on Corbin Ave. and Wilbur Ave.

Mr. Gaur indicated that, along with the proposed bike lanes on Wilbur between Rinaldi and Chatsworth and on Corbin between Rinaldi and Lassen, two driving lanes in each direction are “being maintained,” as is the medical center parking on Wilbur. The bike lanes network is being expanded to encourage less vehicle use and more bicycle use. There was extensive discussion of the merits of the bike lanes. Glenn Bailey, Chair, L.A. City Bicycle Advisory Committee (818-453-3407; GlennBaileySFV@yahoo.com), described increasing bicycle ridership in the area and benefits of bike lanes. Ms. Cracium summarized Stakeholder concerns regarding bike lanes. Mr. Bailey will check on whether a temporary parking permit can be obtained for an area with bike lanes. Establishment of the bike lanes is funded by the 2008 voter passage of Measure R.

*[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #22.]* Ms. Cracium announced that, at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting, a Postal Inspector will talk about mail fraud and identity theft. There was discussion regarding the PRNC’s funding status.

**MOTION to ADJOURN** (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund).

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.