



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 2, 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.

2. **Roll Call**

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. Board Members absent: Vas Singh. 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: 43 Stakeholders and guests.

3. **Minutes Approval**

Mr. Pope noted that the focus was on completing and submitting the Purchase Card Reconciliations [see below Item #7]; the March 13th Minutes will be approved at the May 7th Meeting.

4. **Treasurer**

The "[PRNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 . . . Revised 3/7/2013" and "PRNC Treasurer's Report" dated "4/1/2013" were distributed. Ms. Batta reviewed the latest expenditures. There was discussion of what amount of funding is available and possible allocations.

5. **Government Updates.**

Melody Jaramillo, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Melody.Jaramillo@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), introduced herself. The Councilman's "311" app [application] is working; through it you can report a need for City services such as street repairs. The City Council is discussing a proposed mural Ordinance #418; Mr. Aregs volunteered to report on it to the PRNC. The bike lanes construction moratorium near Porter Ranch Community School was "continued for another four months." Ms. Jaramillo distributed copies of a "Valley Family Festival" "Community Application" and announced the May 31-June 2 event with a carnival and health fair at Northridge Park.

Danny Del Valle, LAPD Devonshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 818-363-1726; mobile/text phone 818-634-0362; 27677@LAPD.LACity.org, or DelVallesw.45@att.net for urgent), reminded to lock home doors and windows. The Police "put a speed trailer" on Rinaldi St. to remind drivers to slow down. Violent and other crime is down except "burglary theft from motor vehicles"; he reminded not to leave valuables in vehicles. Thefts are especially occurring during sporting events.

He advised that, if you drive an SUV with a third seat, “back it in” toward something such as a wall or light pole to prevent theft of the third seat. He reported that “the east side of Porter Ranch is being hit by burglars,” male and female, making “knock-knock” entries. He advised that, if someone you don’t know knocks on your door, let them know you’re home; “say something” but don’t open the door. Burglars may impersonate DWP or other utility workers or gardeners. He said “if they won’t leave, tell them your going to call 9-1-1.” If you’re not going to be home, turn on a radio or TV and close blinds to block the view inside. Officer Del Valle encouraged being the Police’s “eyes and ears” through groups such as the VST (Volunteer Surveillance Team). Contact PatrickPope@PRNC.org to volunteer. The Neighborhood Watch meets every fourth Thursday [at 7:00 p.m.] at St. John Eudes [Church, 9901 Mason Ave.; 818.363.1726]. Officer Del Valle distributed copies of a “Walk Against Crime” flier for the April 27th event for families at Mason Park; there will be light refreshments. Observance of the National Day of Prayer will be May 1st at 9:00 a.m. at the Devonshire Station [10250 Etiwanda Ave., Northridge, CA 91325; 818-832-0633; http://www.lapdonline.org/devonshire_community_police_station]. There will be an \$8 all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast, car show and tour May 18th at 8:00 a.m. at the Station. A Stakeholder reported seeing a woman driving behind a delivery truck, then he did not receive a package he was expecting.

6. Treasurer, Maha Batta – Motion to approve revised budget.

No Motion was made.

7. Update, memo regarding reconciliations.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Copies of the PRNC first (July-September 2012) and second (October-December 2012) quarter Purchase Card Reconciliations were distributed. Ms. Cracium reported that they were submitted to DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment].

8. Update on Citrus Sunday. Flyers are available.

Mr. Turer distributed copies of a “Citrus Sunday” flier for the Sunday, May 5th 8:30 a.m. – noon event. He described the need to help Valley residents. Pick fruit that would otherwise fall to the ground uneaten, then drop it off at Temple Avat Shalom from where it will be brought directly to food banks.

9. Motion [see the below Motion].

Ms. Hammarlund described the need to help prevent shelf units from falling during a disaster. The school could be used as a shelter. The “restraint devices” may be bungee cords which a custodian would install.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the purchase of bungee cords to protect students and faculty from debris falling during an earthquake. Up to \$300.

DISCUSSION: Denise Jones, L.A. Fire Dept. Captain, Fire Station 28, (818.756.9728; Denise.Jones@LACity.org), suggested and will help research other funding. There was discussion of the Motion having the phrase “restraint devices” instead of “bungee cords.”

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Rippey):
The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the purchase of restraint devices to protect students and faculty from debris falling during an earthquake. Up to \$300.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote.

10. Motion [see the below Motion].

L.A. Fire Dept. Station 8 Captain Mark Kleckner (KleckCamp@yahoo.com; mobile 818.590.9847; work 818.756.8668) described the need.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Leveque): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves items for Fire Station 8, from savings on the CERT books. Items include: 1) Captain Cook 4 burner grill (\$699); 2) Craftsman c3 19.2 volt replacement batteries (2 pk) (\$59.99); 3) Porter-Cable ¼ sheet sander (\$39.00); 4) 2 sets of 8 dinner plates (\$42.00); 5) 2 sets of 8 basic bowls (\$36.00); Not to exceed \$1,000.

DISCUSSION: Funding is available in the PRNC Budget.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Mr. Turer opposed; Mr. O'Rourke abstained.

11. Discussion regarding use of funds not allocated by May 1.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #17.] Ms. Cracium estimated that \$1,500 - \$2,000 remains to be allocated by the May [7th] General Board Meeting. Stakeholder Dave Hasson, of Friends of the Oakridge Estate, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, requested funding for that. The Estate is in Reseda on Devonshire west of Reseda Blvd. The intention is to use the Estate as a community center for weddings and more. The Chatsworth and Northridge West Neighborhood Councils have allocated funds. Mr. Mitchell will work on a Motion for it. Ms. Leveque reminded that the funding must be applied for as a Neighborhood Purposes Grant.

12. [DONE] General Manager's Special Bulletin.

Ms. Cracium described the Bulletin and requested that Board Members report on funding and Stakeholder definition issues. Mr. Turer volunteered to work on Bylaws and funding issues.

13. Update on CERT.

Mr. Pope reported that the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team; 818-756-9674; LAFDCert@LACity.org; www.CERT-LA.com) program/training class is going well.

14. Lead Areas.

Mr. Rippey reported on the VANC [Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils] Training Session and Mixer. Ms. Leveque reported that she met with LAPD Captain Pitcher, who said that crime is down 8.6% in the Devonshire Division.

15. Community speakers.

There were no more speakers at this time.

16. Committee Reports.

There were no more reports at this time.

17. Public Comments.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #20.*] Alexandra Nagy, Organizer, Food & Water Watch (323.843.8451; ANagy@FWWatch.org; www.FoodAndWaterWatch.org), distributed copies of a “The Water Tunnels and Los Angeles” information sheet and a suggested support letter to ban fracking and oppose public funding for the proposed Delta Water Tunnel Plan for a water pipeline. Mr. Aregs volunteered to report on it to the PRNC.

18. Future Meetings / Guests.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #14.] There was discussion as to whether to invite May 21st City Election Candidates to present to the PRNC.

- 19. Special Guest** – Captain Chris Cooper, LAFD/CERT. Topic: OK/Need Help door hangers, announcement of Engine Company 28’s 100th Anniversary this July. [*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.*] Captain Stacy Gerlich, LAFD Disaster Preparedness Section CERT Program Coordinator, distributed “OK / Need Help” display cards and explained that they’re to hang on your street-side door or place in the window in an emergency. They are “not to take the place” of calling 9-1-1 for emergency assistance. She said the Fire Dept. “needs our help . . . to be more self-sufficient.” Mr. Pope will link information to the PRNC website [www.PRNC.org].

- 20. Special Guest** – Stacia Crane, Public Information Officer for the US Postal Inspection Service. Topic: Protecting yourself from mail fraud. Stacia Crane will discuss identifying potential fraudulent solicitations and what you can do to protect yourself. Ms. Crane (www.PostalInspectors.USPIS.gov) explained that USPIS Officers are federal agents with powers to protect and arrest. She described how scammers operate, especially targeting elderly and alone people. “Foreign lottery fraud starts with a letter or call” and “you’re liable” for cashing “a fraudulent check.” Criminals are also requesting people to send cash within something such as a book; she advised not to send ANY money for such a request. If you receive a lottery check for a lottery you did not enter, bring the check, the envelope and other enclosed material “to the Post Office and ask them to give it to the Postal Inspector.” Also, a phone call that appears to be local may be from another country. Scammers are using Internet mapping services such as Google maps to describe nearby homes to make it seem that the scammers are nearby and legitimate. Criminals are also calling, posing as relatives in need of cash, and requesting that it immediately be sent. They are also filing fraudulent mailed and electronic tax returns using other people’s Social Security Numbers.

21. Motion to adjourn.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #18.]

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

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.