



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 7, 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.

2. Roll Call

Board Members introduced themselves: Paula Cracium (President), Becky Leveque (Vice-President), Pat Pope (Secretary), Maha Batta (Treasurer), Bright Aregs, Mel Mitchell, Sean O'Rourke, Dick Rippey, Vas Singh, and Ethan Turer. Board Members absent: Sue Hammarlund. No Board Seats were vacant. 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. Also attending: approximately 95 Stakeholders and guests.

3. Minutes Approval

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.]

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Batta): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 12 and April 2, 2013 General Board Meetings as corrected.

DISCUSSION: The following corrections to the Minutes were requested: March 12th: the Meeting date was March 12th, not March 13th; and on page two, Item #8, the vote total should show that Ms. Leveque recused herself from voting. The April 2nd Minutes on page two, Item #8 should show a Citrus Sunday event finish time of 12:30, not "noon"; and the name of the Temple is Ahavat Shalom, not "Avat Shalom."

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

4. Government Updates, Conflict Rules, Mayor's budget for NC's, \$37,000 next year. (Paula Cracium)

Mr. Turer reported that the May 5th Citrus Sunday event "collected almost a ton of fruit." Fruit was picked that would otherwise have fallen to the ground uneaten, and then eventually taken to food banks to help Valley residents. Jim Dellinger, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-756-8784; Jim.Dellinger@LACity.org), announced the S.O.L.I.D. All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast May 18th 8:00-11:00 a.m. event at the LAPD Devonshire Station. He also announced the Valley Family Festival May 31-June 2 event with a carnival and health fair at Northridge Park. Fliers for both events were distributed. L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Councilmember.Englander@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>), encouraged voting

in the May 21st City election and announced that “Neighborhood Council budgets will stay where they’re at” [\$37,000 per year].

Special Guest: Eric Garcetti, Councilman of District 13, Candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles. Councilman Garcetti (www.EricGarcetti@gmail.com) visited the Porter Ranch Community School and noted the “great program” for math and science. He described the “valuable contributions” of PRNC Board Members and believes that the City Public Works Department should advise Neighborhood Councils of upcoming projects. The Councilman would like the City to use “street furniture funds” to help Neighborhood Councils with neighborhood projects. “Re-establishing faith in the City is the most important thing we can do,” he believed. He said that 85% of the City’s costs in the recession have been “what we pay people and their benefits” and there’s “additional reform to do going forward.” He would like more City employees’ health benefits contribution to increase from five to 10 percent. If elected as Mayor, he “will focus on school funding.” The Councilman would support “full public financing of” City election campaigns. He described what he would do to help create jobs, including eliminating the City’s “gross receipts tax.” He would “ask all my General Managers to reapply for their jobs” and be “held accountable.”

Erik Richardson, Sr. Field Representative for State 38th District Assemblymember Scott Wilk, (661-286-1565; Erik.Richardson@asm.ca.gov; <http://arc.asm.ca.gov/member/AD38>), introduced himself and encouraged contacting him if you have a question or need a service. Mr. Richardson formerly was a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander.

5. Treasurer’s Report & New Rules. (Maha Batta, Mel Mitchell)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.] Ms. Batta reviewed PRNC finances. She said “about \$7,000 of funds is left” to spend this Fiscal Year. She said the “third quarter Reconciliation was submitted on time” and “the Budget for 2014 needs to be submitted no later than June 14.” Mr. Rippey said he will get the PRNC election funding total for the June Meeting Agenda.

6. Treasurer – Motion to approve revised budget. (Maha Batta)

A “[PRNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013” as of “5/7/2013” and a “[PRNC] Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 – As of May 7, 2013” were distributed.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Batta, seconded by Mr. Mitchell): the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the “[PRNC] Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 – As of May 7, 2013” as presented.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

7. Motion [see the below Motion]. (Paula Cracium)

Ms. Cracium described the need for Board Members to recuse themselves from voting, participating or even being in the room during Items where they “could cause undue influence.” It was pointed out that, as the PRNC uses Robert’s Rules of Order as its Parliamentary Procedure and as this Meeting is after the Meeting held subsequent (April 2nd) to the Meeting referred to (March 12th) in the below Motion, the PRNC would need to suspend its rules in order to vote on the below Motion.

MOTION to SUSPEND the RULES (by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Pope): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council SUSPENDS its rules based upon Robert's Rules of Order so that the PRNC can vote upon the Motions to Reconsider in this Item #7 and the following Item # eight.

MOTION to SUSPEND the RULES PASSED by a hand vote with eight in favor; one abstained.

MOTION to RECONSIDER and TABLE (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Reconsiders action taken on March 12, Item #8, regarding Devonshire Station remodel and moves to permanently TABLE the Item.

MOTION to RECONSIDER and TABLE PASSED by a hand vote; Ms. Leveque abstained.

8. **Motion** [see the below Motion]. (Paula Cracium)

MOTION to RECONSIDER and TABLE (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Aregs): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Reconsiders action taken on March 12, Item #9, regarding the 4th of July Spectacular and moves to permanently TABLE the Item.

MOTION to RECONSIDER and TABLE PASSED by a hand vote.

9. **Motion** [see the below Motion]. (Dick Rippey)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #16.] Mr. Mitchell recused from discussing or voting on this Item and left the room because he is an Oakridge Estate Board Member. Ms. Leveque recused from discussing or voting on this Item and left the room because she is on a park committee.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Rippey, seconded by Ms. Batta): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council appropriates a grant of \$1,000 to support the Oakridge Estate Project.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Rippey reminded of the need to allocate remaining Fiscal Year PRNC funding or it will be swept back to the City. Stakeholder Dave Hasson, of the volunteer Friends of the Oakridge Estate, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, explained the restoration project at Reseda and Devonshire Blvds. The Estate can be used as a community center for weddings and other events. It is not at this time connected with the Museum of the San Fernando Valley; "nothing has been described that's concrete . . . [City] Recreation and Parks will make the final decision . . . We're a Park Advisory Board." Stakeholder Steve Harris explained the Park Advisory Board and the Friends of Oakridge and their roles. Neither group is part of Recreation and Parks. A revised Master Plan with landscape architecture is being drafted. Mr. Harris said it would be "a passive recreation park"; there would be "no basketball courts" or similar facilities or equipment. Mr. O'Rourke was concerned that allocations need to be for a specific purpose and should be for projects within

the PRNC boundaries. Ms. Hammarlund noted that the Master Plan cost \$12,000 and that the funding is “specifically for the Master Plan.”

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Rippey, seconded by Ms. Batta): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council appropriates a grant of \$1,000 toward the cost of a Master Plan for the Oakridge Estate Project.

AMENDED FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with seven in favor; Mr. O’Rourke opposed; Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Leveque recused.

Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Leveque returned to the room.

10. Motion [see the below Motion]. (Mel Mitchell)

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Singh): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council appropriates an amount of \$250 to \$1,000 to support the Congress of Neighborhoods event on Saturday, September 28, 2013.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Mitchell described the event.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Cracium); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Ms. Cracium abstained.

11. Motion [see the below Motion]. (Paula Cracium)

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Mitchell): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves an ad in the North Valley Community Connection (\$250).

DISCUSSION: The need for the funding was discussed.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Ms. Cracium abstained.

12. Motion [see the below Motion]. (Paula Cracium)

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Mitchell): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves an ad in the Valley Voice (\$200).

DISCUSSION: The need for the funding was discussed.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Ms. Cracium abstained.

13. Motion [see the below Motion]. (Becky Leveque)

Mr. Mitchell recused himself from discussing or voting on this Item and left the room because of affiliations with groups supporting the event

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves \$1,000 for the 2013 Valley Family Festival.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Cracium); there were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Ms. Cracium abstained; Mr. Mitchell recused himself. Ms. Leveque abstained.

Mr. Mitchell returned to the room.

14. **Motion** [see the below Motion]. (Becky Leveque)
An event flier was distributed.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves \$500 for the Senior Dance.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leveque described the event and gave a completed Demand Warrant for the event to Ms. Batta.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with nine in favor; Mr. O'Rourke and Ms. Cracium abstained.

15. **Motion** [see the below Motion]. (Pat Pope)
[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.*]

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the purchase of one Kestrel 4500NV Pocket Weather Tracker, w/True Heading & Night Vision for LAFD Fire Station 28. This is a catalog purchase direct from the manufacturer. Not to exceed \$350 including tax and shipping.

DISCUSSION: L.A. Fire Dept. Station 28 Captain Joe Flores described the device and the need.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

16. **Motion** [see the below Motion]. (Pat Pope)

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the purchase of one Kestrel 4500NV Pocket Weather Tracker, w/True Heading & Night Vision for LAFD Fire Station 15. This is a catalog purchase direct from the manufacturer. Not to exceed \$350 including tax and shipping.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Ms. Cracium abstained.

17. **Update**, May 2013 VANC meeting. (Mel Mitchell)
[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #14.*] Mr. Mitchell reported on the successful May 9th Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Meeting.

18. **Update**, Summit with Councilman Mitchell Englander. (Pat Pope)
Mr. Pope reported that he e-mailed to Board Members a letter and information from Councilman Englander regarding the proposed mural Ordinance. Mr. Pope described the current rules. The Ordinance would “allow murals on single-family dwellings.”
19. **Update**, Mural Ordinance (CF 11-0923). (Bright Aregs, Mel Mitchell)
Mr. Mitchell described the need to ensure that murals do not include advertising. Mr. Hasson encouraged the Board to write to Councilman Englander about desired mural guidelines. Ms. Cracium will try to invite representatives of both sides to speak to the PRNC.
20. **Update**, 2014 Neighborhood Council Elections. (Dick Rippey)
Mr. Rippey described recent Neighborhood Council elections history. DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] will try “to standardize” election ballots.
21. **Update**, Funding recommendations by City Council. (Ethan Turer)
Mr. Singh reported that three citywide working groups of Neighborhood Council leaders have been working on this. He described recommended options. He and Mr. Aregs described Brown Act requirements regarding serial communications.
22. **Update**, Stakeholder definitions. (Ethan Turer)
Mr. Turer later will report back to the PRNC about Neighborhood Council Stakeholder definition options.
23. **Question** regarding contact list for the PRNC Board. (Paula Cracium)
Board Members will provide their contact information to Mr. Turer. Mr. Pope is working on getting business cards for Board Members.
24. **Question** regarding conflicting meeting times for PRNC and Neighborhood Watch. (Paula Cracium)
Ms. Cracium explained the issue. Board Members agreed to post other organizations’ events on the PRNC website [www.PRNC.org], whether the events are on the same date as PRNC events or not.
25. **Public Comment**.
Mr. Aregs volunteered to recruit proposed mural Ordinance speakers. Ms. Cracium estimated that there is approximately \$3,800 in funding left to allocate. She will get the exact amount and notify the Board. Mr. Hasson encouraged the Board to thank its meeting facilities in writing and to sponsor a “community park event.”
Stakeholder Eric Bong Nam said that he and other residents are concerned about left-turn red light runners at Rinaldi and Mason; Mr. Pope volunteered to assist.

26. **Adjourn**.

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Cracium, seconded by Mr. Rippey).

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.