



## PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

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

#### 1. Welcome

President Paula Cracium called the Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Board Member Ethan Turer. Seven of the nine Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting and introduced themselves: Paula Cracium (President), Becky Leveque (Vice-President), Sean O'Rourke (Treasurer), Sue Hammarlund, Mel Mitchell, Dick Rippey and Ethan Turer. Bright Aregs arrived later. Board Members absent: Pat Pope (Secretary). 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. Nine of the eleven Board Seats were filled. Two Board Seats were vacant. Also attending: 44 Stakeholders and guests.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report

Mr. O'Rourke distributed and reviewed the "PRNC Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual July through September 2013," "Expenses by Vendor Detail July through September 2013," "Unpaid Bills Detail as of October 1, 2013," "Monthly Expenditure Reports" for September, US Bank Purchase Card statement, expenditure receipts and transaction statement. The balance is \$25,961.76.

*Board Member Bright Aregs arrived at this time around 6:11 p.m.*

#### 4. MOTION [see the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Ms. Leveque): the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the October 1, 2013 Treasurer's Report as presented, including the Monthly Spending Report of September 2013.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of six of the seven eligible voters present (Mr. Aregs was not eligible to vote on funding Motions) with all seven in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Rippey and Turer). [Presidents can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

#### 5. Minutes Approval

Because they were not complete yet, approval of the September Minutes was tabled until the next General Board Meeting.

6. **Election** -- Elect two new Board Members, filling the two vacant Seats on the Board. [*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4.*] Ms. Cracium explained the procedure. Both Seats will be up for re-election in March. Candidates Maha Batta, Eric Nam, Armando Nunez and Vas Singh spoke of their community interests and qualifications.

The vote count for the first vacant Seat was:

Batta:

5 (Aregs, Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell and Rippey)

Singh:

1 (Turer)

Nam:

1 (O'Rourke)

Nunez:

0

Ms. Batta was declared the winner and was seated with the Board. This left one vacant Board Seat.

Melvin Canas, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; Melvin.Canas@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), confirmed that Ms. Batta was eligible to vote for a candidate for the remaining vacant Board seat.

The vote count for the second vacant seat was:

Singh: 8

(Aregs, Batta, Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Rippey and Turer)

Nam: 0

Nunez: 0

Mr. Singh was declared the winner and was seated with the Board. Now all 11 Board Seats were filled.

Mr. Rippey and Ms. Leveque urged Mr. Nam and Mr. Nunez to run in the March PRNC election.

7. **Governmental updates**, including parking at Porter Ranch Community School.

Mr. Canas introduced himself and reported that nearly 700 people attended the recent Congress of Neighborhood Councils, the most ever. Budget Day will be Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> [7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.] at City Hall [see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NCBudgetDay2013>]. See [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org) or call (213) 978-1551 for information. Neighborhood Councils can nominate two Budget Representatives who, with others, elect the 14 Citywide Budget Advocates. He encouraged receiving DONE's weekly newsletter; text EmpowerLA #22828 to receive it on a mobile device. He explained the NC's role and community representation opportunities with City officials such as the City Council, the Mayor and the City Attorney. Currently there is a Bylaws amendments moratorium due to the upcoming NC's elections. Mayor Garcetti challenged NC's to increase election participation.

Jesse Levine, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (882-1212; [Jesse.Levine@LACity.org](mailto:Jesse.Levine@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://www.CD12.org)), reported that once a month the City Council meets at Van Nuys City Hall [6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys]. The CD12 Community Service Center [9207 Oakdale Dr., Chatsworth] hosts City Department representatives. The Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair will be October 5<sup>th</sup> at Fire Station 87. She explained Councilman Englander's street resurfacing bond measure legislation that the City Council will consider. Police officers are starting to wear on-uniform cameras in a pilot program funded by a private company; complaints against police have been greatly reduced.

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

Copies were distributed of a completed Neighborhood Purposes Grant application. Jane Stanton, North Valley Family YMCA Executive Director, (818-368-3231, x2330), explained their annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway program. Last year 2,700 baskets were given away; this year's goal is 2,800. Each basket costs \$35.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Hammarlund, seconded by Mr. Singh): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the expenditure of \$500.00 for the YMCA Thanksgiving baskets grocery items to feed 57 families through a Neighborhood Purposes Grant.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of eight of the nine eligible voters present (Mr. Aregs was not eligible to vote on funding Motions) with all eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Batta, Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Rippey, Singh and Turer). [Presidents can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

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

Mr. Rippey explained VANC [the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils] and its activities, including monthly second Thursday night meetings.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Rippey, seconded by Mr. Mitchell): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves an expenditure of \$200.00 for food for the VANC

Reception on November 14th and the VANC Mixer on April 10th. Funding would come from fund 200 outreach specially 200 EVE.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Mitchell supports VANC's work.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of eight of the nine eligible voters present (Mr. Aregs was not eligible to vote on funding Motions) with all eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Batta, Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Rippey, Singh and Turer). [Presidents can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

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

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will send a letter to the City of Los Angeles in support of the Hidden Creeks Estates project in Porter Ranch.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Mitchell explained project history [see [www.Hidden-Creeks.com](http://www.Hidden-Creeks.com)]. HCE representatives Mike Sanders and John Polito explained that the land would be annexed to the City of Los Angeles and provide the additional needed water. Ms. Leveque explained HCE's role in helping to fund Porter Ranch community schools.

**MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of nine of the ten eligible voters present (Mr. Aregs was eligible to vote on this Motion because it was not a funding Motion) with eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Aregs, Batta, Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell, Rippey, Singh and Turer); Mr. O'Rourke abstained. [Presidents can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

Mr. Mitchell volunteered to draft the letter.

**11. Update** – Treasurer 1, Sean O'Rourke: Update on the neighborhood social network [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com).

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #20.*] Mr. O'Rourke described <https://nextdoor.com> website benefits and concerns.

**12. Discussion** – Treasurer 1, Sean O'Rourke: Alexandra Nagy would like to ask the PRNC to consider her letter to the City Council.

Ms. Cracium noted that Ms. Nagy was unable to attend.

**13. Discussion** -- Ethan Turer: Safety Club at Granada Hills HS.

Mr. Turer announced that the High School's Safety Club started. He, as the President, is working with L.A. City Fire Dept. Battalion Chief Chris Cooper. Mr. Turer will update about a pilot program which seeks professional safety speakers.

**14. Update** -- Ethan Turer: Ad Hoc Committee on Outreach.

Mr. O'Rourke described a possible PRNC logo.

**15. Discussion** -- Ethan Turer: Holiday Party.

Mr. Turer explained that Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> is a possible PRNC Holiday Party date. Last year it cost \$2,559. Ms. Leveque suggested using the Porter Ranch Community School's Community Room instead of the Porter Ranch Country Club. Mr. O'Rourke noted that the PRNC Budget shows \$3,250 available for community events. Ms. Cracium requested this to be an Outreach Committee project.

**16. Update** -- Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee Meeting update.

Ms. Leveque explained that "two sets of Bylaws" exist. The Committee will recommend amendments and submit them to the Board for approval. They "will address the absence issue." Ms. Cracium requested the Committee to consider increasing the Board from its current 11-Member size due to the increasing amount of Board work.

**17. Update** -- Vice-President, Dick Rippey: Report on the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Council's September 12th meeting.

Mr. Rippey reported that VANC discussed NC issues and upcoming community events. Mr. O'Rourke volunteered to staff the PRNC booth.

**18. Discussion** -- President, Paula Cracium: recommending Bright Aregs to serve on the Zoning Advisory Committee.

Ms. Cracium explained that she assigned and Mr. Aregs agreed to serve as the PRNC representative on the Zoning Advisory Committee.

**19. Discussion** -- President, Paula Cracium: Empower LA would like the PRNC to assign liaisons. Roles identified are: 2 budget reps for Budget Day; 1 rep to work with DWP oversight and advocacy; Legal liaison; Planning representative; Public Works liaison; and Transportation representative.

The following volunteered: Budget Representatives – Ms. Leveque and Mr. O'Rourke; Mr. Mitchell – DWP; Ms. Batta – legal liaison; Planning – Mr. Aregs; Public Works – Ms. Cracium nominated Mr. Pope; Transportation – Ms. Hammarlund.

**20. Presenter**

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.*] State 38th District Assemblymember Scott Wilk, (661-286-1565; <http://arc.asm.ca.gov/member/AD38>), described his Committee Seats and responsibilities, and reviewed State budget issues and procedures. Technology-trained people are needed for businesses and educational funding has increased.

**21. Public Comments**

Stakeholder Jo Phillips described Councilman Englander's legislation CF13-0650 that fines property owners for not maintaining their properties. Ms. Cracium agreed to agendaize this for another General Board Meeting. Stakeholder Greg Taylor was

concerned about trees dying around the 118 Freeway and Reseda Blvd. intersection; “the blight is moving up the hill.” Ms. Levine clarified that many of the trees are on Caltrans (State), not City (of L.A.) property. The City Urban Forestry Division has no program to deal with bark beetle-infested trees, though Councilman Englander is trying to fund one. Neighborhood Councils can pay to cut down infested trees. Ms. Cracium will agendaize this.

**22. Future meetings**

Ms. Cracium is trying to have Mayor Garcetti speak at a PRNC Meeting.

**23. Motion to adjourn**

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

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.