



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 5, 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 6:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by the Secretary. Ten of the 11 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting and introduced themselves: Paula Cracium (President), Dick Rippey (Vice-President), Sean O'Rourke (Treasurer 1), Becky Leveque (Treasurer 2), Pat Pope (Secretary), Maha Batta, Sue Hammarlund, Mel Mitchell, Vas Singh and Ethan Turer. Bright Aregs arrived later. Board Members absent: none. 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. All eleven Board Seats were filled. No Board Seats were vacant. Also attending: 32 Stakeholders and guests.

One minute of silence was observed for TSA Officer Gerardo Hernandez, who was a Porter Ranch resident.

3. Treasurer's Report

Mr. O'Rourke distributed and reviewed the latest "Monthly Expenditure Report," US Bank Purchase Card statement, "PRNC Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual July 1 through November 4, 2013," "Expenses by Vendor Detail July 1 through November 4, 2013," "Unpaid Bills Detail as of November 4, 2013" and a recent expenditures list. The balance of funds remaining [through the June 30, 2014 end of the Fiscal Year] is \$23,110.24. He explained budget balances and procedures. \$2,500 is available for a community project.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of 10 of the 11 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Aregs, Batta, Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Pope, Rippey, Singh and Turer). [Presidents can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

4. Motion

See above Item #4.

5. Minutes Approval

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 10, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leveque requested the inclusion of the following on page four, Item #13: “[*Ms. Leveque will provide the wording: ___*] ___”

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Rippey): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 10, 2013 General Board Meeting as written and including the above wording.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Pope); there were no objections.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with eight in favor; Mr. Aregs and Ms. Batta abstained.

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Turer): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 1, 2013 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with nine in favor; Mr. Pope abstained.

6. **Updates / Governmental updates**, including Parking at Porter Ranch Community School, Dying Trees and Construction Dust. Jesse Levine, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (882-1212; Jesse.Levine@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), reported that Caltrans has removed dead Canary Island Pine trees that were planted in the 1970’s along the Caltrans right-of-way between Rinaldi St. and the 118 Freeway. City Councilman Englander funded the removal of dead trees on the City’s right-of-way on Rinaldi Street. Ms. Levine said that residents could call the Councilman’s office about other dead trees on City property. The City Council voted to fine homeowners who allow parkways to have a lot of dead foliage and/or trash on them. Mr. Rippey explained that parkways “must have a vertical clearance of nine feet” from the sidewalk. Mr. O’Rourke explained the “Million Trees Program” that provides homeowners with up to seven free trees; the homeowners must water them. A plan is available costing \$500 up front per tree for 2 ½ years of watering. Ms. Cracium added that the PRNC can allocate “replanting funds for some of those dead trees.” Ms. Levine reported that free “OK/HELP” emergency preparedness signs are available.

Rosanna Solis, Deputy for State 27th District Senator Fran Pavley (818.876.3352; <http://sd23.senate.ca.gov>, encouraged signing up for their newsletter and reported that Senator Pavley focuses on transportation and fracking. 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>), reported that 33 trees were removed between Balboa and Topanga; Caltrans will replace them with drought-tolerant plants.

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; http://www.LAPDonline.org/Devonshire_Community_Police_Station), encouraged contacting him if you see suspicious activity. There'll be "a big presence" of police at the Porter Ranch Mall during the holidays. Residential burglaries are still a problem, especially north of Rinaldi, including in the middle of the day. Some thieves are scouting homes posing as utility or sales representatives; identify them before you open your door. If a stranger knocks, you can turn on radio or TV louder. Don't leave packages on your porch and "never confront a suspect."

Bill Larsen, L.A. City Deputy Attorney, (213.393.5561; William.Larsen@LACity.org; http://www.atty.LACity.org/our_office/CriminalDivision/CNAP/index.htm), reported that the sober living home at Rinaldi and Reseda closed; the owner is selling it.

7. **Motion** -- to appropriate no more than \$150 from Community/Events line item for Holiday Party promotion. Poster/advertisement printing.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.]

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Turer): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council appropriates no more than \$500 from Community/Events line item for Holiday Party promotion and poster/advertisement printing.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of the allocation amount and where to most effectively advertise. The Party will be at the School because it's a new facility and the PRNC wants to try having it there. Ms. Cracium noted that "it's the largest single outreach event that we do."

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of 10 of the 11 eligible voters present with nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Aregs, Batta, Leveque, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Pope, Rippey, Singh and Turer); one abstained (Ms. Hammarlund).

8. **Motion** [see the below Motion].
Mr. O'Rourke explained the Motion.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council allocates \$500 from the General Advertising line item to have our current logo/assets professionally redrawn for different media formats.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of 10 of the 11 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Aregs, Batta, Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Pope, 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. O'Rourke explained the Motion.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Ms. Hammarlund): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council reallocates \$1,200 from the Meeting Expense category in the budget to pay for the mobile optimization of prnc.org.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Cracium explained that the Committee voted to bring this subject back to the Board; there was previous discussion but no vote on it.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of 10 of the 11 eligible voters present with nine in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Aregs, Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Pope, Rippey, Singh and Turer); one abstained (Ms. Batta).

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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #19.] Ms. Leveque described the need.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves up to \$3,000 for the holiday party.

DISCUSSION: The party will be at the Porter Ranch Community School Community Room.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of 10 of the 11 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Aregs, Batta, Hammarlund, Leveque, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Pope, Rippey, Singh and Turer). [Presidents can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

11. **Motion** -- Vice President, Dick Rippey: Motion to approve the Resolution and Community Impact Statement supporting Council File number 13-0650 regarding sidewalk maintenance.

Ms. Levine reported that the City Council already passed this Resolution. No Motion was made here.

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

Mr. Turer distributed copies of and reviewed a draft PRNC Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet and a "Neighborhood Council Board Elections 2014" pamphlet. The terms of Mr. Aregs, Ms. Batta, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Rippey and Mr. Singh end in 2014; the other Board Members' terms end in 2015.

MOTION (by Mr. Turer, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approve the Stipulation Worksheet for the 2014 elections.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Turer will submit the Worksheet to DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] through their website [www.EmpowerLA.org].

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with all 10 in favor. [Presidents can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

- 13. Update** -- Treasurer 1, Sean O'Rourke: Ad Hoc Committee on Outreach
Mr. O'Rourke distributed copies of "nextdoor.com" information material and reported that the Committee is discussing with NextDoor.com how it could be used in Porter Ranch. There was discussion of this.
- 14. Update** -- Ethan Turer: 2014 Election
Mr. Turer reported that DONE and the City Clerk's Office will administer the Election. There will be online Candidate filing. Mr. O'Rourke suggested soon convening an Election Committee.
- 15. Update** -- Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: December Holiday party
Ms. Leveque described Holiday party preparations.
- 16. Update** -- Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: Bylaw Ad Hoc Meeting update.
Ms. Leveque reported that DONE is not allowing Bylaws changes until after the NC Elections. The Committee is working on Bylaws revisions.
- 17. Report** -- Vice President, Dick Rippey: Report on the VANC October meeting.
Mr. Rippey reported that the VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) Mixer will include City officials. Also, "the blue [neighborhood] signs are partially up." They will be at the intersections of Rinaldi and Aliso, Reseda and the 118 Freeway, Mason and the Freeway, and Corbin and the Freeway.
- 18. Report** -- Secretary, Pat Pope: Neighborhood Council Leadership Workshop.
Mr. Pope reported that LAFD Captain Keith Scott replaced Captain Stacy Gerlich as the LAFD Disaster Preparedness Section CERT Program Coordinator. The October 5th Disaster Preparedness Fair "is a model for the City." The PRNC and DONE "websites need to have multiple links to each other . . . The City Council is still reviewing the definition of what a Stakeholder is."
- 19. Presenter** -- Captain Maureen Ryan of Valley Traffic
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.] LAPD Captain Ryan (818.644.8023 of the Valley Traffic Division introduced Officer Troy Williams (818.644.8016; 27014@LACity.org). Captain Ryan described improvements to the Devonshire Division Roll Call Room made with PRNC help. The Traffic Division covers the whole San Fernando Valley; it's in the old GM plant on Van Nuys by Roscoe. Traffic Division responsibilities include collision investigations, traffic ticket issuances, enforcing other laws and education. She reminded to not drive distracted by talking, texting, eating, etc. Bicyclists have "all the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle drivers." She clarified that "in L.A. it's not illegal to [ride a bicycle] on the sidewalk"; however, pedestrians and bicycles "can't just bolt out into traffic." As of September 2014 "the driver of a vehicle, as they pass a cyclist, has to give a three-foot berth . . . A cyclist doesn't have to ride in the 'door zone'." Bicyclists don't have to ride in a bicycle lane; they can ride in the right-hand vehicle driving lane. Drivers can occupy a bicycle lane within 200 feet of an intersection. Whether you are driving a vehicle or riding a bicycle, you can only have an earpiece in one ear, not both. Officer Williams reviewed at length vehicle-pedestrian crossing laws and situations. If a pedestrian is crossing at an

intersection without a crosswalk, they are not jaywalking because, at an intersection, pedestrians have the right-of-way. Drivers don't have to immediately complete a turn after a traffic light turns yellow if it's not safe to move forward.

20. Public Comments

Alexandra Nagy, Organizer, Food & Water Watch (323.843.8451; ANagy@FWWatch.org; www.FoodAndWaterWatch.org), re-drafted a letter for the PRNC to consider approving in support to ban fracking and oppose public funding for the proposed Delta Water Tunnel Plan for a water pipeline. She reported that the City Council will consider a ban; "fracking is occurring in Aliso Canyon" and occurred 200 times in the last year around the City. She will e-mail more information to the Board.

21. Future meetings

Ms. Cracium announced that the PRNC will have the Holiday Party instead of a General Board Meeting on December 3rd.

22. Adjournment

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

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.