



PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

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

1. **Welcome**

President Paula Cracium called the Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. All 11 of the 11 (five of them soon-to-be-outgoing) Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Paula Cracium (President), Dick Rippey (Vice-President), Sean O'Rourke (Treasurer 1), Becky Leveque (Treasurer 2), Pat Pope (Secretary), Bright Aregs, Maha Batta, Sue Hammarlund, Mel Mitchell, Vas Singh and Ethan Turer.

2. **Roll Call**

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.*] All 11 of the 11 (including five new) Board Members were present: Paula Cracium (President), Pat Pope (Vice-President), Sean O'Rourke (Treasurer 1), Ethan Turer (Treasurer 2), Eric Nam (Secretary), Sue Hammarlund, Alex Kim, Ashley Lee, Cindy Lee, Becky Leveque and Anthony Park. The PRNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven (see <http://www.slideshare.net/EmpowerLA/porter-ranch-nc-bylaws>), so the Board could take such votes. All eleven Board Seats were filled. No Board Seats were vacant. Also attending: approximately 83 Stakeholders and guests.

3. **President, Paula Cracium Call to order** - Leyla Campos, Field Division Director. Ms. Cracium introduced Leyla Campos, Director of Field Operations, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; Leyla.Campos@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org).

4. **Seating of new Board Members and election of officers**, Leyla Campos.

a. Seating of new Neighborhood Council Board
See below.

b. Neighborhood Council Oath

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>), led March 1st PRNC Election winners and new Board Members Alex Kim, Ashley Lee, Cindy Lee, Eric Nam and Anthony Park in reading aloud the PRNC Oath of Office. [Applause.] Ms. Cracium asked outgoing Board Members Dick Rippey, Bright Aregs, Maha Batta, Mel Mitchell and Vas Singh to sit with the audience and the new Board Members to be Seated with the Board.

c. Election of Board Officers

Ms. Cracium explained the need for the votes.

President

Mr. Pope nominated (Mr. O'Rourke seconded) Ms. Cracium, who accepted the nomination. Mr. Kim nominated (Ms. Hammarlund seconded) Ms. Leveque, who accepted the nomination. The Board voted by a hand vote of all 11 of the 11 eligible voters present to elect Paula Cracium as President with seven in favor (Cracium, Hammarlund, Ashley Lee, Nam, O'Rourke, Pope and Turer); four voted for Becky Leveque (Leveque, Kim, Cindy Lee and Park).

Vice-President

Mr. Nam nominated (Ms. Cracium seconded) Mr. Pope, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Hammarlund nominated (Mr. Kim seconded) Ms. Leveque, who accepted the nomination. The Board voted by a hand vote of all 11 of the 11 eligible voters present to elect Pat Pope as Vice-President with six in favor (Cracium, Ashley Lee, Nam, O'Rourke, Pope and Turer); five voted for Becky Leveque (Hammarlund, Leveque, Kim, Cindy Lee and Park).

Treasurer 1

Mr. Turer nominated Mr. O'Rourke, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Hammarlund nominated Ms. Leveque, who respectfully declined. The Board voted unanimously by a hand vote of all 11 of the 11 eligible voters present to elect Sean O'Rourke as Treasurer 1 (Cracium, Hammarlund, Kim, Ashley Lee, Cindy Lee, Leveque, Nam, O'Rourke, Park, Pope and Turer).

Treasurer 2

Ms. Cracium nominated Ms. Leveque, who respectfully declined. Mr. Pope nominated Ms. Hammarlund, who respectfully declined. Mr. O'Rourke nominated Mr. Nam, who respectfully declined. There was discussion of the importance of the Treasurers for funding.

[This Agenda Item was returned to after the Secretary election.] Ms. Cracium and Ms. Campos discussed the PRNC not having a Treasurer 2. Ms. Campos explained Treasurer 2 responsibilities and options. Mr. O'Rourke nominated Mr. Turer, who accepted the nomination. The Board voted by a hand vote of all 11 of the 11 eligible voters present to elect Ethan Turer as Treasurer 2 with eight in favor (Cracium, Hammarlund, Ashley Lee, Cindy Lee, Nam, O'Rourke, Pope and Turer); three opposed (Kim, Leveque and Park).

Secretary

Mr. Pope nominated (Ms. Hammarlund seconded) Mr. Nam, who accepted the nomination. Ms. Leveque nominated Mr. Park, who respectfully declined. The Board voted by a hand vote of all 11 of the 11 eligible voters present to elect Eric Nam as Secretary with ten in favor (Cracium, Hammarlund, Ashley Lee, Cindy Lee, Leveque, Nam, O'Rourke, Park, Pope and Turer); one opposed (Kim).

5. Presentation of Certificates to exiting Board Members.

Ms. Cracium explained the former Board Members' "absolutely tireless" community service. Matthew Vallecilla, Staff Assistant for U.S. 27th District of California Congressman Brad Sherman (818-501-9200; Matthew.Vallecilla@mail.house.gov; www.BradSherman.House.gov), and Ron Rubine, Field Deputy for City Councilman Mitch Englander (818-882-1212; Ron.Rubine@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), each presented Certificates of Appreciation to former Board Members Dick Rippey, Bright Aregs, Maha Batta, Mel Mitchell and Vas Singh. Ms. Leveque presented a cake welcoming the Board Members and thanking outgoing Board Members for their past and future efforts.

6. Motion to approve February Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 11, 2014 Special Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of all 11 of the 11 eligible voters present with eight in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Cracium, Hammarlund, Kim, Cindy Lee, Leveque, O'Rourke, Pope and Turer); three abstained (Ashley Lee, Nam and Park).

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 4, 2014 General Board Meeting as written.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leveque requested corrections in the page four, Item #13
DISCUSSION: "a low Grade Point Average" should read "a high Grade Point Average"; and add the sentence "Some Stakeholders supported the Motion."

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of ten of the 11 eligible voters present with seven in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Hammarlund, Kim, Leveque, O'Rourke, Park, Pope and Turer); three abstained (Ashley Lee, Cindy Lee and Nam).

7. Treasurer's Report -- Treasurer 1, Sean O'Rourke

Mr. O'Rourke distributed copies of the "[PRNC] Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual, July 1, 2013 through April 1, 2014," the latest US Bank Purchase Card statement and a "[PRNC] Transaction Detail by Account" of transactions from February 4, 2014 – April 1, 2014 and reviewed recent expenditures.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Turer): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves its March 2014 Treasurer's Report.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Campos stated that, regarding whether a roll vote was needed for this Motion, "it's just administrative."

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Cracium); there was no objection.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of ten of the 11 eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Hammarlund, Ashley Lee, Cindy Lee, Leveque, Nam, O’Rourke, Park, Pope and Turer); one abstained (Kim).

8. **Motion** – Treasurer 1, Sean O’Rourke: Motion to approve budget report. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.

9. **Community / Governmental Updates and Announcements.**
There were none at this time.

10. **Updates** - President, Paula Cracium: Updates on previously approved expenditures to insure all expenditures will be made before year end. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.

11. **Discussion** – Request for renewal of the 7/11 CUP for beer and wine sales at the Porter Ranch 7/11.

Ralph Saltsman, representative for the 7-Eleven, stated that “the original use was granted in August of 1998 . . . it has generated no governmental concerns.” A Zoning Administrator Hearing was held on March 14th. He said that “one condition modification” was requested: to extend the “delivery cutoff” time from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Stakeholder Jane Lowenthal described neighbors’ concerns about delivery truck noise and deliveries made out of the allowed times. Many more Stakeholders were in favor of the PRNC supporting the Application.

12. **Motion** - to approve the request by the Porter Ranch 7/11 to renew their Conditional Use Permit for the sale of Beer & Wine. It was agreed to word the Motion as follows.

MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Leveque): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will send a letter of support to the City regarding the request for renewal of the 7/11 CUP for beer and wine sales at the Porter Ranch 7/11.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call 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. **Motion** – Secretary, Pat Pope: Motion to approve up to \$200 for new business cards for new members/positions. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.

14. **Motion** – approve up to \$270 for a large capacity coffee maker for LAFD Fire Station 8 for general use, and to supply coffee to firefighters during periods where Fire Station 8 is used as a command post. It was agreed to word the Motion as follows.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Ms. Leveque): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves up to \$270, including tax and shipping, for a large capacity coffee maker.

DISCUSSION: L.A. Fire Dept. Station 8 Captain Mark Kleckner (KleckCamp@yahoo.com; mobile 818.590.9847; work 818.756.8668) described the usefulness of the coffee maker. There was discussion of the use of and need for it.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Pope); there was no objection.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of all nine of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Hammarlund, Kim, Cindy Lee, Leveque, Nam, O’Rourke, Park, Pope and Turer).

15. Motion – [See the below Motion.]

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. O’Rourke): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council approves up to \$230 for a light weight floor jack for LAFD Fire Station 8 for use in rescue operations.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of all nine of the nine eligible voters present with all nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Hammarlund, Kim, Cindy Lee, Leveque, Nam, O’Rourke, Park, Pope and Turer).

16. Motion – Sue Hammarlund: Motion to repeal the approved motion to allocate the \$1,000 to Castlebay for the gym equipment per Principal Victoria Littlejohn. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.

17. Motion – Sue Hammarlund: Motion to purchase a metal storage container for Castlebay Elementary School, not to exceed \$1,000. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.

18. Motion - Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: to allow \$500 for Citrus Sunday post cards. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.

19. Motion - Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: Motion to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each meeting. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.

20. Motion - Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: to have an American Flag and a California near the podium at each meeting. BL will ask Congressman Brad Sherman for a flags. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.

21. Motion - Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: to allow up to \$100 for the two flag stands. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.

22. Motion - to draft a letter to Nextdoor requesting that they refer to our community as Porter Ranch and not to use north, south east and west in defining us. *[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #28.]* It was agreed to word the Motion as follows.

MOTION (by Ms. Leveque, seconded by Mr. Kim): The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will draft a letter to Nextdoor requesting that they refer to our community as Porter Ranch and not to use north, south east and west Porter Ranch in defining us.

DISCUSSION: Marquis Olison, City Field Manager for www.NextDoor.com, described it as “a private, local, useful social network for your neighborhood” that is also a revenue-driven service through advertising. He said NextDoor has L.A. City and Police support and described one neighborhood’s use of NextDoor to “build community” and fight crime. He said that “no one’s required” to use it. He indicated the reason areas are “broken up into smaller neighborhoods” is because people using NextDoor are more comfortable being part of groups that aren’t too large. There was extensive discussion of whether such designations are divisive or not for Porter Ranch and how NextDoor could or should work. Ms. Cracium requested and Mr. Olison agreed to work with Mr. O’Rourke to re-name NextDoor’s Porter Ranch areas.

Board Member Becky Leveque left at this time.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Ms. Cracium); there was no objection.

MOTION FAILED by a roll call vote with two in favor (Kim and Park); three opposed (O’Rourke, Pope and Turer); four abstained (Hammarlund, Ashley Lee, Cindy Lee and Nam).

23. **Motion** - Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: to draft a letter to Nextdoor requesting that they do not refer to our neighborhood and the "HOOD" which is a gang term. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.
24. **Motion** - Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: Motion to approve the by-law corrections. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.
25. **Report** – Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: Holleigh Bernson Park Workout Equipment Ribbon Cutting - April 11th. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.
26. **Report** – Treasurer 2, Becky Leveque: on 4th of July- logo on the stage banner as well as on the fence line banner, a ¼ page ad in the event newspaper and also be listed on our main flyer and one opportunity to address the attendees from the stage. Ms. Cracium requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Motion.
27. **Presenter:** Ralph Combs, Manager, Corporate Development, The Termo Company; Termo is proposing to drill up to twelve new oil and gas wells as an extension of our existing operations in the Aliso Canyon Field north of Porter Ranch. Mr. Combs of Termo (“community hotline: (562) 773-7242”; www.Termo.com) presented slides and reviewed the “North Aliso Canyon Project” that he said “is just an extension” of existing uses approximately 3.5 to five miles north-northwest of Church of the Foothills. He explained that Termo is “an oil and gas exploration and

production company.” He stated that Termo mostly will be drilling for oil through “vertical . . . conventional drilling,” not fracking. The “gas will be sold to the Gas Company.” He said Termo has “worked very closely with the Fire Department and the County” and is finishing getting government approvals. All operations are on L.A. County, not L.A. City, land. Each “typical production setup” site will be “about 1 ½ acres.” He indicated that Termo uses “blowout preventers” and stated that Termo “lost no wells” during the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Mr. Combs said “the construction and drilling will . . . be spaced over six years . . . there will be no noise impact on Porter Ranch . . . the closest resident will be 8,500 feet away.” Also, “no trees will be removed.” Drilling will be in “target . . . zones . . . separated” from the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin. He said “this is all behind the ridge . . . none of this is visible.” However, “this may never achieve full buildout”; Termo may not drill all 12 planned wells. Mr. Combs “would expect . . . one truck per day.” He added that “we have water up there . . . twice a year” for short periods Termo will have moderately increased truck traffic. He stated that Termo would consider paying a “proportionate share” of expenditures to repair roads used by their trucks. He encouraged to call the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD; 800-CUT-SMOG (288-7664); www.aqmd.gov) if you smell anything undesirable. Ms. Cracium also encouraged Stakeholders to contact the PRNC (www.facebook.com/PorterRanchNC; Board@prnc.org; 818-217-0279; PRNC, P.O. Box 7337, Porter Ranch, Ca. 91327-7337).

Jarrod DeGonia, Deputy for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Michael Antonovich (818-993-5170; JDeGonia@lacbos.org; www.Antonovich.com), clarified that City of Los Angeles residents are also L.A. County residents. He stated that “the Neighborhood Councils will be notified . . . we’ve asked [Termo] to be proactive with the community.”

28. Presenter: Alexandra Nagy, Organizer, Food & Water Watch.

Alexandra Nagy, Organizer, Food & Water Watch (323.843.8451; ANagy@FWWatch.org; www.FoodAndWaterWatch.org), presented slides and said that whether fracking will be done at the North Aliso Canyon Project will be revealed in the EIR (Environmental Impact Report). She described the fracking process and concerns. She said that “over 30 years 50% of cement casings fail.” She believed that recent Los Angeles-area earthquakes may have been affected or caused by current fracking operations that are happening in a number of areas around Los Angeles. Ms. Nagy indicated that mortgage lenders and insurers are re-evaluating risks regarding financing homes near fracking operations.

29. Public Comments a. Future meetings- May: Neighborhood Council Board Orientation.

Randall Brady described the May 10th 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Tampa Music Festival at Tampa-Wilbur Park, “a satellite park, so no permit is required.” They are trying to “galvanize arts and music in the Valley.” Painters “will paint live along with the music.” He said “we’re also hiring outside security” and if anyone is taking drugs “we’ll ask them to leave.” He said “we’re trying to keep” the attendance to no more

than around 100 in the park at any one time. Ms. Cracium expressed that organizers may need to get City approvals.

Mr. O'Rourke indicated that he will create new Board Members' e-mail accounts on April 2nd.

30. Motion to adjourn

Ms. Cracium adjourned the Meeting at 9:18 p.m.