



**Issam Najm, President; Susan Gorman-Chang, Vice President; Gabriel Khanlian, Secretary;
Andrew Krowne, Treasurer; David Balen, Signer; Jason Hector;
Alex Kim; Becky Leveque; Jennifer Milbauer, Asaad Alnajjar**

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC)
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2017
Porter Ranch Community School
Multi-purpose Room
12450 Mason Avenue
Porter Ranch, CA**

**Sustainability Committee Meeting
Approved Minutes**

Item #1 --Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Susan Gorman-Chang at 7:07pm.

Item #2 --Welcome & Introductions

We welcomed stakeholder Lori Kalman. Curt Darling, stakeholder, joined us near the end of the meeting.

Item #3 --Roll Call

Present were David Balen, Co-Chair Sustainability; Susan Gorman-Chang, Co-Chair Sustainability, Jason Hector, Committee Member, and Lane Semper Committee Member and stakeholder Lori Kalman. We have quorum.

Item #4 Comments from the Chairs

We are meeting here in public library this month, since no room was available for us at Porter Ranch Community School.

Item #5 – Approval of April 4, 2017 Minutes

David made a motion to approve the April 4, 2017 Sustainability Committee Minutes and Jason seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously as follows.

| | |
|---------|--|
| Yes | David Balen, Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Lane Semper |
| No | None |
| Abstain | None |

Jason made a motion to approve the May 2, 2017 Sustainability Committee Minutes and David seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously as follows:

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|---------|--|
| Yes | David Balen, Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Lane Semper |
| No | None |
| Abstain | None |

Item #6 –LADWP Solar Net Metering Presentation Discussion

We discussed LADWP presentation at the PRNC Board Meeting on 5/10/2017 and all felt it went well and was informative. We should continue to leverage these contacts with LADWP regarding solar power. Jason wondered how much current battery storage capacity LADWP has in place. Both Kevin Taylor from the City and LADWP mentioned that a fire station in Porter Ranch will be the first to have solar power with battery storage, which will be used as a back-up in an emergency such as a grid failure or earthquake. We need to stay in the loop to find out when their celebratory ceremony is on this, and show up to such an event to support their use of solar power with battery back-up capacity. We were not sure which fire station (Tampa or Corbin) was to receive these solar panels, and Susan will follow up with Kevin Taylor to find out.

Item # 7 – “These are From Trees” stickers

PRNC will be purchasing 1,000 “These are From Trees” stickers. See <http://thesecomefromtrees.blogspot.com>. These stickers are a behavioral “nudge” designed to remind people that paper comes from trees, and to use only what they need. Per the blog, the sticker can save one tree’s worth of paper in a year. It makes people more mindful. We discussed the possibility of having a Saturday event where we go business to business in Porter Ranch to ask businesses if we can put these stickers in their bathrooms. We discussed partnering with our elementary schools and churches in our area to get them involved and engaged in this idea of conserving paper which also saves money. Susan will find out if we can personalize them, meaning add “Brought to you by Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council” or put a sticker around the These Come From Trees stating such. Jason suggested, and Susan will create, a paper explaining what these stickers are for, and keep that by a stack of these stickers at every PRNC Board monthly meeting.

Item #8 – Existing Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) Working Group

Lane has provided Susan contact information and several emails about the NCSA Working Group on stopping the use of Gas Leaf Blowers. Gas blowers are illegal in Los Angeles per Los Angeles Municipal (LAMC) Section 112. 04 (c) which bans the use of the gas powered leaf blower device to minimize the nuisance and health related problems attributed to this type of equipment. Furthermore, LAMC 112.04(c) LAMC became effective February 13, 1998, and states, "No gas powered blower shall be used within 500 feet of a residence at any time. Both the user of such a blower as well as the individual who contracted for the services of the user if any, shall be subject to the requirements of and penalty provisions for this ordinance. Violation of the provisions of this subsection shall be punishable as an infraction in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Dollars(\$100)."

Jason suggested we should try to offer an alternative, and asked if AQMD is doing any type of exchange of gas powered leaf blowers the way they did for gas powered lawn mowers. Lane stated AQMD has moved in the wrong direction on this, promoting exchanging of gas powered leaf blowers for those they give away that still use gas power but supposedly emit fewer pollutants! Susan will look into this for the next meeting and report back. Susan will also read through all the emails from the Gas Leaf Blower Working Group to see what they have come up with to date, since they have been functioning for about a year now.

We can start to initiate conversations with various entities to ask them to direct their staff/contractors to use only battery or electric leaf blowers, or better yet brooms, instead of gas powered leaf blowers. Entities can include:



- LAUSD schools, starting with Castlebay Elementary and Porter Ranch Community School
- Shopping centers such as Town Center and upcoming The Vineyard
- HOA landscapers/gardeners working on common areas in Porter Ranch

Item #9 –Discuss Ideas for Focused Aliso Canyon Working Group

Susan explained that we will be asking the group in Porter Ranch that is made of the Presidents of each HOA to sponsor this Working Group. That will engage more people and they can call the meetings. (Update: Susan presented to this HOA group and they did not get back to us, so assumption is this did not appeal to them, so Susan brought motion back to the PRNC Board meeting on July 14, 2017.)

Item #10- Discussion for a potential Net Zero Plan Porter Ranch Town Hall

We discussed inviting members of the Mayor’s Sustainability staff such as Matt Peterson and Lauren Faber-O’Conner to give the presentation entitled “Net Zero Porter Ranch” during a Town Hall Meeting. Lauren Faber-O’Conner presented this at our Sustainability Committee in December 2015, and it is time to share and promote this in our community.

Jason made the motion to bring to the PRNC Board a motion to plan and execute a Town Hall on Net Zero Porter Ranch, and David seconded this motion. Motion was approved unanimously as follows.

| | |
|---------|--|
| Yes | David Balen, Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Lane Semper |
| No | None |
| Abstain | None |

Susan will have to bring this motion to the full PRNC Board to vote on before we can start planning such a Town Hall Meeting. Jason suggested we narrow the focus to maybe 2 main topics.

Item # 11- Sustainability Awards

We discussed the possibility of Sustainability Awards to be given out to local businesses and organizations that show leadership in sustainability practices, stewardship, and/or renewable energy. Susan will check with Jasmine Elderberry from DONE to see if/how we can do this, to ensure we do not run afoul of city rules and procedures.

Item # 12- General Public Comment

Curt Darling, stakeholder, let us know he has recently moved into the area with his wife and kids. He googled the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council and found the Sustainability Committee Meeting tonight. He is interested in Working Group. We encouraged him to attend the monthly PRNC Board Meetings, always the second Wednesday of each month, at Porter Ranch Community School, usually starting at 6:15 pm. We mentioned PRNC always supplies free, good food from local restaurants, so he does not have to worry about dinner at PRNC Board meetings.

Item # 13- Committee Members Comments & Announcements

It was nearing 8:00 and the Library closes at 8:00, so we had to wrap up. No comments.



Item # 14: Motion to Adjourn Meeting: Susan adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.