



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

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC)
Approved Sustainability Committee Meeting
Tuesday, 16 January 2018
Starbucks at Porter Ranch 19759 Rinaldi St.
Porter Ranch, California

1. Meeting called to order

- Susan Gorman-Chang called the meeting to order at 6:52 pm.

2. Welcome/Introductions

- Susan Gorman-Chang introduced and welcomed board member Jason Hector and co-chair Lane Semper; no stakeholders were present.

3. Roll Call/Quorum

- Susan Gorman-Chang performed the roll call and declared a quorum of 75%.

Here (3)	Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Lane Semper
Absent (1)	Hassan Memarian

4. Comments from Co-Chairs

- Susan had no comments; Lane also had no comments, but began explaining how she wanted to get a hold of the vegan restaurant Follow your Heart and asked if they can provide food at Earth Day. She had been introduced to the restaurant's food at an animal rescue event at which they had a table. Susan explained that they'd cover that under the Earth Day agenda and asked if she had any general comments for the committee, which she did not.
- Jason talked about getting a battery-operated leaf blower, \$70 dollars approximately, which lasts about half an hour on a charge. He said it was something for the other board members to think about getting, and has the advantage of being environmentally friendly and non-fume-producing.

5. Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2017 Sustainability Committee Meetings

- Jason and Lane read through the minutes, and had no comments. Lane motioned to approve, and Jason seconded. The committee voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes.

6. Dropping efforts on Kids Making Sense: Elementary Schools Not Interested

- Susan talked about her efforts in trying to get schools in the Porter Ranch area interested in a program called Kids Making Sense, which aimed to educate students about pollution and air quality by using portable particulate matter sensors so they could measure pollution and air quality themselves.



- Susan had tried to get Castlebay Lane Charter Elementary and Porter Ranch Community School interested in the program.
 - PRCS had communicated that it was definitely not interested, but Castlebay had been tentatively interested. Susan called Castlebay's principal Ms. Gamboa-Brooks; Ms. Gamboa-Brooks never called Susan back but did respond via email and Susan gave her more information at that time. Susan tried to call and email during the fires near Porter Ranch in December to say that this was one application of the program, to see what air quality was like during the fires and whether kids should be allowed to go out for recess. But she had since gotten no response or interest from PRCS.
 - Lane asked Susan if she thought the general unwillingness to become involved in Kids Making Sense was related to the Castlebay teacher whose death was blamed on SoCal Gas (Susan Kimmel, whose daughters Jamie Kimmel and Lauren Hoffberg filed suit against Southern California Gas Company and Sempra Energy in November 2017 alleging that their mother's death from cancer was related to the Aliso Canyon Methane leak).
 - Susan thought that it might be related, that schools could be confusing particulate matter pollution for other types of pollution. Jason said that he had brought the methane issue up in the board's Education Committee, and had had a guy come out with a methane-monitoring product in a backpack with a mobile monitor to demonstrate it. The feedback that he got from representatives of the school (and therefore area stakeholders) was that there was a feeling that if something does come up, what do [the school administrators] do?
 - Susan agreed, and said that in her opinion it seems like they'd rather not know. Lane expanded on that, saying that they were probably afraid that the school would shut down if concerns about methane were raised, which means the teachers and administration would lose their jobs.
 - Jason agreed that programs like the methane monitors and Kids Making Sense were good things to do, but that the board members should do it themselves as individuals in the community. When Susan explained that she liked Kids Making Sense because it was educational for kids in addition to being practical, Lane asked if it could be made mandatory for students by their school boards. Susan and Jason said that it would really come down to the Principal to make the decision, since they pretty much run their schools.
 - Suggestions were made to discuss the program with representatives from Chatsworth High and Granada Hills if the board still wanted to try pushing Kids Making Sense, but Susan explained that the program was targeted more towards students in 5th-8th grade. Further, Susan explained that with the end of the fiscal year coming up in April, it's not worth trying to pursue the program actively anymore with local schools. Jason agreed, suggesting that it's something individual stakeholder parents can take up with their kids since in that situation there would be no bureaucratic red tape. The committee agreed to table Kids Making Sense for the rest of the fiscal year.
7. Table these for next 4 months, unless someone wants to take charge of them
- Porter Ranch Net Zero Dashboard
 - Leaf Blowers
 - These Come From Trees Stickers/Saturday Program
 - The committee agreed to table the topics listed in the agenda because they felt there wasn't enough time to address them while still having time to plan for Earth Day festivities in Porter Ranch.

8. Earth Day Planning: Sat April 14 2017: 12:00 – 4:00 pm, Holleigh Bernson Park on Sesnon/Mason in Porter Ranch

- Susan said that City Councilmember Mitch Englander had accepted the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Board's invitation to attend their Earth Day festivities. Lane wondered if it had something to do with her speaking to the LA City Council President's wife, Fabian Wesson, at AQMD's Environmental Justice conference that she and Susan had attended, and the wife had expressed interest in attending. Ms. Wesson was the one who had presented Susan with an electric lawnmower that she won at the conference.
- The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will be partnering with Northridge West for its Earth Day festivities. The next step is for Northridge West to have their next Neighborhood Council board meeting and pass the motion to partner with us. NWNC Board president Peter Lasky has it on the agenda for February.
- Susan said that she wanted to order twice or almost twice as many tents and shades for Earth Day as last year, since some people had to share tables and tents.
 - Jason thought they should order a couple more tents and shades, but not necessarily double the number from last year.
 - Susan then distributed rough estimates she compiled from calling AAA Rents, and conceded that the initial estimate may be high, so they may cut down on tables and shade. She said that they have to draw out a plot plan of where they want to put the tables, and that'll dictate who and what organizations they invite.
 - Susan likes the idea of a stage, since they're asking a band to play at the event (don't know if they can get it or pay for it). The stage rental cost is \$840, and she said it would be nice to have a stage for Mitch Englander for when he talks so people can see him.
- Lane would like for Councilmember Paul Koretz to show up because he's been their environmental champion in the past, but Jason and Susan were concerned we should just stick with our own Councilman Mitch Englander.
- Susan said that they were ordering a popcorn maker and a cotton candy spinning wheel and had asked board member Andrew Krowne to order them.
- SoCal350 Climate Action will raffle off the battery powered lawnmower that Susan won at the Environmental Justice conference. The neighborhood council isn't legally able to raffle any donated items off at the event, but Susan as an individual can donate it to a non-profit that can raffle it off.
 - Jason suggested that the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council buy and donate leaf blowers to raffle off, although Susan was unsure of the legality of it. Jason agreed to call Jasmine Elbarbary at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and see if the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council could buy a battery-powered leaf blower, donate it to a non-profit, and if the non-profit can raffle it off for Earth Day. Jason suggested if possible, they could buy five of them and donate to five non-profits, which would be a great advertising opportunity for all concerned. That way the board would have something to show that they donated to the community. Jason and Lane also floated the possibility of donating them to schools.
- Susan listed the organizations found on the agenda that they invited last year to Earth Day. The committee agreed to invite LA Department of Water and Power again to talk about water conservation and energy audit information. Jason said that Parks and Recreation should also have a booth since they're essentially partnering with them by using a park for Earth Day festivities. He

suggested Parks and Recreation could educate kids on local parks in the neighborhood, how to pick up trash, etc. Jason suggested working with the Beautification committee to partner with Parks and Rec to clean local parks in the future.

- Susan discussed actually meeting representatives from LADWP when they did a two-day tour of the aqueduct in Owens Valley, including a man for Recreation & Parks named Al whose contact info she received who worked on the weather station in the park (where we will have Earth Day). Jason suggested having that weather station's data on website, and emphasized the need to strengthen the board's relationship with Rec and Parks.
- Lane suggested inviting state Senator Henry Stern to Earth Day to speak, saying that it might get more stakeholders from Porter Ranch to show up. She volunteered on Stern's campaign and is in contact with staff in his office.
- Susan went over a number of new possible invitees to Earth Day:
 - **Audubon Society:** they are currently celebrating the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act protecting birds. Susan agreed to reach out to them.
 - **Tree People:** the committee talked about how the California-based non-profit comes to a lot of environmental and sustainability events. Jason agreed to talk to them about coming and about getting them to donate free trees to the festivities for people to take home. He believes that all Tree People requires usually is for people to bring their DWP bills to prove residence and they can take home a free tree.
 - Lane suggested having a leaf blower table for the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, and Susan said that they were already being invited back.
 - **Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy:** the committee discussed inviting them to Earth Day and how their visitor center is 100% renewable-energy-powered. Lane had previously met some of their staff at an event with Mayor Garcetti last year. SMMC had tried to buy Hidden Creek to prevent the property from being developed. She learned this when she was called on for comment and asked about Senator Pavley's statement at CEC's 2016 workshop to buy Hidden Creek to put in windmills. SMMC came up to her afterwards thanking her for comments, and Lane agreed to contact SMMC to invite them for Earth Day.
 - **California State University, Northridge Sustainability Club:** Jason thought they should be invited to Earth Day, and the committee agreed. Susan talked about how she had wanted to invite Loraine Lindquist from the CSUN Sustainability Institute, but they don't have enough people to send from the Institute. However, they can send people from the CSUN Sustainability Club, and the committee agreed that they should have a table at Earth Day.
 - Susan raised the question of whether they should invite vendors to Earth Day. Last year, only organizations and non-profits were invited, which was cheaper and easier; Susan explained that they'd have to get a different, more expensive permit if they wanted to invite vendors to sell things.
 - The committee agreed that they didn't want to invite vendors, except as Lane suggested have Follow Your Heart for catering. Susan suggested that they could do both Subway and Follow Your Heart for catering. Lane agreed to get a catering menu from Follow Your Heart and work up a quote. Jason said that they wouldn't need a huge amount of food from FYH since they would also be getting Subway. Lane maintained that if they were trying to have a sustainable Earth Day, they needed to walk the walk when it came to food. Susan said that

they should have people RSVP with which food they want like last year. Lane added that she went to an animal rescue event in Angora Hills that was catered by FYH, and you can't even tell it's vegan food or imitation meat.

- Susan summed up the new invitees. Lane agreed to draft a formal letter with Susan for Senator Stern's office to invite him to the event. Jason suggested that they could not have vendors per se, but could call food trucks such as the local shaved ice truck and say they're having this event if they want to come by, etc. Then they don't have to get a permit. Susan will ask Jesse Strobal from Rec and Parks about it.
 - Lane asked if there was a formal letter that they can use as a boilerplate to send to remind people about the event and follow up to Senator Stern and Englander. Jason said that they're going to release a flyer first, then follow up with individual letters. He also added that if they were planning on sending letters to people formally, they should really come from Issam Najm, the president of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council. Or Susan can send it as VP.
- Brainstorming volunteers for Earth Day: the committee talked about how last time, they had Michelle Theroux come with Girl Scouts as volunteers, and Middle School and High School kids were recruited by Lorrie. Lane talked about the need first aid kit at Earth Day, and Susan agreed to look into Council District 12 providing a first aid station.
 - Jason said that they need to have a meeting soon with CD12, Recs and Park and Northridge West to see what they can provide for Earth Day, then circle back and do the event budget. Lane asked if Jason thought they could make the time to actually sit down with the committee, and Jason said that if they're partnering with Northridge West, they'll have to have a point person with them.
 - Lane suggested just making a public comment at one of their meetings. Susan said it depends on how involved they want to be; last year Northridge West just had a table at the event. In any case, Susan said that Jessie Strobal will meet with her after NRW has their meeting and the motion is passed. Jason maintained that NRW has a lot of stuff including popup tents in their warehouse, so they should see what they and CD12 have to provide before spending thousands of dollars on tents and equipment.
- Susan updated that they would not be hiring a balloon man, since balloons are not biodegradable and are terrible for the environment. Jason suggested having facepainting instead.
 - Susan also suggested having a photo backdrop that's earth day/environment-themed, perhaps featuring environmentalist characters like The Lorax (he speaks for the trees). Jason suggested circling back on this idea after they see what the event is going to look like in totality, and said that pictures in action and candid pictures are best for social media, etc. Susan said that it was a fun idea because people can have a unique souvenir photo to take home, and cited the example of the Rose Bowl parade which had fun themed backdrops.
 - Jason asked how much such backdrops would cost, and Susan said she didn't know, but would look into it, and that they would also need people looking after the backdrops to discourage theft.
 - Susan said that they would be getting metal mugs (metal on outside and inside) to give out at the event this year, not plastic; CSUN schooled them and said plastic was not good for the environment. She suggested printing "PRNC" in block letters on the mugs.
 - Jason agreed, saying that plastic mugs would have to be BPA free, and the metal mugs are nicer. He thought they should spend a little more money to get something much nicer that people are going to keep for longer to aid in sustainability; they just have to decide what they want to put on them. He suggested talking to Issam and seeing what he thinks from an

outreach standpoint, and that they want to at least have the PRNC website on the mugs because people might not know what PRNC means. He also suggested having a slogan printed on them. Lane thought that having Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council written out on them makes sense.

- The committee brainstormed ideas for games to hold at the event, with a theme around recycling. Jason said that nobody knows exactly what plastic/paper stuff is recyclable, so they can refine the recycling game from last year and make it good. For example, they could bring a big can with all different types of trash, and have participants separate its contents into compost, green, black, and blue cans. The game they did last year didn't have a compost can.
 - Jason then showed photos of a game to the committee he found on cbc.ca in an article for parents teaching kids about recycling. Jason also thought they could have an activity about plastic bags that biodegrade – should have examples to show kids that if they have regular plastic wrap, it goes in the black garbage can. But if they have biodegradable plastic wrap, it goes in the green can. Jason agreed to be in charge of the compost activity where kids get a bag of sample trash and have to decide best can to put items in.
 - Lane wanted to do a drawing activity, possibly at the Climate Reality table. She suggested having large white paper and markers, and have kids draw what sustainability means to them. Then can clothespin kids' pictures around the booth or kids can take them home to put on their fridge. Jason said that he has a ton of drawing/art/painting materials he can bring. Lane also asked why they can't paint kids faces themselves? Jason said it was doable: when they reach out to booth people, they should ask what they want to have at their booth and see if one of them can do face painting when they send out invites. He said they should tell them to bring fun things and activities while emphasizing the fun, kid-friendly nature of Earth Day.
- Susan also submitted as a crafting idea distributing a type of photosensitive paper that changes colors in the sun, and having kids collect rocks or leaves to put on the paper, so they're left with an outline of those leaves or natural objects after the paper changes colors. She also mentioned that Issam really wanted to do kite-making, so they can assign that to him.
- Jason talked about how they can have tables set up for crafting stuff that kids can self-start, and volunteers can help if needed. So we do need to buy a fair amount of fun little stuff for kids to do. He also said the Department of Sanitation might want to get involved because they have material already available for educational Earth Day activities, so they should offer them a booth. Susan agreed, and mentioned that they also have their own mascot that they can come with.
- Lane wanted to know about music at the event, and asked whether they could invite the sustainable band that played at last year's event, referring to a non-PRNC event at Holleigh Bernson Memorial Park. Jason joked that even the band is sustainable at their event. Susan raised the concern of providing power for any sound setup, and asked the committee members if they knew how to get solar power set up for the event. She believed that their power system might have to be diesel for the sound system and the stage, but that if it meant spending more money to make the event nicer and more sustainable with a solar power system, they should do it. Unfortunately, there is no power and no outlets at the park.
 - Jason asked if they really wanted to run a generator on Earth Day, and Susan said that they need some kind of solar or diesel power plant to plug a sound system in regardless. Lane and Jason suggested asking if Matt would lend his sound system. Jason agreed to look into getting him to lend it, but Susan emphasized that they have to have our own in case that falls through, and at the very least needed some sort of microphone that will project. Jason suggested they talk to Jesse

from CD12, they do this stuff a lot, and see what her recommendation is. Susan again emphasized that it's worth it to spend a little more for solar because it's sustainable. Jason mentioned that Harbor Freight sells solar arrays, but they might not be adequate to run big equipment. Susan then asked how other organizations do it, and agreed to follow up with Mark Morris to look up what SoCal350 did for solar-powered sound systems for their events. Susan also said that they have to put it in their budget for making popcorn, buying bags. Lane will get vegan butter for the popcorn.

- Jason asked which games were successes last year, and Susan said that the Recycle Relay, Save the Earth game, and Scavenger Hunt were all well-received and should be repeated. She did mention that for the Scavenger Hunt last year, they forgot to put out the pine cones, but they made it work and everyone still had fun.
- Lane then suggested one final guest to invite: Jill Stewart from the Coalition to Preserve Los Angeles. Lane had met her and thought she should have a table, and agreed to invite her.
- Jason then asked what PRNC has to do to get the permit for the event. Susan said that she talked to Jesse and that she will get permit for them as soon as they get the approved motion from Northridge West.
 - Susan has to have a budget before February 12th, so Jason suggested meeting before end of January with Council District 12 to see what they can provide. Susan thought that they probably won't provide much. Last year, it went over budget and Susan had to pay for the difference.
 - Jason maintained that they need to have meeting with Council District 12 and Rec and Parks, talk to them about the whole thing and about possibly bringing the Department of Sanitation in. Susan said that they can't do that, because Northridge West won't have their council meeting until February. And Jesse doesn't want to meet until NRW has their motion. As such, Susan will put together the event's budget assuming that CD12, Rec and Parks, and Northridge won't provide anything. Jason asked how the partnership with NRW come about, and whether they reached out to PRNC. Susan explained that she reached out and said they needed a partner, and further explained that Jesse said she will not talk to Susan about anything event-related until they have a motion from NRW saying they will partner with PRNC.
- Jason suggested that maybe the people who will be working the event should have another meeting, not with minutes and all that. He suggested getting back together in two weeks or so to see where everyone's at and make some decisions. Susan suggested Monday, January 29th, and all committee members agreed to the tentative date. Susan suggested making the meeting time 6:30 at the present meeting location.
 - Jason said he just wants to get Lori Kalman involved and anyone else who's helping. Lane then asked what happens if it rains the day of the event? Susan and Jason said that they would have a lot of tents, and Jason said they could cancel the scavenger hunt if they have to. Susan said it wasn't a bad idea to double the amount of tents and shades, especially with how hot it was last year.
 - Jason said CD and Rec and Parks will most likely bring tents, but Susan again said that she will budget for if they don't. Lane suggested having sustainable trash bags at the events so kids can poke holes in them and use them as rain coats in the event of rain. Jason suggested simply e-mailing Jesse saying they had their planning meeting and want to connect with Sanitation and Recs and Park. Susan said that she was going to get in touch with everyone individually, but Jason added, Jesse may help get them connected, and suggested to ask if Jesse can get Sanitation



to bring trash cans and their recycling mascot. Lane then asked whether people make recyclable plastic trash bags regarding her previous idea, and Jason explained that they do but they're very expensive. He said that it's good to think about bad weather, but there's not much more they can do in the event of it.

9. General Public comments

- There were no General Public comments.

10. Board Members Comments and Announcements

- There were no further comments or announcements from board members.

11. Next Meeting: Brainstorm on Kids Crafts & Games for Earth Day & follow up on assignments on band, photo booth, permit process

- All committee members had discussed these agenda items in previous sections, and agreed to follow up on their assignments for next meeting.

12. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 by Susan Gorman-Chang.