

# PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## Unadopted Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Shepherd of the Hills Church

Porter Ranch, California

### 1. MEETING OPENING

#### 1.1. Welcome and introductions

Mel Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Mr. Mitchell introduced Christine Ward from Assemblyman Smyth's office. Ms. Ward invited stakeholders to the Councilman's new district office in Santa Clarita, and provided an update on the most recent legislative session. Ms. Ward advised that a special session on health care initiatives is being considered. In response to Ron Nagai's questions regarding Assemblyman Smyth's position on AB 8 and transportation, Ms. Ward stated that the Republican caucus has formulated a position on health care and expressed hope that funding will be provided for improvements to the 118 Freeway. Ms. Ward stated that Assemblyman Smyth is interested in attending a PRNC meeting.

(Taken out of order) Mel Mitchell introduced Manny Durazo, who provided copies of the official acceptance of the proposed amendments to the PRNC By-Laws, and referred to an upcoming meeting on September 22, 2007. Mr. Durazo announced that Neighborhood Councils are being given the option for self-evaluation and discussed how the self-evaluation will take place, which will include a survey that each Neighborhood Council can complete.

John Lee, Chief Legislative Deputy for Councilman Smith, introduced himself and referred to a planned PRNC street resurfacing. Mr. Lee reported that the City Council had a three-week recess, and answered questions from Becky Leveque regarding LAPD deployment. Sue Hammarlund advised that trees are dying along the 118 freeway. Mr. Lee stated that he would follow up and advised of Councilman Smith's efforts regarding neighborhood quality of life, sanitation and safety issues. Responding to Pat Pope's question regarding trailer signs, Mr. Lee stated that Councilman Smith sponsored legislation to control this problem. Ron Nagai reported that a number of RVs and trailers have been parking on Tampa between Sesnon and Rinaldi and on parts of Reseda Boulevard. Mel Mitchell extended an invitation to Councilman Smith to attend a PRNC meeting. Ms. Leveque provided an update on plans for improvement to a children's play area. Mr. Lee noted that an area below Stony Point Park has been purchased to preserve an equestrian area. Mr. Lee referred to Councilman Smith's white paper regarding the Las Lomas project and noted that support from the affected Neighborhood Councils will be sought.

Mel Mitchell introduced Michael Toh, Policy Advisor for Assemblyman Brad Sherman's office. Mr. Toh provided an update on funding for improvements to the 118 Freeway at Tampa and stated that stakeholders' lobbying efforts had been successful. The funds have been secured and work may begin within the next year.

#### 1.2. Roll Call

Board members present: Pat Pope, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Vasdev Singh, Paul Drogichen, Mel Mitchell, Ali Dabirian, Ron Nagai, and Chris Cooper.

#### 1.3. Approval of Proposed Agenda

**Mel Mitchell moved to approve the proposed agenda; seconded by Pat Pope. The agenda was approved by consensus.**

#### 1.4. Presentation and Approval of June 2007 Minutes

**Pat Pope moved to approve the Minutes for the July 10, 2007 meeting; seconded by Chris Cooper. VOTE: Unanimous in favor. Ron Nagai abstained.**

**Pat Pope moved to approve the Minutes for the August 4, 2007 meeting; seconded by Sue Hammarlund. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.**

## **2. OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

#### 2.10 Treasurer's Report

Paul Drogichen provided copies of a Treasurer's Report that summarized current available funds and spending. Mr. Drogichen advised that attention should be paid to how funds are to be spent in the future. Mel Mitchell suggested that the Treasurer form a Budget Committee with stakeholders to ensure funds are spent appropriately.

**Paul Drogichen moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written; seconded by Vasdev Singh.**

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed**

**Paul Drogichen moved to reimburse Sue Hammarlund the amount of \$15.40 for refreshments provided at a recent PRNC-sponsored meeting; seconded by**

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

**Mel Mitchell moved to approve the extension of the Moore Business Results agreement to provide public relations services for a period of six months at a fixed fee of \$2400; seconded by Vasdev Singh.**

Mel Mitchell provided copies of a proposal submitted by Moore Business Results. Ron Nagai asked for specifics about how charges are accrued and funds expended. There was further discussion about the proposed work will be done, the appropriate Committee aegis under which the proposal can be accomplished.

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

Mel Mitchell proposed that the Board discuss the addition of Board seats to represent homeowners associations. Ron Nagai noted that additional seats could cause the Board to become unwieldy and stated that there could already be sufficient representation. Jim Kosinsky spoke against including additional seats for homeowners association. This issue will be discussed at a later meeting.

Sue Hammarlund proposed to form a committee to work on an outreach event in April 2008 at the Holleigh Bernson Park to celebrate covering the children's play area.

Sue Hammarlund moved to create a special Board committee to plan, organize and put on this event some time in Spring 2008 and to select a Chairperson and a Co-Chairperson to put on this event; seconded by Pat Pope.

Chris Cooper volunteered to serve as Co-Chair, with Ms. Hammarlund as Chair.

**VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.**

**Mel Mitchell moved to adjourn the business portion of the meeting; seconded by Ron Nagai. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 7:10 PM**

**The meeting moved to an informal discussion period revolving around street surfacing in Porter Ranch.**

Mel Mitchell introduced himself and provided contact information for PRNC. Mr. Mitchell asked stakeholders to sign up to receive information from PRNC. The Board members introduced themselves; Mr. Mitchell introduced David Mays, Brian Davis, and Keith Mosey and turned the meeting over to the discussion of street resurfacing.

Brian Davis provided insight on why Los Angeles streets are in the condition they are, discussed how street repairs are affected and how need for street repairs is determined. Mr. Davis stated that voters had determined that road resurfacing was not a priority, and stated that \$350 million per year for the next ten years in funding is needed to bring streets to a C level. Mr. Davis stated that the strategy chosen for resurfacing was

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council**

**Unadopted Meeting Minutes**

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Page 4 of 4 Pages

intended to maximize available funds. Mr. Davis emphasized that Los Angeles is considered worldwide as a leader in street resurfacing technology, and described the recycling efforts his department has put into place.

Irv Cohen suggested that people that use the streets should bear the burden of additional taxes, rather than property owners. Mr. Davis stated that property owners do not bear the entire burden of street repairs. Jim Kosinsky referred to the Mayor's pothole elimination campaign, and stated his willingness to pay additional taxes. Mr. Kosinsky stated that street conditions "over the hill" are better. Mr. Davis responded that stakeholders have to speak up, to advise government leaders that street conditions should have a higher priority.

A stakeholder detailed her quest to have street repairs done in the Eastern Porter Ranch area and argued that the Department is not doing enough. John Lee provided Councilman Smith's perspective. Another stakeholder stated that the decision to resurface streets is made on a political basis. Brian Davis described how his department interacts with utility companies and how a decision to defer resurfacing a particular street can be affected by work by utility company plans. Mr. Davis stated that a copy of the monthly "committed list" is available to stakeholders on the City website. He verbally listed the streets in Porter Ranch that are scheduled for resurfacing. Mr. Davis responded to Tim Holly's question regarding who to advise about work that is incorrectly done, and asked that Mr. Holly contact him at his office. Mr. Davis responded to a stakeholder's concerns regarding safety by stating that the problems listed are not unusual. A stakeholder stated that cable companies should be made to shoulder cost for street repair.

Brian Davis advised a stakeholder on the process by which a street bump can be installed. John Lee stated that the bond measure per stakeholder would amount to \$100-\$150 per year for ten years to bear the cost of appropriate street repair.

Mel Mitchell thanked everyone for attending, and thanked Brian Davis for his information and candor. Mr. Davis stated that the street Bill Robinson, department director, lives on a street in Sunland Tujunga that has not been paved in 55 years, and noted Mr. Robinson's principles and sense of ethical behavior.

The informal portion of the meeting ended at about 8:45 PM.