

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 2, 2007
Shepherd of the Hills Church
Porter Ranch, California

1. MEETING OPENING

Mel Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. He welcomed meeting attendees and explained the business portion of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) Board meeting that preceded the topical discussions.

Mr. Mitchell reported the October 1, 2007 death of former LAUSD Board Member Jon Lauritzen; Mr. Mitchell referred to Mr. Lauritzen's support of the new Porter Ranch school and assistance in the formation and growth of the PRNC. Mr. Lauritzen had last attended a PRNC Board meeting in May 2007. There was a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Lauritzen.

(Taken out of order) LAFD Battalion 15 Chief Reynar appeared to offer thanks to the PRNC for its support of the men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department. Chief Reynar noted how well the PRNC community works with both Fire Station 8 and Fire Station 28, reported that the new Fire Station 87 on Balboa, south of Devonshire, will be opening in the next three or four weeks and that the entire community is invited to attend the ceremonies. Chief Reynar also reported that the Hazardous Material Squad now located at Fire Station 70 at Reseda and Lassen will be moved to Fire Station 87 to be more centrally located in the San Fernando Valley. Battalion 15's headquarters is located at Fire Station 70; Chief Reynar welcomed any questions from Porter Ranch residents.

Mel Mitchell encouraged meeting attendees to complete a mail list, to ensure receipt of updates and information about Porter Ranch and the PRNC.

Thomas Waldman, chief of staff for Councilman Grieg Smith, reported that the geological assessment for the new Porter Ranch school will be finished next month, and that, if all goes well, the school will be completed in five years.

Cherine Buckman, Human Relations Commission, City of Los Angeles, introduced herself and provided contact information.

John Bwarie, representing Councilman Grieg Smith's office, provided additional copies of Councilman Smith's White paper and announced a clean-up effort on November 3, 2007. Mr. Bwarie noted that an action regarding the proposed Las Lomas project is pending before the Los Angeles City Council,

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and that waiting until for the Palmer Group's presentation at the November 13, 2007 Board meeting to make a decision may not be a viable alternative.

2. ROLL CALL

Pat Pope took roll. In attendance were Ron Nagai, Vasdev Singh, Ali Dabirian, Mel Mitchell, Pat Pope, Paul Drogichen, Sue Hammarlund, Paula Cracium, Becky Leveque, and Chris Cooper. Bright Aregs arrived later in the meeting.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Pat Pope said that Linda Lee, our recorder, had just called him. The draft of the September meeting minutes were sent to him shortly before the current meeting started, so Mr. Pope had not had an opportunity to vet the draft. The September 2007 Minutes will have to be approved in November, along with the Minutes from today's meeting. Paul Drogichen asked that the draft minutes be forwarded to him as soon as possible, in order to pay outstanding bills.

4. AGENDA

Mel Mitchell moved to approve the agenda; Ali Dabirian seconded the motion.

Paul Drogichen said that he would have to abstain on the vote since he believed the agenda was not posted properly as required by DONE. There was a lively discussion on agenda posting, what was required and when. Mr. Mitchell stated that most PRNC meeting attendees get both the e-mail blasts and the telephonic notification and said that some of the posting locations are so obscure that nobody would spot them anyway. Mr. Drogichen said that no matter where they are posted DONE is very clear on the 72 hour notice rule, and that PRNC could be in violation of the Brown Act if deliberations were held on any motions. Sue Hammarlund volunteered to assist with properly posting agendas in the future. Paula Cracium said that the meeting itself is too important and we have too many visitors to just cancel the meeting. It would be better to just wait and approve spending or position motions next month.

Pat Pope moved that to table the agenda since it wasn't properly circulated, and continue with the public forum. The approval of the agenda was tabled.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Drogichen presented a report on PRNC's current financial status. There is \$77,013.65 in available funds for fiscal year 2007/2008. Mr. Drogichen and Becky Leveque reported that a rebate of \$349.50 from Sears was given to Ms. Leveque for the purchase of the washer and dryer donated to the Fire Department. Ms. Leveque stated that the money is to be reimbursed to the Neighborhood Council. Mr. Drogichen referred to the process by which the funds could be deposited in the PRNC account. Because of the agenda posting issue, there was no motion made to accept the Treasurer's report.

6. SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS PROPOSED EXPANSION

Paula Cracium explained that Shepherd of the Hills was doing a major expansion of its sanctuary. Seating capacity will expand from about 1,500 today to between 3,500 and 4,000. This is within the limits of their Conditional Use Permit. Mel said that the full details would be shared at the next Land Use Committee meeting. Ample proper notice for the Land Use Committee meeting will be given to the community.

7. PRNC THINKS GREEN

Sue Hammarlund discussed the plan to distribute reusable cloth shopping bags as part of the "PRNC Thinks Green" campaign. Ms. Hammarlund was given a price of 90¢ per bag for a quantity of 1,000 plus \$100 for logos printed on the bags and another bid of \$2.50 per bag with \$2 per bag for printing for smaller quantities. Since the Board could not approve any expenditure this month because of the agenda issue, Mel Mitchell suggested that additional bids be solicited. Ron Nagai asked that Ms. Hammarlund prepare a side by side comparison spreadsheet report for next month's meeting.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CONGRESS

Vasdev Singh discussed the upcoming Congress of Neighborhood Councils meeting and agenda on October 27 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, and reported that the Congress will cost about \$65,000, the amount budgeted is \$35,000, and donations are being requested by DONE from each Neighborhood Council to make up the shortfall. The Congress will offer a range of break out sessions and large presentations to acquaint Neighborhood Council members with the city's processes and procedures. It was noted that if each of the over 80 Councils contributes \$1,000 available funding would be over \$110,000.

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Vasdev Singh moved to contribute \$1,000 for the Congress of Neighborhood Councils; seconded by Ron Nagai.

Pat Pope remarked that the motion was a moot point since nothing could be approved. Vasdev Singh agreed to re-present the motion to approve the expenditure after the Congress at the next PRNC meeting in November.

Mel Mitchell asked for a straw poll of who would have approved the expenditure. Indicating approval: Vasdev Singh, Ron Nagai, Mel Mitchell, Pat Pope, Chris Cooper, Paula Cracium, Bright Aregs, Becky Leveque and Sue Hammarlund.

9. RENEWAL OF PRNC'S WEB SITE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH MOORE BUSINESS RESULTS, EXPIRING ON 10/18/2007, FOR ONE MORE YEAR AT THE FIXED FEE OF \$4,500

Tabled.

10. PROPOSAL TO MODIFY THE PRNC BYLAWS TO CHANGE THE FIVE DESIGNATED POSTING LOCATIONS

Becky Leveque proposed that the PRNC By-laws be altered to change the five designated posting locations; this item will be agendized for the next PRNC Board meeting. Ron Nagai suggested that DONE's approval be sought for any changes proposed.

11. PROPOSED LAS LOMAS PROJECT

Mel Mitchell provided background information, and noted Councilman Smith's position on the proposed development. Mr. Mitchell reported that representatives of the Palmer Group asked that PRNC hold off on making a decision until the Palmer Group has had an opportunity to make a formal presentation, at the PRNC November 13, 2007 meeting.

Sandra Cattell voiced the Sierra Club's objections to the Las Lomas project, based on environmental issues and concerns, and asked that the Sierra Club be given equal time for a presentation at the same time the Palmer Group's presentation is made.

Mark R. Edwards, representing the City of Santa Clarita, outlined several inconsistencies with regard to this proposed development and asked why City resources are being used for this project, since the project site is not located in Los Angeles or Santa Clarita; it is located in Los Angeles County.

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Bob Reed, Stop Las Lomas.org, noted opposition from City government and stated that one City councilman is backing this project, which is opposed by other City officials. Mr. Reed discussed the City resources that would be taken away to support this project.

Vigorous objections to the project were raised by a senior planner for the City of Santa Clarita, and Bob Reed, citing the impact on traffic, cost of renovations to existing rail lines, violation of city and state law, and the cost to be incurred to construct the proposed 30 story elevator to the Metrolink tunnel.

Eugene Hernandez, Sylmar NC, urged opposition and reported that the Sylmar NC had voted to oppose the project. Sandra Cattel stated that there was insufficient water available for the project.

12. NC/DWP OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE LETTER OF RESOLUTION

Tabled

13. MODIFY THE PRNC BYLAWS TO ADD NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITIONS SPECIFICALLY FOR PORTER RANCH HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES

Tabled

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- PRNC Youth Corps
- Aliso Canyon Project by Christopher Cooper
- Mayor's Budget Day Kick Off on October 13, 2007 by Vasdev Singh
- Follow-up on pooper scooper doggy pots by Paul Drogichen
- Crime report and report on the homicide in Aliso Canyon by Becky Leveque Cherine Buckman, Human Relations Commission,

Tabled

15. GENERAL MEETING/OPEN DISCUSSION

Presentation of proposed Verizon and T-Mobile cell towers in Porter Ranch by Amy Pena and Domenic Bellone, SureSite Consulting Group, Inc, and Carl Mills and Jeff LaDou, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering

Mel Mitchell opened discussion by stating that three new cell towers are planned for the area in the immediate near future, one from Verizon and two by T-Mobile.

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Amy Pena, Jeff LaDou, Carl Mills, and Domenic Bellone introduced themselves. Ms. Pena began by showing pictures of the proposed T-Mobile installation at the YMCA on Corbin Avenue; Ms. Pena also described the facility's dimensions and capacities, noting that the structures will be covered with RF transparent material. Accompanying equipment cabinets will be built at the back of the building. Ms. Pena answered questions about the area the proposed facility will cover, noted that the facility will be unmanned and that the facility will provide the maximum number of antennae T-Mobile uses at one site (12), and responded to a stakeholder's voiced concern about visual impact. There was discussion about the Conditional Use Permit that will be requested, timing of the CUP hearing, and why the presentation is being made at this point. Paula Cracium outlined how the presentation should proceed. Ms. Pena went on to describe the next project, a faux pine tree antenna at Sesnon and Tampa. Ron Nagai stated that the street is lined with (real) pine trees, which dictated the choice for the faux tree. Mr. Nagai responded to a question from Mel Mitchell by describing the process by which his homeowners association deliberated on available options with regard to improving cell phone service. There was discussion about locating sites on private versus public property, sensitivity to homeowners' preferences with regard to proliferation of poles and power lines, types of sites that could be installed to cover wider or smaller areas (full mod cell or micro cell facilities) and other locations where cell sites could be located. Domenic Bellone discussed the proposed site to be located on Sesnon. It was agreed that maps and photos would be forwarded to PRNC for posting.