

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 8, 2008
Shepherd of the Hills Church
Porter Ranch, California

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mel Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and welcomed everyone who took the time to come.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Pat Pope took the roll. Board members present: Bright Aregs, Chris Cooper, Paul Drogichen, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque, Mel Mitchell, Ron Nagai, Ali Dabirian, and Pat Pope. Vas Singh was excused. About 30 stakeholders were present.

3. **MOTION TO APPROVE PROPOSED AGENDA**

Mel Mitchell moved to approve the agenda. Pat Pope seconded. The agenda was approved

4. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 13, 2007 AND DECEMBER 4, 2007 MINUTES.**

Mel Mitchell said that the November minutes lacked detail on the Las Lomas project. He asked that we delay approval until he could add some more detail. Pat Pope moved to approve the November minutes. Paula Cracium seconded. The December minutes were approved.

NEXT BOARD MEETING (Not on agenda)

The scheduled date for the next Council meeting is Election Day, February 5th. Mel suggested that we move the PRNC meeting to February 12th. Paula will verify room availability. The Board will publicize the change in all of the usual places and with all of the usual media.

CITY HALL PARKING PASSES (Not on the Agenda)

PRNC has three parking passes downtown for use on PRNC business at city hall. Mel gave one to Ron Nagai and one to Paul Drogichen since they are downtown often on PRNC business. Mel gave the third "floater" pass to Chris Cooper for an upcoming meeting.

5. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED AT JANUARY 8, 2008 MEETING**

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Paul Drogichen provided copies of the Treasurer's Report as a spreadsheet and discussed expenditures. PRNC has \$60,645 available for FY 07/08. Paul said that Outreach only has 18% of its budget remaining. Paul said that he did not think that the post card notification to the community was very cost effective at about \$4,000 per mailing. A discussion of Outreach was held with many Board members and stake holders giving their thoughts on how to meet the city's requirements to reach out to the community, but to do it in a cost effective manner. Pat Pope asked the audience if anyone came as a result of a post card in the mail. No one raised their hand. The stakeholders present said that they came as a result of the e-mail or the automated phone call they received. Mel Mitchell said that there would be a discussion at the end of the meeting to reallocate our remaining funds. Paul Drogichen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Ron Nagai seconded the report was accepted unanimously by the Board.

6. DISCUSSION AND MOTION FOR THE BOARD TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE LAS LOMAS PROJECT.

Mel read the motion sent to the Board as a result of our December meeting:

Because of the potentially negative environmental, economic, and traffic impact to our community and region, The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) does not support the current plans for the Las Lomas Project as presented by representatives of Palmer Investments, Inc. at the PRNC General Meeting on November 13, 2007

Mel thanked the representatives from the Palmer Group for coming to tonight's meeting. He said the Board considered input from all of the stakeholders involved and thought very carefully about this motion prior to this evening. After a short discussion with the stakeholders present on both sides of the issue; including the Sierra Club, the Sylmar Neighborhood Council, Granada Hills Neighborhood Council, and the Palmer Group, Mel moved to approve the motion. Pat Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. MOTION FOR NO OVERNIGHT PARKING SIGNS ON BRAEMORE ROAD

This motion was tabled until February.

8. OUTREACH DISCUSSION

There was continued discussion on verifying and posting meeting dates for the rest of the year. Mel noted that two of the dates are election nights, and one is the week of July 4th. The Outreach Committee will review the schedule and work through Paula to secure meeting space at the church on alternate dates.

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On the topic of the post cards Mel said that they were the only way to reach the entire community. Many of the delivery services available in other parts of Los Angeles will not work with the gated communities in Porter Ranch. Paula said that the free newspapers sent to everyone in the community have as much as a six week lead time. Paul pressed for more electronic outreach in the 21st Century. Bright suggested a newsletter. Paula suggested that the Committee chairs write an article for the free media newspapers. Becky said that since the phone out list was started, only about 40 names have been added. Resident Jim Kosinsky said he only comes because of e-mail notifications, he didn't know he got post cards. He suggested that a beautification project would show PRNC's value to the residents. Ron Nagai said we do not need to directly notify every resident of every meeting. Kim Johnson from the Granada Hills Neighborhood Council said that their meetings tend to have about the same attendance, unless there is a big name speaker or important issue. Ron Nagai is also president of Northridge Country HOA, and he would be glad to insert a PRNC newsletter with the HOA newsletter. Pat Pope is also president of Sorrento HOA said he would check on the logistics of a PRNC newsletter in his HOA newsletter. Pat noted that PRNC news is often inserted in the Sorrento newsletter today, and on the Sorrento website.

General Discussion

Hassan Memariam a Porter Ranch resident discussed a drug raid in his neighborhood. He said that according to LAPD drug houses are becoming more prevalent in higher end neighborhoods. He said there have also been two recent house fires in his area.

Becky said that in 2007 there were four homicides in Devonshire Division, a huge drop from previous years. Pat Pope noted that many of the higher crime neighborhoods in the Devonshire area are now positioned in the Mission Area, so it is hard to make an apple to apples comparison

9. **TELEPHONE USERS TAX**

Ray Ciranna, Los Angeles Assistant City Administrative Officer discussed a measure on the February ballot that would change the tax on telephone bills. Depending on who is defining the change, it could be considered a reduction from a 10% to 9% tax, or a replacement of an invalid 10% tax with a 9% tax. The new tax would be on all communications services billed in the city of Los Angeles including wireless, paging, broadband and business private lines. It would not tax the Internet to be consistent with Federal law.

Having no tax would reduce the city general fund by \$270 million. That reduction would mean a loss or reduction in some city services.

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There was discussion between Mr. Ciranna and the audience members about the naming of the proposition, and the tactics the city is using to induce the citizens to vote for the tax.

Mr. Ciranna did not ask the Neighborhood Council to take a stand on the measure. The CAO's office role is to report on the law and possible effects of it. Mr. Ciranna suggested that all Los Angeles voters listen to both sides of the argument to make an informed decision. A copy of Mr. Ciranna's presentation is attached.

10. PRNC BUDGET REALLOCATION

Mel Mitchell reported that based on Paul's spreadsheet the Outreach budget will be overrun this year. We have an important election coming up in June that will require some Outreach funding to promote. Mel said that Outreach is a hugely important factor between Neighborhood Councils and DONE.

Mel white boarded several categories of expenditure to look at spending that could be reduced, eliminated or moved into FY 08/09. After some give and take the priorities looked like this:

Expense	Amount	Budget Category
Election	\$5,000	Outreach
Speed Signs	\$6,000	Safety
Sesnon/Trees	\$3,000	Beautification
Go Green Committee	\$5,000	Community Projects
Playground Equipment	\$5,000	Community Projects
Community Clean Up	\$15,000	Beautification
Education	\$6,000	Education
Police Equipment	\$6,000	Safety
Outreach/PR/Admin	\$10,000	Outreach/Administration
TOTAL	\$61,000	TOTAL

Ron Nagai suggested that we could partner with the business community and Greig Smith's office on projects in a way that could share some of the cost burden.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM