

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 1, 2008
Shepherd of the Hills Church
Porter Ranch, California

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mel Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and welcomed everyone who joined the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Board members present: Paula Cracium, Becky Leveque, Sue Hammarlund, Paul Drogichen, Mitch Mitchell, Vasdev Singh, Ali Dabirian, Ron Nagai, Pat Pope and Chris Cooper. Bright Aregs was absent. About 20 stakeholders attended part or all of the meeting.

3. MOTION TO APPROVE PROPOSED AGENDA

Mel Mitchell moved to approve the proposed agenda; seconded by Paula Cracium.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

4. MOTION TO APPROVE March 8, 2008 MINUTES

Pat Pope moved to approve the March 8 minutes. Ron Nagai seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

5. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED AT MARCH 4, 2008 MEETING

Paul Drogichen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report seconded by Chris Cooper.

Paul Drogichen provided spreadsheets with the current PRNC financial condition and noted that there is currently about \$54,000 in the 2007/2008 budget not yet spent. Mr. Drogichen reported that the city may not allow Neighborhood Councils to continue to roll over funds given the budget crisis at city hall. Melvin Cañas, the new DONE liaison, corroborated Mr. Drogichen's report. Mr. Cañas suggested that PRNC encumber this year's funds, even if they are not all spent by June 30th, and indicated that FY 2008/2009 funding might not be safe either.

VOTE to accept the Budget Report: Unanimous in favor.

6. MOTION TO APPROVE BUYING COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS AND BACK-UP ITEMS FOR CASTLEBAY, NOT TO EXCEED SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS

Susan Hammarlund reported on the heavy computer usage by students at Castlebay Elementary School; because of the income level in Porter Ranch, Castlebay does not get any "No Child Left Behind" funding. Current computer equipment and software are handed down from the upper grades to the lower ones.

The discussion that followed touched upon providing laptops instead of desk top computers (which is infeasible because laptops can disappear too easily) and repairing the existing computers (which would require considerable upgrades. Sue Hammarlund reported that Best Buy has promised to work with her on the price. Pat Pope voiced concern that there are sufficient funds for election outreach. Ron Nagai reported that DONE will cover more of the costs for elections than it has in the past.

Mel Mitchell noted that the requested \$6,000 is already in the Education Committee budget.

Sue Hammarlund moved to have authorization to spend up to \$6,000 on computers for Castlebay School. Vas Singh seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

7. Motion to approve the expenditure of \$2000 or less to purchase food, tables and chairs for the Cover Celebration at Holleigh Bernson Park

Susan Hammarlund moved to spend up to \$2,000 on a community celebration of the installation of the shelter covers in the park. Becky Leveque seconded.

Sue Hammarlund noted the outreach opportunity provided by an opening ceremony in Holleigh Bernson Park, which would include the Red Cross, the Police and Fire Departments, for disaster preparedness, and promote the upcoming PRNC elections. There was discussion revolving around the date and possible schedule conflicts. Becky Leveque suggested that Ms. Hammarlund coordinate with Councilman Greig Smith's office to insure that he could attend. Pat Pope agreed to work with the Councilman's office to insure that parking for a large crowd would be allowed on Sesnon and Porter Ranch Drive. Mr. Pope also agreed to check with the Councilman's office to ensure there will be electricity available at the park and a sound system. Mr.

Pope also agreed to check on a DJ with a sound system. Paul Drogichen made a suggestion regarding how the event will be funded. Resident Brenda Karczag commented that arrangements should be made to ensure the ground at the park is not wet during the event.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

8. MOTION FOR THE PRNC TO WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A "PORTER RANCH ESTATES" ENTRY SIGN ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES OF HOLLOW SPRINGS DRIVE AND TAMPA AVENUE (WEST SIDE OF TAMPA AVENUE)

Ron Nagai moved that the PRNC write a letter of support to the Department of Public Works for a "Porter Ranch Estates" entry sign on the North and South sides of Hollow Springs Drive and Tampa Avenue (west side of Tampa Avenue); seconded by Becky Leveque.

Ron Nagai presented a package of materials regarding the proposed sign and its placement and asked Brenda Karczag to provide further information. Discussion that followed concerned how the Porter Ranch Estates name was chosen, history of the community, how the lighting will be powered, what steps in the approval process remain, and what approval has already been obtained. Mr. Nagai reported that approval has already been obtained from Building and Safety, and that the Department of Public Works has final approval of the proposed signage. Mr. Nagai reported that the proposed sign will be similar to signage already in place. Paula Cracium asked if any stakeholder present would be disturbed by the sign's lighting. There was no objection voiced.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

9. MOTION TO APPROVE THE LIST OF SIDEWALKS TO BE CLEANED BY A CONTRACTOR AND EXECUTE A CLEAN-UP CONTRACT WITH THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THIS SERVICE

Ron Nagai moved to approve the list of sidewalks to be cleaned by a contractor and execute a clean-up contract with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for this service; seconded by Pat Pope.

Ron Nagai presented a list of sidewalks for the proposed clean up as well as a detailed budget. Mr. Nagai reported planned coordination of efforts to include City Services items to be done. Mel Mitchell stated that more discussion should take place, and asked what rationale was used to determine which streets are to be swept. Mr. Nagai noted plans to include tree planting on Sesnon; discussion that followed regarded how this could be

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 1, 2008
Page 4 of 6 Pages

accomplished. Pat Pope stated that the center divider at Corbin from Porter Ranch to Rinaldi should be included in the list. Pat Pope suggested that Los Angeles Conservation Corps be given a trial opportunity. Mr. Nagai agreed to include the Corbin center divider. At Mel Mitchell's request the Board was polled. Paula Cracium, Becky Leveque, and Chris Cooper spoke in favor of the clean-up effort; Sue Hammarlund noted that traffic and flooding problems could occur should debris get into the gutters, but spoke in favor. Paul Drogichen spoke in favor of the proposed project, but suggested that the proposed contractor be asked to clear the streets and haul the debris away as well. Pat Pope suggested that the trial should include coordination with City services. Vasdev Singh voiced support for Mr. Drogichen's suggestion. Ali Dabirian spoke in favor of the one-day, \$600 scenario.

Ron Nagai moved to amend his motion, to not execute a contract but to have Los Angeles Conservation Corps send an invoice for up to 2 days' cleaning, subject to negotiation, for the sweeping and clean up of the areas including Corbin from Porter Ranch to Rinaldi, not to exceed \$3000; seconded by Pat Pope.

The motion was approved by consensus, there being no opposition.

Melvin Canas asked that the Board members distribute stakeholder surveys to be returned by June 30, 2008, to help determine issues of most interest to stakeholders. Mr. Canas will pick up the completed surveys at the next Board meeting, and noted that survey responses will be of use with regard to NC strategic planning. Mr. Canas reported that PRNC is one of 22 NCs whose 2008 elections will be administered by the LA City Clerk's Office, and invited PRNC to send two representatives to a meeting to take place on April 10, 2008. Mr. Canas discussed ways to promote the elections and reported that the Sunland-Tujunga NC President has volunteered her assistance to produce mailers that will be used for outreach. There was discussion about the elections.

John Bwarie, representing Councilman Greig Smith, provided flyers for Citrus Sunday, due to take place on April 6, 2008, and gave an update on the DWP funds that were proposed for transfer, the current situation with the DWP rate hikes, and the proposed budget for the City that will soon be presented by Mayor Villaraigosa. Mr. Bwarie responded to questions raised by stakeholders and asked that his office be contacted with any questions that could not be answered at the meeting. Mr. Bwarie also discussed the process by which the new City budget is formalized and finalized, noting that this year's budget will be the tightest seen in Los Angeles in decades. Mr. Bwarie encouraged PRNC to invite representatives from the Mayor's office to meet with stakeholders.

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 1, 2008
Page 5 of 6 Pages

Mel Mitchell read a letter sent by Councilman Greig Smith regarding the PRNC's opposition to the proposed Las Lomas project.

Vivian Ihori, principal of Castlebay, asked how to enhance pedestrian safety at Sesnon and Tampa. John Bwarie asked Ms. Ihori to identify the difficulties and communicate with the Councilman's office.

Mel Mitchell asked Jim Savitz to provide an update on the recent discussion regarding the proposed DWP rate increases. Mr. Savitz mentioned proposed amendments that are currently being reviewed.

Ron Nagai reported that DWP's Property Maintenance Group will make a presentation regarding a lot behind Whole Foods at the next Beautification Committee meeting and discussed beautification efforts proposed. Mr. Nagai stated that Whole Foods has asked to be allowed to use that lot to provide parking for Whole Foods employees.

Becky Leveque announced that a meeting regarding the K-8 span school will take place on Wednesday, April 2, 2008; flyers were provided that give details. Ms. Leveque asked stakeholders to attend. Ms. Leveque asked that support for the July 4th event be included on the next PRNC Board agenda.

Joe Martin suggested that stakeholders can reduce costs by having a sub-meter installed on pools and irrigation equipment.

**10. DISCUSSION - SPENDING THE REMAINING PRNC FUNDS BEFORE
JULY 1, 2008**

Mel Mitchell asked for input from stakeholders regarding how the remaining PRNC funds can be spent.

Wendy Moore suggested providing PRNC outreach give-aways for the June 14, 2008 Movie Night sponsored by Councilman Greig Smith. Ms. Moore also suggested that PRNC sponsor graffiti clean-up efforts.

Becky Leveque reported that the Graffiti Alliance Group has requested that NCs contribute to graffiti clean up in the San Fernando Valley. Northridge West Neighborhood Council has donated \$5000, and PRNC has been asked to match funds. Ms. Leveque suggested that the Graffiti Alliance Group be asked to make a presentation at a PRNC meeting.

Sue Hammarlund suggested t-shirts advertising Porter Ranch.

Irv Cohen suggested a contribution to the library and that a PA system should be used at PRNC meetings for stakeholders that are hard of hearing.

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 1, 2008
Page 6 of 6 Pages

There was discussion about advertising, using community newspapers, electronic signs, banners, or a bus bench.

Becky Leveque reported that the Devonshire Division LAPD station would like to refurbish the weight room. Ms. Leveque reported that the cost will be \$18,000 to \$20,000. Invitations were issued to the 10-14 Devonshire area Neighborhood Councils to attend the April 9, 2008 Dinner at Devonshire. Ms. Leveque also announced there will be an LAPD meeting on April 5, 2008 at Shepherd of the Hills.

Mel Mitchell stated that other Neighborhood Councils have donated funds back to the City.

Chris Cooper suggested support of the Fire Explorers, to provide hand tools and expendables, such as gloves, at approximately \$3000-3500. Mr. Cooper listed community benefits already gained from the Fire Explorers. Becky Leveque stated that she was awaiting input from the LAFD.

The meeting adjourned, by common consent, at 8:35 pm.