

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 6, 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, Pat Pope and Chris Cooper. Bright Aregs was out of the country absent; Ron Nagai had a conflict and was excused from attending. About 35 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 April 1, 2008 MINUTES (Taken out of order)

Pat Pope moved to approve the April minutes. Chris Cooper seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

5. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT (Taken out of order).

Paul Drogichen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report seconded by Vasdev Singh.

Paul Drogichen provided spreadsheets with the current PRNC financial condition and noted that there is currently about \$53,000 in the 2007/2008 budget not yet spent, not counting anything approved tonight. Mr. Drogichen reported that the city may not allow Neighborhood Councils to continue to roll over funds given the budget crisis at city hall. Paul said that with motions pending tonight PRNC should have about \$35,000 left.

Paul also mentioned that we have to approve a proposed budget by the end of the fiscal year. That means we need a proposed budget on the agenda for

the next Board meeting. There was some discussion between Paul and Mel as to who is supposed to come up with the proposed budget. Each of them feels that it is the responsibility of the other Officer.

VOTE to accept the Budget Report: Unanimous in favor.

6. MOTION TO APPROVE BUYING PRNC FLASHLIGHTS FOR THE UPCOMING MOVIE NIGHT ON JUNE 14, NOT TO EXCEED \$600 (Taken out of order).

Paula Cracium moved that we approve no more than \$600 to purchase flashlights for the Movie Night at Holleigh Bernson Park on June 14th to promote safety and to promote PRNC.

Paula Cracium made the motion, Sue Hammarlund seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

7. MOTION TO APPROVE BUYING PRNC T-SHIRTS FOR THE UPCOMING MOVIE NIGHT ON JUNE 14, NOT TO EXCEED \$600 (Taken out of order).

Paula Cracium moved that we approve no more than \$600 to purchase T-shirts for the Board and stakeholders for the Movie Night at Holleigh Bernson Park on June 14th to promote PRNC.

Paula Cracium made the motion, Sue Hammarlund seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

8. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF REUSABLE "GO GREEN" PRNC SHOPPING BAGS NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500 FOR THE MOVIE NIGHT EVENT ON JUNE 14. (Taken out of order).

Chris Cooper displayed the type of bag that would be purchased for the event and described the printing process and time line for obtaining the bags. It will take about three weeks.

Chris Cooper made the motion, Pat Pope seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

9. MOTION TO INCREASE THE FOOD AN REFRESHMENT BUDGET FOR THE PARK COVER EVENT FROM \$2,000 TO \$3,000 (Taken out of order).

Susan Hammarlund moved that we increase the budget for food for the Park Event on June 7th from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Sue said that in these tough economic times the local shops and restaurants are contributing less to civic

events. She does not believe the costs will be as high as \$3,000, but she would like a cushion.

Susan Hammarlund made the motion, Paula Cracium seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

10. MOTION TO REQUEST LAPD ACTION ON STREET RACING ON SESNON (Taken out of order).

Chris Cooper withdrew his motion, saying he would have a formal request ready at our next meeting

11. MOTION TO APPROVE NO MORE THAN \$5,000 FOR NEW WEIGHT EQUIPMENT AT DEVONSHIRE DIVISION (Taken out of order).

Becky Leveque said that new weights at Devonshire would cost about \$30,000. SOLID is working with 6 Neighborhood Councils in Devonshire Division to each come up with \$5,000. If all six NCs do not approve the plan, the deal is off. Paul Drogichen said that would be very hard since all 6 NCs would have to agree and the money would have to be spent by June 13 to be paid for in FY07/08.

Becky Leveque made the motion, Vasdev Singh seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. Becky Leveque abstained.

12. MOTION TO SEND A COMMENDATION LETTER TO LAPD CHIEF BRATTON FOR OFFICERS MOBERGAND REINHART (Taken out of order).

Becky Leveque made the motion, Paula Cracium seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

13. MOTION TO ADVERTISE THE UPCOMING PRNC ELECTION AT PACIFIC THEATERS (Taken out of order).

Ron Nagai was absent. No Board Member chose to make a motion in his absence. The item was tabled.

GENERAL MEETING/OPEN DISCUSSION

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Dario del Core and Mike Dowbrey presented some information on the general crime picture in Devonshire Division, and Porter Ranch (17A27). There has been a 2% drop in violent crime and a 1% increase in property crimes since last year.

When the new "Topanga" station is opened in 2009 the LAPD map of the entire valley will be shifted around. Some of the neighborhoods that went from

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Devonshire to the Mission area will be back in Devonshire. Some of the south end of Devonshire near Roscoe will go to West Valley or Topanga. The "new" Devonshire Division will have 7 basic cars. Although all of Porter Ranch will stay in the Devonshire area, it will be served by two Basic Cars. Tentatively the portion of Porter Ranch west of Tampa will be served by 17A1. The Porter Ranch areas east of Tampa will continue to be served by 17A127.

Devonshire Division will hold its annual Town Hall meeting at Shepherd of the Hills on May 28th.

Mike and Dario discussed the panhandler at the exit to the town center. Dave Hasson from S&S discussed the situation with them. Since he is on private property S&S can ask him to leave and call the police if he doesn't. S&S has to treat all solicitors equally, so banning a panhandler could have an impact on groups like the Girl Scouts. Panhandling is not illegal on city streets, but property owners can ask the police to remove trespassers. The same person has a tent on the grass directly across the street from where he begs. Both Shepherd of the Hills and Porter Ranch Development Company will work with the police to get the tent removed. Several people at the meeting said they have seen the panhandler pushing his wheelchair into position in the median planter. He doesn't appear to really need the chair.

Mike Dowbrey also mentioned that there are several homeless people camping near the trail in Limekiln Canyon and near Whole Foods.

Paul Drogichen mentioned that the speeding sign on Tampa near the library is not working. Mike Dowbrey said to call Jim Dillinger at Councilman Smith's office

Captain Ketaily from Fire Station 28 introduced part of his team. He mentioned that it was brush clearance time and that the mustard plants with their bright yellow flowers can turn into dried out tumble weeds very quickly. The LAFD is looking for support from the Neighborhood Council to get the word out on brush clearance. NOW!

Captain Ketaily said that the Explorer Post at Fire Station 87 is looking for young men and women interested in the fire service to become Fire Explorers.

Dave Hasson asked if the LAFD is considering goats for brush clearance, similar to a program run by the Getty Center. Captain Ketaily will check into it and get back to the Neighborhood Council through Chris Cooper.

The carpet at Fire Station 28 is in very bad shape. Ketaily asked if the Neighborhood Council could help defray the approximate \$3,600 cost. Paul Drogichen said that the work would have to be approved by PRNC at the next

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Board meeting, and the work would have to be completed and billed by June 13 to be paid for in FY07/08. Paul is concerned that Neighborhood Council budgets will be slashed in the new year starting July 1. The PRNC may not have enough money next year to pay the expense.

Suzy Roig asked how the sidewalk along Rinaldi near Tampa could be repaired. She was told earlier that the city wants the neighborhood to help pay. Mel Mitchell referred her to Ron Nagai, Chairman of our Beautification Committee.

Ken Sherman is a Republican candidate for Assembly in the 40th Assembly District, which is nearby, but does not include Porter Ranch. He wanted to see what the issues are in our neighborhood, and is interested in issues revolving around land development.

Deborah Violante is a resident of The Park. She said that her community is very divided about the monument proposed by Park President, and PRNC Board Member, Ron Nagai. Mel Mitchell said that Ron presented the plan as having been approved by the HOA, and there was no dissention at the last PRNC meeting. People in favor of the monument did attend the meeting. PRNC is not the ultimate decider on the monument. Deborah said that The Park residents did not know about the last PRNC meeting or that the monument was on the agenda. She said that it would be nice if a representative of PRNC attended a Park HOA meeting. Mel said that he attended a Renaissance HOA meeting the night before since he was invited by the HOA President. Mel said that Ron is on the PRNC Board, but he (Mel) would be glad to attend a Park HOA meeting if invited by the Board.

Hidden Creeks

There was a presentation by Michael Sanders and John Polito from the proposed Hidden Creeks development and broad ranging discussion of the proposed development near the west end of Sesnon and the north end of Mason. Development of the proposed project would include the construction of 188 single-family residences, associated roadways and infrastructure, a 15.5-acre public park and a new 15.8-acre equestrian boarding facility on approximately half of the total 259-acre project site. The majority of the residential lots would be clustered on a graded, centralized plateau currently used for ongoing filming operations and grazing. Hidden Creeks Estates is planned as a gated community with 158 single-family residential lots and 25 residential equestrian lots along with a public park and an equestrian facility. The undeveloped portion of the project site would be preserved as parkland and open space. The envelope of open space surrounding the project would buffer the proposed residential development from the existing community of Porter Ranch to the east and south and would complement adjacent open space areas, including the Michael Antonovich Parkland, which lies just beyond the northern and western boundaries of the project site.

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Primary access to the project site is proposed via a new roadway extending from the current northern terminus of Mason Avenue and connecting to the northeast edge of the project site, near the proposed park. The road would traverse through an easement to be granted to the City of Los Angeles by Southern California Gas Company. The project would also involve the construction of internal streets and cul-de-sacs to provide access to the 188 proposed individual lots. Browns Canyon Road would provide secondary emergency access to the site and surrounding area. Public access to the equestrian facility would also be provided from Browns Canyon Road.

Construction of the proposed project would involve demolition of the existing single-family residence and associated equestrian facility. Following demolition, the project site would be graded, with an estimated 6.8 million cubic yards of earth material being moved. All earth material would remain on the project site, as no dirt would be imported or exported as a result of project construction or operation. Upon completion of site grading, project infrastructure would be installed followed by construction of the 188 single-family residences and the equestrian facility.

The project site is currently located in an unincorporated portion of Los Angeles County and within the LAFCO approved Sphere of Influence for the City of Los Angeles. Annexation of the property to the City of Los Angeles will need to be approved by the Los Angeles County LAFCO. The project site would then fall within the Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Community Plan Area. Therefore, Citywide General Plan and Community Plan amendments would be required for the annexed project site to correspond with the proposed land use and zoning designations.

There is a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on line at <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/EIR/HiddenCreekEstates/DEIR/TOC.html>

Several residents were curious or concerned about traffic and the schools. The major traffic impact appears to be on Mason, Sesnon, and Rinaldi. The nearest public school will be the new school to be built near Mason and Sesnon.

The developer also noted that there will be some upgrades to Browns Canyon to allow better fire service including some turn outs. There will be an addition of a new water tank and hydrants in this high fire danger area.

Although it will take a couple of years to get through all of the red tape and then to start land clearance and development, the builder thinks homes will start at \$1.5 million in 2008 dollars.

Jeannie Plum from the Chatsworth NC asked the Porter Ranch NC not to give a letter of support. Mel Mitchell said that there was no intent or motion for a letter of support at this meeting. The meeting was intended to be informational.

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The EIR response deadline is June 30, 2008. The developer would like to go before the Los Angeles City council this calendar year. The developer expects LAFCO approval this year.

Steve Columbus from Chatsworth NC asked who could use the stables. The residents of Hidden Creeks will have first rights, but the stables will be available to the public

Mel asked when Hidden Creeks will want our decision on whether PRNC will support the plan. Hidden Creeks will be looking for PRNC support by the end of 2008.