

PORTER RANCH
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 8 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, and Ron Nagai. About 25 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. There was a question about when the new Board would be formed. Melvin Cañas from DONE stated that as of yesterday, July 7, 2008 there were no challenges to the election. Thus the results are official, and the term of the new board members starts today.

Mel asked Irwin (Irv) Cohen and Mandhatasinh (Mark) Chauhan to join the Board at the table. Pat Pope agreed to continue to take notes for the meeting and Paul Drogichen agreed to give the Treasurer report and work through the transition with the new treasurer. Both new members moved to the Board table. Irv thanked both Pat Pope and Paul Drogichen for their service. Mel Mitchell asked for a vote on the agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

4. MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 6, 2008 AND JUNE 3, 2008 MINUTES

Pat Pope presented the minutes for both months. Becky seconded the May minutes, Sue seconded the June minutes.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

5. MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

Paula Cracium moved to approve the Treasurer's Report seconded by Vasdev Singh. Paul Drogichen presented the fiscal year-end report (attached).

\$57,014.49 in checks were written
\$8,158.40 was charged on the PRNC Visa
\$37,036.05 in 2007/2008 monies will carry over.
\$83,535.05 in total funds will be available in 2008/2009.
\$15,000 of those funds have already been encumbered.

Paula moved to approve the report. Vas seconded. Irv Cohen asked for more detail. Paul said he would leave a more in depth report to the incoming treasurer. Mel said that all of the items have been approved at previous board meetings.

Becky asked about the LA Conservation Corps funding. Ron said they would come back with another bid. The conservation Corps has picked up the debris on Rinaldi already and they have done part of Sesnon. Becky understood. Ron thanked Paul for all of his hard work as Treasurer.

VOTE to accept the Treasurer's Report: Unanimous in favor.

DWP Oversight

Jim Savitz gave a report on the DWP. He said they are moving to time of day usage billing. There will be information on the DWP website. DWP will be stepping up their water and power conservation advertising this summer. Irv asked if there would be a rate discount for seniors. Jim said there would be a discount for low income users. Becky wants a general bill explanation. Chris Cooper said he installed solar panels on his roof and his meter is running backward, but DWP estimated his usage without actually reading the meter. DWP came out to his house and read the meter when he asked them to,

6. MOTION TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL \$67.08 FOR FLASHLIGHTS AT MOVIE NIGHT IN PORTER RANCH

Paula said that the original approval was not to exceed \$600. The actual final price was \$667.08.

Paula Cracium made the motion, Becky Leveque seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

7. MOTION TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL \$9.65 FOR T-SHIRTS FOR MOVIE NIGHT IN PORTER RANCH

Paula Cracium said that the original approval was not to exceed \$600. The actual final cost was \$609.65.

Paula Cracium made the motion, Bright Aregs seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

8. MOTION TO APPROVE \$200 FOR SOFTWARE TO ADD A CALENDAR TO THE PRNC WEBSITE

Wendy Moore explained the new web site calendar to the Board.

Paula Cracium made the motion, Sue Hammarlund seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

9. MOTION TO APPROVE \$2,000 FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE ANNUAL FIREWORKS SHOW AT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

Mel Mitchell made the motion. Ron Nagai seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. Paula Cracium abstained.

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10. MOTION TO INVESTIGATE EXERCISE STATIONS AT HOLLIEGH BERNSON PARK

Sue Hammarlund said it would be a good idea to have small workout stations at the park for seniors. She will investigate and report to the Neighborhood Council

11. 2008 ELECTION RESULTS

The election results are official and attached. Mel Mitchell welcomed Irv Cohen and Mark Chauhan to the Board. He thanked Paul Drogichen and Pat Pope for their service to the community. He asked each of the new members to introduce themselves to the Neighborhood Council.

Irv Cohen moved to Porter Ranch in 1965. He has been involved in the community ever since. He thanked the Council for its hard work. He is concerned on how funds are spent and will challenge frivolous projects.

Mark moved to the United States several years ago. He works with financial systems. He ran for the Neighborhood Council to get a more practical understanding of how local government works in the United States.

Mel Mitchell congratulated the re-elected Board Members; Paula Cracium, Becky Leveque, Sue Hammarlund and Ali Dabirian.

All board members have been elected to four year terms.

Pat Pope noting that Ali is 17, asked how long a youth representative can serve? Melvin Cañas from DONE said that he could serve his entire term is up.

12. EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION.

Mel Mitchell said there were officer positions up for election. He said that in the coming months the bylaws may have to be changed to reflect the new four year terms.

Resident Deborah Vioante asked how the votes were counted. Melvin Cañas from DONE said they were counted by the City Clerk's office in Los Angeles.

Maha Batta asked why the election was so informal. Melvin Cañas gave her information on a hearing at the City Clerk's office in which she could give her comments directly to those involved with running the election and counting the votes. Mel Mitchell said he would be attending the meeting.

Bright said that the constitution says that the next election of officers should be one month after the Neighborhood Council election. Melvin Cañas said that he checked the bylaws and the officer election is supposed to be at the Neighborhood Council meeting after the election.

Paula nominated Mel Mitchell for Council President. Irv asked to nominate others, who all declined to run.

Mel Mitchell was elected President Unanimously.

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Bright nominated Paula Cracium for Vice-President.
Irv Cohen nominated Vasdev Singh

The vote was Paula Cracium 8, Vasdev Singh 3. Paula was elected Vice-President.

Mel Mitchell asked if anyone wanted to be Secretary. Ali Dabirian accepted. Pat Pope volunteered to work with Ali. Melvin Cañas said that a minor could not sign official documents. Pat Pope said, that shouldn't be a problem. Later Pat said that he does sign time cards when a recorder shows up. Time cards can be signed by the Treasurer.

Ali Dabirian was elected Secretary Unanimously.

Chris Cooper agreed to be Treasurer
Chris Cooper was elected Treasurer Unanimously

Paul Drogichen volunteered to stay on as acting Treasurer until Chris Cooper receives the required training. Chris will also sign Apple One time cards for recorder/note takers.

Mel announced that the next Neighborhood Council Training would be on August 16th at 8:00 AM at Van Nuys City Hall from 8:00 until 12:30. Several city departments will be there. Mandatory Conflict of Interest training will be given.

The next Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be on October 25th in the "South Valley".
DONE wants \$500 from each NC to cover costs.

Mel Mitchell will schedule a morning retreat to plan the next year's agenda. The public will be invited. He asked Becky to check with Porter Valley.

Melvin Cañas said that the city can take care of printing business cards and name tags, for a fee. He said that only the city is authorized to print the city seal.

Bright mentioned that the newly re-surfaced streets need to be restriped.

General Meeting/Open Discussion

1. YMCA Parking Lot Expansion and Trail Access to Limekiln Canyon

Jane Stanton and Dave Hasson addressed the Neighborhood Council on a proposal to expand the parking lot at the North Valley YMCA in coordination with the building expansion that the Y proposed last year. Chris Murray from Rosenheim and Associates attended to answer technical questions.

The YMCA needs a zoning variance to expand the current parking lot by 13,000 square feet, about 78 parking spaces. They want PRNC to support the expansion. The larger lot will also allow hikers headed into Limekiln Canyon to park away from Rinaldi. There will be a new dirt path from Corbin into the canyon. The current berm on the east side of the parking lot will be "day lighted" to expand the lot. No parking Rinaldi will be taken away. The Y wants to start the parking before the building expansion, so there will be enough parking during construction.

There will be some trees planted along the new trail. Maintenance of the park will be done by Recreation and Parks. No trees or wildlife will be removed.

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Over the next couple of years the Y wants to raise about \$8 million to fund the expansion of the buildings and the new parking. The nationwide YMCA will require 70% of the funding to be raised before the work can begin. The Y will start a capitol campaign soon.

The Y is requesting a letter from the Neighborhood Council in support of the project. They would like the letter to go to Councilman Smith and City Planning. Mel Mitchell said he would put it on next month's agenda.

2. 50/50 Sidewalk Repair

Ming Gong the City Program Manger for the 50/50 sidewalk repair plan explained the city's program.

In 2004 Los Angeles had about 11,000 miles of sidewalk. 4,000 miles need work. 59 miles were fixed. Currently the city is on an 83 year cycle to repair sidewalks.

If a citizen wants to expedite those repairs they can request to pay 50% of the charges to get the sidewalk replaced, instead of the current fix using an asphalt patch. The city's rate to fix a sidewalk is \$18 per square foot. The city would pay \$9.00 and the resident would pay \$9.00. That includes the prep work of removing the old sidewalk, and removing the offending roots, the actual concrete work, and waste removal. The city says the rate is very competitive.

The city expects about 450 residents to participate this year. 512 locations were fixed last year. The city has two crews dedicated to this project and they are trying to expand to four crews. This program is for residential areas only at this time. The city had a backlog of over 700 properties last year when the program closed.

This is a separate program from the drive to make corners handicap accessible.

Sue Hammarlund mentioned that many people cannot afford to fix the city's sidewalks even at 50/50. Dave Hasson said that, as a builder, \$18 per square foot seemed very high. Mr. Gong said that the city will grant permits to residents who want to do all the work themselves.

Miscellaneous

Ron Nagai said that the LA Conservation Corps wants to do even more clean up in Porter Ranch. They need some funding from the Neighborhood Council.

Dave Hasson thanked Sue Hammarlund for organizing the party for the new canopies at the park. Dave also recognized Becky as the volunteer of the month.

Ron Nagai thanked Dave Hasson and S&S for all of the help they have given to the community.

Paul Drogichen will remain acting Treasurer until Chris Cooper is trained by DONE.

The next Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council meeting will be on August 12th

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM