

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
February 1, 2005
Shepherd of the Hills Church

Board of Directors Business Meeting
Call to Order 6:00 p.m. Chair

A. Election update: V.P. Mel Mitchell, Election Committee Chairperson Informed Board that allegations had been reported to the City of Los Angeles Election and Policy Development Team and that an arbiter has been assigned to do an investigation of the PRNC election to see whether the allegations have merit. Made a motion to postpone that the board table the meeting and not vote on any agenda items until the arbiter completes his investigation of the election challenges and a new PRNC 2005 board of directors is installed.

As transcribed from meeting: Mel Mitchell:

“Regarding 2 letters that were delivered to the Election and Policy Development Team alleging irregularities in the conduct of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council election. These letters describe the reasons why the challengers believe the election was not conducted in a fair and appropriate manner and thus, why the election should be ruled invalid. According to the City of Los Angeles rules, the challenges were forwarded to the 2005 arbiter, Gary Delarosa, who is employed with the L.A. Human Relations Commission. The arbiter is to conduct a formal investigation, make a determination, and make his findings within 30 days of election. The final arbiter is authorized to resolve all election disputes and his findings will be final. Besides the challenges filed, the City is also considering other actions that have been taken regarding the challenges. There have been allegations of internal City of Los Angeles lobbying key city personal in support. A couple of items could involve additional involvement of the city attorney’s office. In summary, I think we have a bit of a mess here.”

Mel reviewed possible outcomes that could result from the arbiter’s investigation. Stated that the PRNC 2005 election is not complete until the city arbiter makes a determination.

He then reviewed Robert’s Rules of Order, stating that once the motion is made, no other business can be discussed until a vote is taken. Discussion can take place on this motion. When the discussion is complete, a vote needs to be taken.

Motion was seconded by Becky Leveque.

Board discussion.

Vote to table meeting: 7 – 2.

Meeting adjourned: 6:49 p.m.

Board Discussion: (paraphrased)

Mel: Believes there are some items board should not address. Suggests board take a more conservative approach, take our time, and wait until a new board is in place. Believes there will be new people on the 2005 board and that the fair and honest thing to do is to wait and give them a chance to participate in decisions.

Eric B: Asks whether the board can rule on items that are non-actionable?

Paula Cracium: Asks about City Attorney's investigation. Asks for more information.

Pat Pope: Wants to know whether there will be anyone inconvenienced by canceling meeting.

Matt Gluck: Wants to know if the Board did anything unethical?

Becky Leveque: Wants to know the time frame on the arbiter's ruling? Suggests Board wait; she doesn't want the liability of making any rulings. Feels there's nothing on the agenda that's pressing.

Ron/Chair asks for someone to take over the Chair so he can comment. Passed to Taylor Jew after board members question who can take over, discuss changes in rules of order, and question whether proper procedures are being followed.

Ron: Suggests the board discuss an estimate from the Department of Engineering pertaining to a bid. Says the City has requested the Board take action tonight, otherwise the bids would not be good. Bid is \$10,300 and it will go up significantly if waited on.

Protests from Becky during Ron's comment suggesting he's out of order.

Becky: Disagrees with Ron. Feels the board's reputation and morality is more important than voting on a bid; feels this could put the community and council in jeopardy if any action taken tonight.

Audience member, Manuel Duraso, requests that the item be left until the time when a vote takes place.

Pam: Wants to know how much longer that is going to be?

-continued-

Page 3 of 3

Mel: Says they have until the 19th. By the end of the week, they should have something. Can hold special meeting for the new board meeting when arbiter's decision is made.

Pat: Asks about open positions for reelection.

Manual: Suggests a special election take place later for items of urgency.

Audience member/Sue: Asks about candidates who ran and were considered elected.

Pat: Calls for a vote on motion.

Audience member: Asks whether there is a vote to be taken or whether discussion is allowed.

Manuel: Says that normally, discussion comes from board and speaker card needs to be filled out if there are comments from the audience.

Board votes: 7 - 2 for motion to suspend meeting. Motion passes.

For: Paula, Taylor, Pat, Pam, Mel, Matt, Becky

2 opposed, Ron and Erik

No request for abstentions.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:49.

Board members present:

Ronald Nagai, Mel Mitchell, Pam Birnkrant, Eric Blankenburg, Paula Cracium, Matt Gluck, Taylor Jew, Becky Leveque, Patrick Pope.

Excused: Joseph Martin

Transcribed by Pat Kramer, PDQ