

PORTER RANCH NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Minutes of the July 5, 2005 Regular Meeting
Shepherd of the Hills Church
19700 Rinaldi Street, Porter Ranch, CA 91326

1. The meeting was called to order by Becky Leveque at 6:15pm. .

ROLL CALL: Roll call was taken and 9 board members were present, and two members arrived later. Attendance:

Pam	Birnkrant	Present
Paula	Cracium	Absent
Paul	Drogichen	Present
Matt	Gluck	Present
Susan	Hammarlund	Present
Becky	Leveque	Present
Joe	Martin	Present
Mel	Mitchell	Present
Ron	Nagai	Present
Tatiana	Oueini	Present
Patrick	Pope	Present

2. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:

Discussion of minutes ensued. Pat told the Board that he had no problems with revisions to the previous minutes provided he received them within a week or so of transmission to the Board.

Pat Pope motioned that the minutes not yet approved (June 7, 2005; May 24, 2005; May 2, 2005; and February 1, 2005) be approved by the Board. Mel Mitchell seconded.

The vote: 9 Aye, 0 No.

3. Treasures Report:

Paul reviewed our financial position completely. PRNC's total available funds as of July 5, 2005 are \$43,147.13 (see Attachment 1).

Paul also reported that the Board has to approve payment to any Board Member before he/she can be reimbursed.

Paul Drogichen moved that the Board reimburse Joe Martin for his expenses while attending the Neighborhood USA Council meeting in Sacramento for \$1,451, Sue Hammarlund seconded.

The vote: 9 Aye, 0 No

Becky informed the Board that she worked with the Post Office and the new PO Box holder. She skillfully negotiated the return to PRNC of our old box

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and got the Post Office to give the box holder an adjacent box. Becky paid the Post Office \$430 for one year's rent on the PO Box. As a result, the problems with the stationary are resolved.

Paul also spoke to Unique Image who reduced their charge on the completed printing from \$3,464 to \$3,000. Paul has directed DONE to pay Unique as approved last month.

Paul Drogichen moved that the Board reimburse Becky Leveque \$430 for Post Office Box expense. Mel Mitchell seconded.

The vote: 9 Aye, 0 No.

Paul Drogichen moved that the Board reimburse Joe Martin \$19.49 for copy expenses. Pat Pope seconded.

The vote: 9 Aye, 0 No.

Paul suggested that PRNC establish a Budget & Finance Committee. That committee will meet on July 30, at a time and place to be announced.

Paul also reported that because of personnel shortages at DONE, bill payment is much slower than the Neighborhood Councils would like.

Matt Gluck moved that Paul Drogichen chair the Budget and Finance Committee. Mel Mitchell seconded.

The vote: 9 Aye, 0 No.

4. Neighborhood Congress Reports:

Tatiana reported that her coordination of the San Fernando Valley youth members of the various Neighborhood Councils went well. All of the youth members learned a great deal at the Congress.

Mel said that the Housing meeting was very lively. Inclusionary Zoning was a hot topic. Some Councils appear to be for Inclusionary Zoning, while others are opposed.

Paul said the Treasurer training was very helpful.

Pat said that the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) meeting was interesting. There is a lot of useful information available down to the block level through the Census Bureau and other government websites.

Becky was concerned at the Education meeting because many kids in Los Angeles just don't feel safe at school.

Joe reported that the Sanitation meeting was more interesting than you would expect. Recharging of the natural aquifers in the area is a high priority.

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5. Miscellaneous Comments from the Floor:

Elaine Pfefferman suggested that the Board have a copy of the Brown Act handy at all Board meetings.

Elaine distributed Community Service guides from Councilman Greig Smith.

Elaine said that Councilman Smith is concerned that the City's Cultural Arts Development is not properly scrutinized and wants a better accounting of their expenditures.

Councilman Smith wants the City Council to be more specific on what Neighborhood Councils can spend their funds on,

Councilman Smith favors AB352 which would require micro-coding of gun information on firing pins or gun barrels to make it easier to arrest and convict people who use had guns in crimes.

The Department of Public Works is experimenting with an "Adopt a Street" program similar to the State's "Adopt a Highway" program. Individuals or businesses could agree to keep the street clean and have a sign erected on a section of the street.

Councilman Smith is concerned about the growing abandoned shopping cart problem in his district. There is a 6 month program to see the impact the city can have on this eyesore. Call Greig Smith's office on 818-701-5253 if you see a wayward cart.

There are 14 Neighborhood Councils in Greig Smith's district. Each Council has one representative on Greig Smith's Cabinet.

The City is trying to decide whether to approve a new Wal-Mart at the old Best Products site near Levitz on Nordhoff. This could reduce traffic in Porter Ranch since the new site is closer to many Wal-Mart customers than the store here. There are several groups in Northridge opposed to even more traffic volume near the intersection of Tampa and Nordhoff.

Carolyn Brown introduced a Homestay International student from Spain, Juanne, and said that Homestay International needs more volunteers.

Irv Cohen confronted Elaine about his desire to have a signalized crosswalk built on Tampa near the library. Elaine assured Irv that the Department of Transportation will take another look at the needs of both the library customers and Fire Station 8. Ron Nagai asked Elaine if the Neighborhood Council could fund a signal. Elaine said she would ask DOT.

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There was a short discussion about the donation from Union Bank. Paul asked if the money could be donated to friends of the Fire Department. Ron said that Union Bank gave the money to the Neighborhood Council for a "Welcome to Porter Ranch" sign at the pocket park being developed at Reseda and Rinaldi. Becky ended the discussion saying it was still part of the unresolved grievance.

Pat Moved that this discussion be tabled until the grievance is resolved, Sue seconded.

The vote: 10 Aye, 0 No.

Wendell Durant thanked the PRNC for its support of the Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST) in Devonshire Division. He presented Becky a Certificate of thanks for the purchase of a new lap top.

LAPD reported that all the kinks aren't worked out with the new Mission Area Division of LAPD. Devonshire Division has been challenged with as few as four patrol units on some watches. At the same time the higher crime areas of Devonshire have been given to other Divisions. In the Valley Bureau today, police units are handling calls outside of their own Division more frequently.

Captain Franklin from Fire Station 28 said that the fireworks show presented 28's with more challenges this year. The area was more congested. Browns Canyon had lots of cars in it, and the Fire Department will consider having Browns Canyon blocked off next year. Fire Station 8 now has a 12 hour Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance, to go along with 28's 24 hour BLS ambulance. All Los Angeles City Fire Stations have at least on paramedic scheduled per shift. The nearest Advance Life Support (ALS) ambulance is at Fire Station 107 on Devonshire. Please do not call a Fire Station directly in an emergency. Calling 911 will get the proper resources to you.

6. Funding Requests:

There was a spirited discussion about the funding request on the agenda. There were several motions, counter motions, and withdrawn motions. There was a clear sense that many of the requests for funding needed better explanation. In the end Ron moved that the funding requests be delayed until the next Board meeting. Pat seconded the motion.

The vote: 5 Ayes, 4 No. The funding requests will be considered next time.

7. Committee Reports:

LAND USE

Mel reported that on May 18 Michael Sanders of First American Communities spoke to the Land Use Committee about the proposed Hidden Creeks Development in Browns Canyon. It is proposed to have 188 large homes on large lots. The community will be accessed via an extension of Mason from Sesnon. There will be a community stable and 5 of the properties having

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their own stables. The area is in an unincorporated area of the County today and the developer would like the area annexed into the City of Los Angeles. The developer invited members of the community to tour the property and see the plans again on July 16 and 16. The developer would like the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council to support its requests. Mel invited all stakeholders to participate.

EDUCATION

Minutes of the last Education Committee meeting are already on the PRNC Website. Sue said there was a need for a bridge or crosswalk at Castlebay School. She said there is a great deal of concern about traffic safety at the school. Sue distributed a list of funding requests from the Education Committee (see attachment 2). The next Education Committee meeting will be at 6:30 PM on July 27 at Whole Foods.

BEAUTIFICATION

Ron wants to work with the city on the problems with reverse frontages on some of the major streets in Porter Ranch. The street trees are either lacking or need care. There are big problems with street sweeping. Some areas of the city get cleaned every four weeks. Porter Ranch gets cleaned every so often, and gets street cleaning resources diverted during the windiest parts of the year. Ron would like more center medians on the major streets in Porter Ranch. There will be a Committee meeting this month. Sue volunteered to be on Ron's committee.

CLEAN UP

Matt is also concerned about reverse frontages and homeowner's trees spilling over onto the public right of way. He wants to organize another street cleaning event.

OUTREACH

Pam reported that community outreach is ongoing.

TRANSPORTATION

Joe reported that the next Transportation Committee meeting would be on July 14 at 6:30 PM at Carrow's at Devonshire and Mason. Joe reported on various transportation related issues.

8. Adjournment

Tatiana moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting ended at 9:15 PM.

The Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, at 6:00 at Shepherd of the Hills.