

PRNC Meeting Minutes: April 20, 2004, 7pm

The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) provided important public information, a presentation of the Deer Lake Ranch development, and a presentation on the proposed park on the northwest corner of Reseda Boulevard and Rinaldi Street at its April 20th meeting.

The first guest speaker was Mr. Hans J. Giraud of Hans Giraud & Associates (Civil Engineering, Land Planning, & Project Management) who consulted on the 375-home Deer Lake Ranch development west of Porter Ranch and located outside of the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Giraud said that the 375 homes will be divided into four neighborhoods to preserve open space and to blend in with the topography of the area. The lot sizes will range from 6,000 to over 43,000 square feet and will include 55 equestrian lots. Mr. Giraud also described the traffic mitigation measures and contributions to mitigate traffic along the 118 freeway, Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Canoga Avenue, and Chatsworth Street.

The second presentation was on the proposed park at the northwest corner of Reseda Boulevard and Rinaldi Street. Ms. Dianne Kartiala, Deputy to Councilmember Greig Smith, introduced the project and gave a brief history. Ms. Carol Robinson of Landmark Design and Ms. Deborah Deets of the City's Recreation and Parks Department presented the details of the proposed Porter Ranch Pocket Park (Park). The proposed Park will include a Hal Bernson plaque; three park benches and an 18-inch seat wall; Deodara Cedar, Liquidambar, and Crape Myrtle trees; shrubs and groundcover; woodcrete post and rail fencing; and a colored concrete walkway. A bronze horse statue is also proposed, but will be funded separately. Mr. Ron Nagai, PRNC President, recommended that the purchase and design of a bronze horse statue be discussed with the Northridge West Neighborhood Council (NWNC) in recognition of the historic Porter Ranch boundaries and to obtain a volume discount should the NWNC decide to buy the same statue for the NWNC area.

The concept of the pocket park was well received by the PRNC. The PRNC, however, was somewhat surprised that they were told that the design was in its final form. The PRNC felt that the plans should not have been finalized before it was introduced to the community for the first time. Some of the suggestions presented by the PRNC included: better visibility so that no one could hide in the park; use of bollards to protect park visitors from traffic accidents; a different tree selection because people could hide or sleep under the Deodara Cedars; a design that would not encourage use by gangs or transients, and a gateway design for the eastern entry into Porter Ranch. Ms. Kartiala said that the PRNC recommendations would be taken into consideration.

The PRNC Board also discussed a number of items. Mr. Mel Mitchell, Vice President and Chairperson of the PRNC Land Use Committee, made a motion to draft a letter to the City to install a traffic signal (flashing red and yellow lights)

and crosswalk on Tampa Avenue in front of the Porter Ranch Branch Library. Captain Mike Franklin of the Fire Department requested that the PRNC also request that the signal light be wired to Fire Station #8 so that the flashing red lights can be turned on while backing the fire trucks into the station. The motion with the Fire Department's request was passed. The PRNC Board also discussed purchasing an "Automated Voice Messaging System" (AVMS) because the PRNC was informed that it could no longer use the LAPD's AVMS due to other Police priorities. The other topics covered by the Board included the Mayor's Budget and the elimination of the Environmental Affairs Department, and the negative impact that would have on the Valley; hosting of a Mayoral Candidate Debate/Forum in early November; the upcoming community survey; future guest speakers; and the PRNC Mixer in June.

Mr. John Roberts of Valley Alarm made a presentation. Mr. Roberts said that Valley Alarm offers a wide variety of commercial and residential security systems that can be purchased or leased. Valley Alarm provides alarm, camera, water flow monitoring, and web cam systems at the best price possible. Please call Mr. Roberts at (818) 787-0999 or e-mail him at jroberts@valleyalarm.com if you have any questions.

The announcements for events that have not yet occurred include: the Fire Service Recognition Day Open House on May 8th from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Fire Station #8 located at 11351 Tampa Avenue and Fire Station #28 located at 11641 Corbin Avenue; "Adopt a Fire Station" program announced by Captain Mike Franklin of Fire Station #28 (For more information, please call Ms. Pam Birnkrant, Board Secretary, at (818) 831-2330); S.O.L.I.D. Pancake Breakfast on May 8th from 7:30 to 10:30 A.M. at the Park on Etiwanda across from LAPD's Devonshire Division Police Station; the first annual S.O.L.I.D. Car Show (For more information, please call (818) 756-9011, extension 2000); Operation Sparkle 2 (volunteer clean-up day in Porter Ranch) on June 12th; Mobility 21 Coalition meeting (Federal and State transportation issues) on May 7th from 9:00 A.M. to 10:30 P.M. at Syncro Hangar at the Van Nuys Airport located at 7701 Woodley Avenue in Van Nuys (For more information, please call (213) 580-7565 or visit their web site at www.mobility21.com); City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks' "Salute To Recreation Family Festival" at Northridge Park located at 10058 Reseda Boulevard on June 4, 5, and 6, 2004 (If you would like to be a sponsor, please call Ms. Wendy Wilkinson at (818) 756-8060).

Other announcements included the: Emergency Preparedness Fairs held on April 24th and 25th; Earth Day Event at Granada Hills Charter High School on April 24th; Earth Day clean up at the State Park in Chatsworth; turning on of the signal light at Porter Ranch Drive and Corbin Avenue on April 29th; 2005 International Valley Parade planning meetings every Tuesday night at the Marvin Braude Center at Sylvan and Van Nuys Boulevard; 2005 Valley Marathon being discussed by California State Assembly member Lloyd Levine; Proposed Oasis Project (Mini Staples Center at Lankershim and Chandler) public presentation at

the El Portal Theater on May 1st; and the L.A. River bike path opening on April 22nd.

The next PRNC meeting will be held on May 18th at the Shepherd of the Hills Church located at 19700 Rinaldi Street in Porter Ranch. The guest speaker will be Captain Joseph Curreri of the LAPD's Devonshire Division who will discuss the LAPD's plan to deal with the various types of crime in Porter Ranch.