PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 6, 2005 Shepherd of the Hills Church Porter Ranch, California

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:21 pm by PRNC President Becky Leveque. Ms. Leveque welcomed attendees, noting the holiday season.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Joseph Martin moved to approve the meeting agenda; seconded by Ron Nagai.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor

1.3 Roll Call Secretary Pat Pope Called the roll:

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

1.4 Approval of Minutes

Pat Pope moved to approve October 2005 minutes; seconded by Tatiana Oeini.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor

1.5 Treasurer's Report

Paul Drogichen, noting that some feedback from DONE was still needed, reported on the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council's financial position as of December 6, 2006. Mr. Drogichen stated that all outstanding bills have been paid, and provided detailed information regarding funds expended to date as well as the amount of funds available to the Neighborhood Council.

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Becky Leveque called for a vote to approve the Treasurer's Report provided by Mr. Drogichen.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- 2.1 Pat Pope reported on his discussion regarding improvement of cell phone service with a Cingular representative. He will appear at a future meeting if invited by the Board President. Ron Nagai provided an update on cellular phone service providers' efforts being made to improve service by increasing the number of cell phone towers in the area. Becky Leveque asked Mr. Nagai to schedule a presentation by a cell phone service provider representative at the next meeting. Ms. Leveque indicated that the perception should be invalidated that the Neighborhood Council Board is stalling the needed improvements. Joe Martin asked that a frequency coverage chart be provided. Pat Pope stated that three different formats would be needed, for each of the major providers and reiterated that the Cingular representative is willing to report on what is needed to improve service. A stakeholder related her company's experience with service improvement, and was directed by Ms. Leveque to provide contact information to Ron Nagai.
- 2.2 Update on design of center medians (tabled due to time constraints).
- 2.3 Implementation of Mayoral Survey

Pat Pope provided insight into the process being used to determine the City of Los Angeles' new budget. Mel Mitchell asked what action would be appropriate for the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council. Becky Leveque reported on a Budget Survey meeting she attended at City Hall, and raised the question of whether or not to participate in the survey process. Joseph Martin referred to the process by which a similar survey was done in 2004, and noted the Neighborhood Council's obligation to keep stakeholders informed. Ms. Leveque asked if the survey could be published on the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council website. Paul Drogichen noted that a promise to send the survey in PDF form (for publication on the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council website) had not yet been followed through. Susan Hammarlund questioned the items that the Neighborhood Council is being asked to prioritize. Paula Cracium noted her wish to include other items. After further discussion, Pat Pope volunteered to compile the survey results.

Paula Cracium moved to participate in the Mayor's survey; seconded by Mel Mitchell.

Paul Drogichen asked that an amendment be made to note include a disclaimer that the survey is from the Mayor's office, not from the Neighborhood Council. Pat Pope volunteered to create a PDF form of the survey, which will include the

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disclaimer. Ron Nagai suggested asking Manny Durazo how the survey should be distributed to stakeholders and which stakeholders should be asked to complete the survey.

VOTE: 6 in favor; 3 against; 1 abstention.

Ron Nagai stated his concerns about providing responses to the survey, noting that no response from Porter Ranch is not optimal.

The following item was not on the agenda

Paula Cracium moved amend the By-Laws to postpone the upcoming elections to March 28th, stating that there were issues that should be considered; seconded by Mel Mitchell.

Mel Mitchell noted the procedure by which changes to By-Laws can be made. Ron Nagai suggested that a different date should be considered, because the information being collected by the City budget survey is pertinent to election. Mr. Nagai suggested having two elections, one in early 2006 and another in late summer. The intent is to have a sitting board in place by the time the City budget is set, with the outcome that a new Board would have to follow through on initiatives created by the outgoing Board. Irv Cohen, a stakeholder, stated that the budget and elections are separate and distinct, and should not be discussed as if they are. Susan Hammarlund suggested moving the election to January. Paula Cracium stated that that was too soon, because Board members have other, additional priorities. Ron Nagai suggested that an election should be held in February and a subsequent one in October to get back on track. Paul Drogichen clarified what other Neighborhood Councils have done to deal with similar issues. Mel Mitchell suggested tabling the discussion until more research can be done by the Election Committee. A stakeholder suggested an ad hoc committee to assist in setting up the elections.

VOTE: 8 in favor, 2 abstentions.

3. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

- 3.1 New School
 - 3.1.1 Update on K-8 School and Superintendent Romer Meeting

Becky Leveque introduced Jon Lauritzen, District 3 Board Member, LAUSD, and Donna Smith, former Principal at Chatsworth High School. Mr. Lauritzen discussed a recent Youth Relations Summit, a Lego robotics activity held at Lawrence Middle School, and an outreach effort linking students at schools in Tijuana and Porter Middle School via computer. Mr. Lauritzen reported on an initial meeting regarding the proposed new school construction, noting that the

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meeting was attended by Ms. Leveque, Greig Smith, Mitch Englander, Donna Smith, Ed Burke, LAUSD Facilities personnel, as well as S&S representatives. Mr. Lauritzen discussed the plan to donate 6 acres for an elementary school as well as 15 acres set aside for a middle school. Mr. Lauritzen noted a proposal to put the two sites together to form a span school, serving Kindergarten through 8th grade, rather than separate elementary and middle schools. There has also been discussion with Greig Smith regarding park land in that area resulted in a proposal to include joint use projects, such as a library, senior center, and YMCA.

Mr. Lauritzen expressed his appreciation of the Neighborhood Council's "ground floor" efforts. Mr. Lauritzen mentioned a time frame of 4 to 8 years for completion of the proposed project. He stated that funding was obtained from voters' approval of Measure Y. The exact amount of acreage for the combined school has to be worked out between LASUD and S&S. Some land might have to be purchased by LAUSD for a single campus. Ms. Leveque mentioned the unprecedented, high level of cooperation between the developer and community and government entities. Mr. Lauritzen expressed confidence in producing results "in short order."

Ron Nagai thanked Mr. Lauritzen for attending the meeting and noted a proposed Porter Ranch 4-12 academy being discussed by stakeholders that would allow their children to remain in the area through high school. Mr. Lauritzen noted that the possibility is being considered, however he did not anticipate a need for a full-fledged high school. Mr. Lauritzen noted plans to provide ample space for expansion in the future. Pat Pope asked if a specific site has been designated; Mr. Lauritzen stated that some information has been published regarding the elementary and middle school sites, but because negotiations are still taking place, he could not provide more specifics about the compromise site. Mr. Lauritzen reiterated that this is a process that requires negotiation, but that careful attention is being paid to getting things done right the first time.

Mr. Lauritzen assured the Neighborhood Council that the desires of the community for the type of school will be considered before the school is finalized. Joe Martin proposed a proposed industrial arts school in Porter Ranch, noting the need for mechanics and carpenters. Mr. Lauritzen noted the intent to provide a facility that will accommodate a wide range of career options. Ms. Leveque stated that the proposed school will be the first built using Measure Y funds. Mr. Lauritzen answered a stakeholder's question about busing by noting that a magnet school was the option that resulted in students being bussed. A magnet school is not being proposed. Susan Hammarlund asked about pollution at a school on Rinaldi, which Mr. Lauritzen noted had been mitigated by adding air conditioning at the site. Another stakeholder asked what was being done to expedite the project. Mr. Lauritzen stated that the next steps are in the developer's purview. Ms. Leveque reiterated that the intent is to create a neighborhood center, and stated that the decision has yet to be made regarding the school's final form. Irv

Cohen, a stakeholder, asked about available funding and timing; Mr. Cohen stated his concern that funds will have been spent by the time the decision is made to build the school. To reassure stakeholders that this will not happen, Ms. Leveque noted that meetings would take place every 6 weeks until the school is built but that the process will not take a long time. Ms. Leveque discussed the process by which the school's facilities will be determined and the roles community groups will play with regard to the new facility. A stakeholder asked about how updates on the proposed facility will be made available to the community. Susan Hammarlund reminded meeting attendees that an environmental study will be done, eliminating the possibility of another Belmont School situation. Ms. Leveque called for participation from stakeholders, and encouraged interested community members to take part in the Education Committee's activities. Mr. Lauritzen expressed his appreciation of the opportunity provided to discuss the issue.

- 3.1.2 Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council to support a K-8 school in Porter Ranch
- 3.1.3 Formation of ASAP (Active School Advisory Panel)
- 3.1.4 Date of Next Meeting

The next Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Board meeting is scheduled for January 3.

3.2 Officer's E&O insurance.

General consensus noted that an opinion from the City Attorney's office should be obtained prior to making any decision regarding purchase of insurance. A stakeholder suggested obtaining a written response from the City Attorney's office, reminding the Board that the City has the option to defend and indemnify the Neighborhood Council under the charter. Pam Birnkrant volunteered to obtain the opinion. This item is tabled until the next meeting.

- 3.3 Processing Expenses (taken out of order)
 - 3.3.1 Paul Drogichen discussed at length the procedure for buying and paying for Board-approved items.
 - 3.3.2 Reimbursement of Board member expenses

Paul Drogichen moved to reimburse Ron Nagai for purchase of printing ink; seconded by Sue Hammarlund.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

3.4 Funding for Education Committee and YMCA

Sue Hammarlund reported on efforts to obtain computers and equipment for Castlebay School and the YMCA After School Program at Castlebay, as well as a portable sink for the Little Shepherd Learning Center.

Sue Hammarlund moved to authorize the expenditure of an additional \$1000 from the Education budget; seconded by Mel Mitchell.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

3.5 Porter Ranch Design Review Committee

3.5.1 Mel Mitchell explained the Design Review Committee's responsibilities. He discussed the three new projects proposed by the Porter Ranch Development Company (a medical building, a shopping center, and residential—840 town homes and condomiums), which were discussed at the November 15, 2005 meeting. Mr. Mitchell reported on progress for these projects and discussed the history behind development at this site as well as reporting on governmental influences (affordability being specifically mentioned). Mr. Mitchell stated that the City Planning Commission and the Design Review Board have approved the site plan, and that the project should run for the next 3-5 years. A stakeholder asked how affordable housing is defined. Mr. Mitchell responded with a figure "around \$400,000." A stakeholder asked the dramatic increase in traffic on Rinaldi. Pat Pope explained his understanding of what S&S said they would do about traffic flow around the new development. Mr. Mitchell discussed the Neighborhood Council's role and intent with regard to the proposed development, and invited interested stakeholders to attend the Land Use Committee's upcoming meeting. Mr. Mitchell noted that this project could result in controversy within the community. In response to a stakeholder's question, Becky Leveque noted definite plans for a community center. Pat Pope noted the changes that S&S is proposing for better traffic flow around the existing Town Center, including improvements to the queue area west of Souplantation, where the only signaled exit from the Town Center is today. Mr. Mitchell reiterated the current plan to invite the Porter Ranch Development Company to present before the Committee at an upcoming meeting in 2006 and reminded attendees of the Land Use Committee meeting next week. There was discussion of conflict with the Education Committee meeting. A stakeholder asked about how to join the Land Use committee, and was provided with the requested information. Ms. Leveque noted that there could be advantages to allowing development and that the proposed mall would cater specifically to Porter Ranch. Ms. Leveque also mentioned that Councilman Greig Smith had submitted a \$2.5 million request to clean up the Lime Kiln Canyon recreational area to the State. Some discussion occurred about how the process of approval of a development is accomplished, as

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a result of a stakeholder's question. The stakeholder was invited to attend the Land Use Committee.

- 3.5.2 Mel Mitchell discussed an additional expenditure (purchase of additional phone calls from Notify Voice Mail System), approved by e-mail vote from the Board members.
- 3.6 (taken out of order) Information on the next Congress of Neighborhood Councils

Ron Nagai reported on the next Congress of Neighborhood Councils, and noted Joe Vitti's proposal regarding Neighborhood Councils. Becky Leveque, noting how much time and effort is involved, expressed her belief that the Neighborhood Council should concentrate on Porter Ranch, rather than city-wide issues; this was corroborated by several Board members. Ron Nagai restated Mr. Vitti's position, reminding attendees that efforts in concert with other Neighborhood Councils on "big ticket" items are more effective. Pat Pope stated that efforts en bloc are difficult to achieve, and that logistics are a major factor. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting. Mr. Nagai also mentioned that the Mayor's representative had asked to attend an upcoming Neighborhood Council meeting; Mr. Nagai was authorized to issue an invitation.

4. <u>Committee Reports</u>

4.1 Transportation Committee

4.1.1 Joe Martin reported on the \$100,000 being provided by the Bureau of Street Services. Becky Leveque provided background information on how street resurfacing decisions are made. A stakeholder asked why lane marking has not yet been done on streets that had already been resurfaced; another stakeholder noted that a center line on Brymar Street has not been repainted and mentioned an inappropriately-placed stop sign. Joe Martin discussed the process by which a stop sign is added, emphasizing that this is a decision made by the City without input from the Neighborhood Council. Ms. Leveque asked for more information from the stakeholder and that he return a completed Service Request form to her. Another stakeholder asked about speed bumps that have been installed on Porter Valley Drive. Ms. Leveque promised to provide a Service Request form to the stakeholder after the meeting.

Joe Martin moved to accept the recommendations made by the Transportation Committee after the meeting with the Council on the repair of streets in Porter Ranch; seconded by Paul Drogichen.

Ron Nagai asked that more information be provided to stakeholders about where the work will be done; Mel Mitchell stated that the list of streets recommended for repair was provided by the Bureau of Street Services.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

- 4.1.2 Traffic Study for Porter Ranch. This item will be reviewed in committee prior to being presented before the Board.
- 4.1.3 Street Lighting Report. Joe Martin reported on a Street Lighting meeting he attended, noting that no MOU exists between the County and City Planning Commissions regarding street lighting, and recommended that the Board request Councilman Smith's office be asked to have the Planning Commissions coordinate their efforts. This item will be tabled until it can be discussed at the next Transportation Committee meeting.
- 4.2 Outreach. No report noted
- 4.3 (taken out of order) Safety Committee. Becky Leveque called everyone's attention to the Crime Alert material provided in the meeting materials. Mr. Cohen, a stakeholder, reminded attendees of the importance of the Neighborhood Watch. Ms. Leveque provided safety tips to avoid becoming a holiday crime statistic.
- 4.4 Porter Ranch Cleanup Day. No report noted.

5. Stakeholder Comments

None noted.

Becky Leveque, noting that some meeting attendees are new faces, asked stakeholders to identify themselves and discuss the concerns that brought them to today's meetings. Attendees were encouraged to join committees of interest.

Susan Hammarlund suggested thanking Carmen for her efforts.

Pat Pope moved to adjourn at 9:05 pm; seconded by Tatiana Oueini.