

# Meeting Minutes

## PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 13, 2006  
Shepherd of the Hills Church  
Porter Ranch, California 91326

- 1.1 **WELCOME** President Becky Leveque opened the meeting at 6:10 PM and welcomed everyone.
- 1.2 **MINUTES RECORDER** The transcriber that was supposed to be supplied by Apple One cancelled on June 11. Apple One was not able to supply a replacement. Secretary Pat Pope expressed his disappointment to DONE Representative Manny Durazo, stating that PDQ was more reliable. Pat Pope took the meeting notes.
- 1.3 **AGENDA** Several minor upgrades to agenda Items were made by various Board members.
- 1.4 **ROLL CALL** Pat Pope took the roll. Present were, Paula Cracium, Paul Drogichen, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque. Joe Martin, Mel Mitchell, Ron Nagai, and Pat Pope. Absent were Pam Birnkrant, Matt Gluck, and Tatiana Oueini.
- 1.5 **PREVIOUS MINUTES** The approval of the May, 2006 minutes was tabled until Paula Cracium gets Pat Pope the pre-election portion of the minutes.

Manny Durazo from DONE addressed the Neighborhood Council. He spoke about the 912 Commission. The 912 Commission is doing a review of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), and Neighborhood Councils. Two members of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils will be part of the review.

Manny also encouraged the Board to attend the Congress of Neighborhood Councils on June 17. The first 1,200 attendees will receive an emergency kit worth \$60. The theme of this year's Congress is Emergency Preparedness.

- 1.6 **TREASURER'S REPORT** Paul Drogichen reported that all bills and payments are current PRNC has \$57,407.99 available. Paul asked the Board to approve a FY 2006/07 tentative budget. He reviewed our spending in the current year and made some proposed changes in funding allocations, based on our spending habits. He said to keep in mind that we spent a very high amount on Education this year. Just like this year, if money needs to be moved as priorities change a Board motion can take care of that. Paul said that no checks will be written by the City from June 21, 2006 through the end of June. Mel was concerned about losing money not spent. Paul said that is not a problem now, but could become one in the future. Irv Cohen noted that the generator for Fire Station 8 is delayed. Paul said that the generator has been approved by the Board and will be paid next year. It will not effect the Public Safety budget for 2006/07. Paul moved that the 2006/07 budget be approved Mel Mitchell seconded the motion. The tentative 2006/2007 was approved by all Board members present.
- 1.7 **912 COMMISSION** Both Susan Hammarlund and Joe Martin expressed interest in participating with the Mayor's 912 Commission review of DONE and the Neighborhood Councils.

Paul Drogichen made a motion to reimburse Becky Leveque \$12.60 for a key. Mel Mitchell seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to reimburse Becky.

- 1.8 **FY 2006/2007 BUDGET.** See Item 1.6 Treasurer's Report
- 1.9 **VST REQUEST.** The Devonshire Division Volunteer Surveillance Team (VST) would like the Board to donate cameras and other gear, not to exceed \$4,000. Several Board members asked that the VST clarify what they want, and what the purpose would be. Paul Drogichen moved that the issue be tabled. Joe Martin seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to table the motion pending a presentation or request from VST at a future meeting.

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- 1.10 **YMCA EXPANSION.** Ron Nagai asked the Board to consider writing a letter of support for expanding the North Valley YMCA by 13,000 square feet. Ron said that the expansion would fit the Specific Plan. Several Committee Chairs spoke and said that they would like to review the plans before the Board makes an endorsement. Sue asked if the Y would consider making a presentation at the site. Jane Stanton, the Executive Director of the North Valley YMCA agreed that would be a good idea. In response to a question, Jane stated that the previously discussed parking and access to Limekiln Canyon was not part of the plan now. A special PRNC meeting will be arranged by Land Use Chair Mel Mitchell and President Becky Leveque and Jane Stanton at the YMCA, so that the Board and interested stakeholders can find out more.
- 1.11 **4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY "BOUNCERS".** Sue Hammarlund moved that the Board sponsor the "Bouncer" attraction at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at Shepherd of the Hills, not to exceed \$1,500. Stakeholder Irv Cohen objected saying that most of the people that come to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration are not from Porter Ranch, and the advertising wouldn't reach the target audience of Porter Ranch residents. Sue was concerned about liability on a bouncy attraction. Paula said that Shepherd of the Hills has the proper insurance and would be liable. Stakeholder Bright Aregs suggested that instead of sponsoring a particular attraction, the Board just become an event sponsor. Paul said that the Board has to sponsor a tangible thing. Sue moved to sponsor the Bouncer. Ron seconded the motion. All Board members present voted yes. The motion passed.
- 1.12 **GENERATOR FOR FIRE STATION 8.** Fire Station 8 is having difficulty getting the generator the PRNC Board approved because there is a high demand nationwide for generators. Paul said that since we have already approved the funds, and the whole remaining budget for FY 2005/06 will be carried into the new year, a delay in obtaining the generator will not affect the 2006/07 budget. No Board action is necessary at this time.
- 1.13 **TRASH COLLECTION FEE INCREASE.** Joe Martin said that there is a flaw in the Mayor's proposed trash collection fee for LAPD funding is structured. He said that the average home owner will pay a disproportionate part compared to businesses and multi-family apartments or condominiums. Paula asked if Joe could give a report at the next meeting.
- 1.14 **LCD PROJECTOR.** Pat Pope moved that the Board purchase an LCD Projector, cost not to exceed \$1,000. The projector will be used at meetings for maps and presentations. Paul said he could charge \$1,000 at the Porter Ranch Best Buy. Mel Mitchell seconded the motion. All Board members present voted yes. The motion passed.
- 1.15 **ELECTION EXPENSES.** Paula asked for \$200 to pay Carmen Robina for election expenses (post cards). Mel seconded the motion. All Board members present voted yes. The motion passed.

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### OLD BUSINESS

- 2.1 **PALISADES MOUNTIAN SLIPPAGE.** No action taken.
- 2.2 **CASTLEBAY COMPUTERS.** Carolyn Doherty, the President of PATH presented the Board a plaque that will be displayed in the Castlebay computer lab thanking the PRNC for the 36 new computers at the school. There will be an open house on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the computer lab at 4:00 PM. Carolyn announced that Tia Carlson will be the new President of PATH.
- 2.3 **NEW SCHOOL IN PORTER RANCH.** Becky Leveque reported that LAUSD is moving slowly on the proposed K-8 school on the west side of Porter Ranch. There will be no hearings until at least September. Becky said the negotiations with LAUSD are very sensitive right now.

### NEW BUSINESS

- 3.1 **RAVENNA LANE.** Pat Pope reported that DWP cleared the brush on their property in the canyon between Ravenna Lane and Brown's Canyon. Pat said the neighbors are happy to have the fire danger mitigated, but the clearance increased the noise problem from the 118 Freeway, and presents a security issue to the adjoining properties. Pat is working with Councilman Smith's office and the Sorrento HOA.
- 3.2 **ELECTION UPDATE.** Paula Cracium said the election would be on Saturday, June 24, at Shepherd of the Hills. Paula asked for some help from Board members who were not up for election this year. Paula said that our current election procedures need to be revised. Considering the challenges faced by DONE with 88 Neighborhood Councils and growing, and the nature of our Board being mostly working people, Paula suggested that having elections every year is logistically too hard. She will have some ideas at the next Board meeting.

### OPEN FORUM

Resident Ed Golden asked the Board to stop Soapbox Derby racing in Porter Ranch. He submitted several complaints from neighbors about the noise, congestion, and trash caused by the event.

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### **CANDIDATE FORUM**

The meeting was turned over to Jerry Kvasnicka an Independent Election Administrator affiliated with the League of Women Voters. Jerry explained the rules of the Candidate Forum to the meeting. He allowed each candidate 2 minutes to speak about themselves. He said write-ins would be allowed if the write-in candidate submitted an application by 8:00 AM on June 23, 2006.

To vote in the election one must be a Porter Ranch Stakeholder. A stakeholder lives or works in Porter Ranch and is over 16 years old. One must present some evidence of eligibility like a driver's license, utility bill or pay stub when voting to be considered a stakeholder.

The candidates spoke in the following order:

Ron Nagai  
Allen Fidler  
Chris Cooper  
Mel Mitchell  
Bright Aregs  
Joe Martin  
Vasdev Singh

The meeting concluded at about 8:30 after the candidates spoke.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at Shepherd of the Hills in Porter Ranch.