

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Shepherd of the Hills Church

Porter Ranch, California

1. MEETING OPENING

a. Welcome and introduction of special guests

President Becky Leveque called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm. Ms. Leveque introduced Manny Durazo and Millie Jones, Senior Deputy, from Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich. Ms. Jones invited attendees to visit the Chatsworth Field Office.

Becky Leveque introduced John Bwarie, field representative, Councilman Grieg Smith's office, reported funding secured for the establishment of a safe center for discarding paint, batteries and light bulbs, at Hayvenhurst Place and Roscoe. The safe center should be coming on line in February. Mr. Bwarie noted the opening of the Mason Child Care center at Mason Park in Chatsworth. Mr. Bwarie also reported that Rinaldi Street will soon be opened from Mason through to DeSoto. In addition, Mr. Bwarie mentioned the 50/50 sidewalk program and a program that allows Neighborhood Councils to fund Personal City Services projects. Mr. Bwarie reported a search for funding to acquire an additional parcel next to Stony Point Park. Mr. Bwarie invited Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council constituents to participate in the November 5, 2006 movie night at Holly Bernson Park and noted an upcoming emergency preparedness fair at Northridge Fashion Center and an open house at Devonshire Community Police Station. In response to Ms. Leveque's request, Mr. Bwarie described the October 19, 2006 Police Fire Award luncheon at the Airtel Hotel in Van Nuys. Mr. Bwarie introduced Elizabeth Wiesner, new Council District 12 field deputy.

b. Roll call and establish a quorum

Ms. Leveque noted that Paula Cracium and Tatiana Oueini advised that they could not be present. Board members present: Pat Pope, Chris Cooper, Sue Hammarlund, Paul Drogichen, Becky Leveque, Vasdev Singh, Mel Mitchell; Bright Aregs arrived at 6:21 pm and Ron Nagai arrived at 6:23 pm.

There were approximately 35 stakeholders in attendance; Irv Cohen, Diane Garlock, Carmie Conde, Rose McNamara, Ed Golden Dick Rippy, Neil Estrin introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting.

c. Approved of proposed agenda

Becky Leveque asked if there were any objections to the agenda as presented; there being no objections, the agenda was approved by acclamation.

d. Presentation and Approval of Minutes

Discussion of the July 2006 Minutes was tabled until the October 2006 meeting.

Regarding the August 2006 Minutes, Pat Pope suggested including the statement that approximately 10 stakeholders were present; there was no objection.

Pat Pope moved to accept the August 2006 Minutes as amended; seconded by Ron Nagai.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

e. Treasurer's Report

Paul Drogichen provided copies to attendees and presented a report of the funds available to the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council. Mr. Drogichen reported on expenditures to date, as well. In answer to Mel Mitchell's question, Mr. Drogichen stated that there was \$45,000 in funds rolled over from the last year's allocation. Manny Durazo stated that some discussion should take place regarding how funds are to be spent, and noted that there was some urgency to this issue. Becky Leveque provided a rationale to explain the amount of funds accumulated. Mel Mitchell suggested that prior efforts to assess the needs of the community; Ms. Leveque described how needs were assessed and listed some of the community activities that Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council has supported. Bright Aregs suggested that Rinaldi Park needs support; Ms. Leveque discussed her efforts in this regard, stating that she had reported the brown spot in Rinaldi Park to the Department of Recreation and Parks and to the Council office. Sue Hammarlund suggested that Porter Ranch could provide some support to senior citizens in the community. Ms. Leveque suggested consulting John Bwarie.

Paul Drogichen moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Ron Nagai.

The Treasurer's report was approved by acclamation.

Guest Speaker (taken out of order)

President Becky Leveque introduced Stan Thomas, Regional Marketing Director, North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Thomas provided a brief history of the Chamber and described its efforts in the North Valley community, including two mixers and a monthly breakfast meeting. Mr. Thomas discussed the Chamber's newspaper, a publication unique among chambers of commerce, and the *Community Directory* that will be co-sponsored by Councilman Smith and the Chamber. Mr. Thomas encouraged stakeholders to submit news stories and provided copies of the publications and his business card.

In answer to Becky Leveque's question, Mr. Thomas discussed the Chamber's activities in the area. Jim Kosinsky asked if the Chamber provided information on area businesses. Mr. Thomas stated that the newspaper is solely concerned with area activities. Mel Mitchell asked for information regarding membership. Ms. Leveque asked if the Chamber will sponsor the Spooktacular event; Mr. Thomas stated that the event will take place on October 28, and will be co-sponsored by Northridge Hospital. Ron Nagai referred to former presentations made by area businesses to Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council and suggested that this effort be reinstated. A stakeholder asked how the Community Directory will be distributed; Mr. Thomas stated that 50,000 will be mailed to area residents, an additional 10,000 will be distributed through other means.

Jerry Denowitz and AYSO team members, who recently won the National Championship, appeared to thank the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council for the generous donation of warm-up suits and backpacks for the Region 174 team.

2. ACTION ITEMS

a. Motion to send a letter to Fire Chief requesting the name "Porter Ranch" be placed on the Fire Vehicles assigned to Porter Ranch

Chris Cooper made a brief slide presentation to suggest requesting that the name Porter Ranch be placed on all the fire equipment in Fire Station 8 and Fire Station 28. In answer to Pat Pope's question regarding cost to accomplish this, Mr. Cooper stated that it was only necessary to make the request and described how this will be accomplished.

Chris Cooper moved to write a letter to the Fire Chief requesting the name "Porter Ranch" be placed on the Fire Vehicles assigned to Porter Ranch; seconded by Paul Drogichen.

Becky Leveque asked who will write the letter; Mr. Cooper stated that he had a draft letter that can be used. Discussion about who should receive copies followed; Mr. Cooper presented a sample package to Ms. Leveque.

Chris Cooper recused himself from the vote.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Report on Laura Chick Budget Meeting

Mel Mitchell was unable to attend the meeting, but stated that he was not sure the meeting's subject was actually the budget.

b. Format for Answering E-Mail Requests and Complaints

Becky Leveque reported that receipt of Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council e-mail has not been consistent in the past and that e-mail is supposed to be answered within 48 hours. Ms. Leveque stated that responses to e-mail will be delegated to the appropriate Committee Chair. Mel Mitchell noted that some stakeholder e-mail has been inappropriate or unanswerable. Pat Pope reported that international relations are not the purview of Porter Ranch. Paul Drogichen suggested a standard response could be that the issue should be raised in open forum at a stakeholders meeting, unless the issue is one that can be forwarded to a City Department. Manny Durazo suggested a formal policy should be incorporated into the By-Laws. Discussion followed regarding appropriate action for individual situations. Becky Leveque suggested that this issue be continued at the next Board meeting. Sue Hammarlund stated that a field test should be conducted prior to inclusion in the By-Laws. Neil Estrin asked a question regarding the Brown Act's influence on this issue and suggested creating a committee to review and respond to Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council e-mail. Pat Pope reiterated Mr. Durazo's suggestion that the By-Laws be changed to include this issue.

c. Mayor Villaraigosa's 2006 Budget

Vasdev Singh reported attending a recent meeting on Mayor Villaraigosa's 2006 budget and discussed the mayor's request for input both from stakeholders and the board. Mr. Singh also noted the mayor's request to appoint two board members from each Neighborhood Council no later than November 15, 2006; 14 appointees from that group will meet with Mayor Villaraigosa. Mr. Singh reported that Mayor Villaraigosa invited the Neighborhood Council to host a community forum to obtain feedback from community organizations concerning the budget. Mr. Singh noted that the survey is online at www.lacityneighborhoods.org. After

further discussion, Becky Leveque appointed Mr. Singh and Bright Aregs to participate.

d. What To Do With the Many Requests and Meetings Presented from the Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment

Tabled

e. Committee Reports

Beautification

Ron Nagai reported that the DWP has not yet cleaned up the lot behind Whole Foods, but does intend to do so. Whole Foods is interested in leasing the subject lot for employee parking. Mr. Nagai reported on a street Services design for median on Porter Ranch Boulevard and suggested publishing an RFP for sidewalk cleaning; weekly street sweeping proposed. John Bwarie noted that street sweeping addresses environmental concerns and that technically the property owner is responsible for keeping sidewalks and gutters clean. A stakeholder reported complaints voiced to Street Services to no avail. It was decided that a committee will research this issue.

Education Committee & CERT Update

Ms. Hammarlund reported that CERT classes are proposed for January 2007 and that Wednesday's Education Committee meeting will discuss meeting the needs of Castle Bay.

Police Fire and Safety

Becky Leveque noted the Committee's plans to meet Thursday, September 21, at St. Euphrasia Church. Ms. Leveque reported the Committee's discussion of the purchase of solar-powered vehicle speed signs, as well as plans for a barbeque Saturday, September 16, 2006 at Devonshire Division.

Outreach

Tabled

Neighborhood Enhancement

Chris Cooper listed some of the Neighborhood Enhancement Committee's recent efforts regarding overgrown trees, cleanup, signage, new mailbox for Fire Station 8, and proposed a needs assessment of tree replacement. Mr. Cooper stated plans to hold on-going committee meetings to determine the community's needs.

Ad Hoc Committee for Porter Ranch Name Change

Ron Nagai and John Bwarie opened the discussion of the efforts to designate Porter Ranch for the 91326 zip code. Chris Cooper summarized the issue at hand by noting that the impetus for any further effort has to come from stakeholders. Becky Leveque advised stakeholders to coordinate their efforts with Ron Nagai and Chris Cooper.

f. OLD BUSINESS

(Taken out of order) Becky Leveque reported sending a letter in support of the YMCA expansion project to Jane Stanton and Councilman Smith.

g. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Golden reported his efforts to end the annual Kiwanis Club Soapbox Derby, noting the nuisance factor involved. Mr. Golden reported sending copies of the petition he circulated as well as a letter to Councilman Smith, to advise stakeholders' opinions regarding this event. In answer to Pat Pope's question, Mr. Golden stated that he wants Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council to support his stance. After further discussion, there was consensus that the issue should be formally researched by a committee. Pat Pope suggested that the Land Use Committee is the appropriate forum for further research and discussion, and that a recommendation by the Land Use Committee is the appropriate action.

Jim Kosinsky asked why signs were posted limiting right turns onto the freeway on Tampa, and asked the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council to research the issue. Pat Pope suggested asking Valley traffic to make a presentation.

The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:45 pm