

Meeting Minutes

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 2, 2006
Shepherd of the Hills Church
Porter Ranch, California 91326

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 **Welcome.** President Becky Leveque opened the meeting at 6:15. Board members present were: Joe Martin, Tatiana Oeini, Susan Hammarlund, Paul Drogichen, Becky Leveque, Ron Nagai, Paula Cracium, Matt Gluck, and Mel Mitchell. Pat Pope arrived later. Pam Birnkrant was absent. Becky asked the audience to introduce themselves.
- 1.2 **Agenda Approved.** Becky moved to approve the agenda. It was approved without opposition
- 1.3 **Roll Call.** See above.
- 1.4 **Approval of April 4 Minutes.** Pat Pope asked for changes to the April's unadopted minutes. After all corrections and clarifications were noted, the April minutes were approved by the Board. Pat will send them to Wendy for posting.
- 1.5 **Treasurer's Report.** Paul Drogichen gave the Council our current financial picture. PRNC has spent \$27,000 of \$100,000.. Paul gave a thorough overview of the sometimes arcane world of DONE and spending city funds. The current fiscal year ends on June 30. We expect to approve several expenditures tonight, and we can carry money over to the new fiscal year. Both Paul and Becky stated that the mayor's office is looking at the way Neighborhood Councils spend or carry over funds. Part of the Council's job is to spend their budget on improvements in their community. The mayor may want to take left over Neighborhood Council funds back in future years. The new PRNC needs to be sure to spend it's allocation during the next fiscal year or risk loosing the money.. Paul moved that the Treasurer's Report be adopted. Ron seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved without opposition.
 - 1.5.1 **Changes to the Porter Ranch Specific Plan.** Mel Mitchell gave a synopsis of the changes to the Specific Plan proposed by S&S and discussed in the Land Use Committee and previous Board meetings. The changes will allow S&S to work with LAUSD to build a K-8 school adjacent to a new park on Mason south of Sesnon. The changes will allow a different mix of single family and multi-family dwellings in the still undeveloped areas, reducing the number of potential units on Rinaldi between Mason and Porter Ranch Drive. There will be an increase in single family homes farther north near Mason and Sesnon. The southwest corner of Mason and Rinaldi will potentially have a low rise assisted living or medical building. Several agencies have to approve all of the changes, but S&S has asked the PRNC to endorse them. Mel moved that the PRNC endorse the changes and send letters to Councilman Greig Smith, the City Planning Director, and the

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Design Review Board. Mel had the letters ready to be signed. Paula seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion without opposition. All of the Board members present signed the letters.

1.5.2 **Project List.** Mel Mitchell gave a quick report on the list of projects developed at the last regular Board meeting and the special meeting.

1.5.3 **Election.** (Taken out of order at the beginning of the meeting). Vice-president Paula Cracium gave an overview of the upcoming June 24, 2006 election. Five seats are up for election for a new two year term. The seats are now held by Pam Birnkrant, Matt Gluck, Joe Martin, Ron Nagai, and Youth Representative Tatiana Oueini. There will be a candidate's forum on May 13, 2006. Paula introduced Election Administrator Jerry Kvasnicka. Mr. Kvasnicka explained his roll and offered to hold a candidates information meeting and answer any of the candidates' questions. No candidate had questions for Mr. Kvasnicka. Candidates can still ask questions at the May 13 meeting.

The election flyer was distributed to all at the meeting. There will be a candidates' forum on June 13. The election will be on June 24.

Packets were available for all candidates including: the required forms, the bylaws, and election procedures. Several of the packets were distributed.

1.5.4 **AYSO Youth Soccer.** The North Hills Area of AYSO (#174) is going to participate in a championship in Chicago. A large number of the athletes live in Porter Ranch. They have done a lot of fund raising and have asked several Neighborhood Councils to help as well. Paul moved that PRNC fund up to \$999 for warm up uniforms for the young athletes. Becky requested that lettering be placed on the warm ups showing that PRNC supports the AYSO. Jerry Dinowitz from AYSO said that would not be a problem within the \$999 request. Paul moved that PRNC fund up to \$999. Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

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- 1.5.5 **Fire Station 8 Generator request.** The previously approved generator for Fire Station 8 is not available. The new price is under \$4,500 including shipping. Matt Gluck questioned why such an expensive generator was needed at such a small firehouse. Stakeholder Irv Cohen said the generator requested would integrate with the firehouse wiring and could run on gasoline or propane. Matt suggested that the fire fighters look for a better deal. After some discussion Becky moved that PRNC approve up to \$4,500 for a generator at Fire Station 8. Joe seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

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- 1.5.6 **Computers for Castlebay School.** Sue moved that PRNC approve up to \$25,000 for the purchase of new computers for Castlebay School. The Board has discussed this over the last three regular meetings and the special meeting in April. Stakeholder Neil Estrin has worked with approved LA City and LAUSD suppliers to get Dell computers, highly loaded at a rock bottom price. The computers will have a three year next business day warranty. Sue moved that the board approve the expenditure. Joe seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 1.5.7 **Budget rearrangements to accommodate computer purchase.** The computer purchase and earlier purchases will exceed the \$10,000 budgeted for Education in this year's budget. Treasurer Paul Drogichen proposed moving funds from other areas that did not appear to have a chance of using those funds this fiscal year. Paul further proposed that the new Board look strongly at restoring those funds in the new fiscal year, and not spend as much on Education in 2006-2007. Paul suggested subtracting \$5,000 from Beautification and Art, \$10,000 from community projects, and \$5,000 from Public Safety. Ron objected to the cut from Beautification and Art. Paula said she could reduce Outreach by \$5,000. Pat suggested to Ron that we only had one more meeting during the current fiscal year and it was unlikely that he could get the Board to approve a very large expenditure at the next meeting. Pat suggested to the Board that the review of the protests on the last Board election indicated that it would be prudent to have more money in Outreach for the election. Paul moved that the Board accept the budget movements he suggested. Mel seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Ron wanted the minutes to show that the Board intends to restore the cuts to Beatification and Art in the new budget.
- 1.5.8 **Neighborhood Watch Signs and Supplies.** Paula Cracium took the chair of the meeting. Becky Leveque moved that the Board approve \$677.73 for supplies to install 50 Neighborhood Watch signs throughout Porter Ranch. The work to be performed by Zumar, an approved LA City Contractor. Ron seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The motion was approved unanimously.

Open Discussion (Issues discussed at various times during the meeting)

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Cameron Smyth (R, Santa Clarita) a candidate for State Assembly made a short election speech and took questions.

Captain Mike Franklin from LAFD Fire Station 28 addressed the Board on “Adopt a Fire Station”. He thanked the Board for the Brush Boxes we purchased. The brush boxes will allow the firefighters to safely carry tools and as well as sleeping bags and clothing when deployed out of the area for major emergencies like brush fires or earthquakes.

Greg Baker from Devonshire PALS addressed the Council on the need for a community center near Parthenia and Wilbur. Currently the land is owned by LADWP. They raised \$1.3M so far. They are seeking support from Neighborhood Councils, corporations, individuals, and grants to build the center for at risk youth. Devonshire PALS operated a similar center near Nordhoff and Sepulveda that is highly successful. That center is now in the new Mission Division. On July 17, PALS will hold its annual golf fund raiser.

Irv Cohen from Friends of Porter Ranch Library said there would be used book sale on May 20th from 10:00 to 5:00. Used books may be purchased by the shopping bagful. \$2.00 for paperbacks, \$4.00 for hardcovers. The funds raised will help with summer youth activities and book purchases.

Candy Maldonado said the annual Los Angeles “Day of Service” would be on Sunday, May 7th. Volunteers will gather at Reseda Park or Valley College.

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting will be delayed one week in June and July. The June meeting will be on June 13, with the business portion starting at 6:00.

The July meeting will be on the 11th.