

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 15, 2006
Shepherd of the Hills Church
Porter Ranch, California

August 15, 2006

1. MEETING OPENING

a. Welcome and introduction of special guests

Becky Leveque opened the meeting at 6:18 pm and asked attendees to introduce themselves. About 20 stakeholders were present. Chris Murray and Jane Stanton attended representing the YMCA.

Ms. Leveque introduced the Board members—Pat Pope, Bright Aregs, Becky Leveque, Christopher Cooper, Sue Hammarlund, Paul Drogichen, Tatiana Oueini, Ron Nagai, Mel Mitchell and Paula Cracium. Ms. Leveque discussed Brown Act requirements for posting Neighborhood Council meeting information. Pat Pope advised that Vasdev Singh is ill and will not be able to attend today's meeting. Ms. Leveque asked that Board members advise Mr. Pope if someone is not able to attend. Approximately 10 stakeholders attended.

b. Roll Call

Pat Pope advised that the roll had been taken. Board member Vasdev Singh was unable to attend due to illness.

c. Approval of proposed agenda

Becky Leveque asked Mel Mitchell for a brief report of a meeting he attended on behalf of the Neighborhood Council.

d. Presentation and approval of minutes for May, June and July 2006

Pat Pope provided an update on the status of the Minutes for previous meetings.

Pat Pope moved to approve minutes for May 2006; seconded by Sue Hammarlund.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The Motion passed.

Pat Pope moved to approve the Minutes for June 2006; seconded by Bright Aregs.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The Motion passed.

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Pat Pope provided an update on the Minutes for July 2006, noting that the transcript of the Minutes for July 2006 has not yet been received. Pat noted that although the representatives of Apple One are courteous and pleasant, it has been very difficult to get a transcriber from Apple One to come to Porter Ranch. Apple One said that the transcriber claims to have e-mailed the July minutes to Pat and to Apple One, yet no one has received them.

Discussion that followed concerned strategies to reconstruct what took place at the July Meeting. Becky Leveque noted that Chris Cooper's notes are probably the most extensive from that meeting. It was agreed that Mr. Cooper will provide copies of his notes to the Board members, who will then provide feedback to Pat. Pat will then compile input from the Board members to reconstruct the Minutes.

Pat mentioned that Apple One was unable to provide a transcriber for the May meeting. The transcriber for the June meeting cancelled at the last minute. We have not received minutes for July. DONE had to intercede for PRNC to avoid not having a transcriber for these minutes. Pat said that the transcriber for today's minutes, Linda Lee, has been very reliable, but Apple One wants to pay her less than PDQ did. PDQ paid Linda mileage, at this point Apple One will not.

Since Apple One has proven so unreliable, and Linda Lee is willing to come to Porter Ranch, Pat Pope asked for and received authorization to negotiate a mileage rate with DONE for transcription services. After further discussion, Becky Leveque stated that this issue be placed on the agenda for the September 2006 meeting.

e. Treasurer's report

Paul Drogichen provided the Board an update on the PRNC's current financial status. Paul said that DONE has changed the format of some of its reports which will cause the Treasurer's Report to change.

Paul Drogichen moved to approve the Treasurers Report; seconded by Mel Mitchell.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

2. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Motion for PRNC Board to send a letter to Councilman Greig Smith to approve the expansion of the YMCA

Becky Leveque introduced Jane Stanton, representing the YMCA. Mel Mitchell reported on the last Planning and Land Use Committee meeting. Mel said that

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several interested stakeholders attended the meeting. Jane and Chris presented the YMCA's expansion plans at the meeting. They discussed the time line for fund raising and construction at that meeting as well.

Mel noted that two Porter Ranch residents objected to the expansion. Resident Irv Cohen objected, saying that the Y was not just for Porter Ranch, but will draw members from the entire North Valley. Another resident did not directly object to a larger Y in Porter Ranch, but she did not like the location.

Mel noted those objections, but said that the other people attending the Planning meeting were in favor of the expansion for better service to the community. Mel recommended that the PRNC endorse the expansion.

Pat Pope moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Land Use Committee and that the Board send a letter to Councilman Smith's office of the expansion of the YMCA; seconded by Sue Hammarlund.

Mel Mitchell asked if it is appropriate to send the letter to Councilman Smith. Chris Murray noted that the letter should be addressed to Michael Logrande, Interim Chief Zoning Administrator, whose address is 200 Spring Street, Room 763, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Mel Mitchell moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Land Use Committee and recommend approval of the YMCA expansion; seconded by Pat Pope.

Sue Hammarlund suggested sending copies of the letter to the YMCA and to Councilman Smith's office as well.

A stakeholder asked about a timeline; Jane Stanton noted the steps to be taken, including a presentation to the YMCA Board and a campaign to garner donations (approximately \$5 million will be needed). It was estimated that the process could take 6 years. Irv Cohen asked if there was anyone other than himself that voiced an objection to the Y expansion. Mel Mitchell reported that one other person objected in the committee meeting. No one other than Mr. Cohen objected at the Board meeting.

VOTE: 9 in favor. Ron Nagai abstained, noting that he was on the YMCA's Board. The motion passed.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Becky Leveque noted that there are no special presentations for today's meeting. Ms. Leveque asked Mel Mitchell to report on a recent meeting with Councilman Smith. Mr. Mitchell listed that meeting's agenda—recent DWP power outages, DWP rates, proposed maglev transportation system, tree trimming along Rinaldi, referrals for employment with LAPD, SWERP (Solid Waste Environment Recycling Plan), Aliso

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Canyon development, and Palisades Trail drainage repairs. Pat Pope stated that Mr. Mitchell's DWP report will be made available on the PRNC website.

Becky Leveque asked stakeholders if anyone had noticed a change in the taste and smell of tap water. Mel Mitchell said he received a report from DWP stating that an algae plume was being treated and that the water was safe to drink, but there could be a slightly musty smell. Mel suggested asking someone from DWP to speak at a future Board meeting.

Jim Kosinsky asked for more information about the proposed maglev train. Mel Mitchell reported that this is in preliminary stages.

Pat Pope said that the transcriber issue has not been fully worked out, and asked if anyone at the meeting knew of someone in Porter Ranch that would like make a few extra dollars by taking notes at the PRNC Board meetings. The PRNC Board hopes that DONE and Apple One can come to agreement with Linda Lee, but we need a backup plan.

Pat Pope reported that Rinaldi would soon cut through between Mason and De Soto. Pat said it looks like a bike path over the fairly narrow bridge over the 118 Freeway will restrict automobile traffic to two westbound lanes, but only one eastbound lane. This bottleneck could be good for the western part of Porter Ranch since fewer cars will be able to enter Porter Ranch from De Soto during rush hour.

Ron Nagai advised that the City Controller is seeking a PRNC representative to attend evening meetings; Mel Mitchell advised that he will represent PRNC.

Chris Cooper will represent PRNC at Councilman Smith's efforts regarding Aliso Canyon property

(Taken out of order) Carolyn Brown, a stakeholder, complained about trash that has not been picked up on Braemore Road and on Reseda Boulevard as well as required tree trimming and gutter cleaning; Becky Leveque asked Ms. Brown to e-mail her with that information.

4. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was reported.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification Committee

Chris Cooper reported plans for outreach for the Beautification Committee, noting that Ron Nagai will co-chair that committee. Mr. Cooper stated that tangible, visible

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improvements in the community are the desired result, for example painting fire hydrants and tree replacement; Mr. Cooper asked for input from stakeholders. Mr. Cooper announced plans to attend beautification grant workshops to be held by the City, specifically the August 31 meeting at Junipero Serra Branch Library. Mr. Cooper reported information available on DONE's website regarding grant workshops. Mr. Cooper noted plans to meet with Councilman Smith's staff to discuss the fiscal year resources available from the City for new projects, existing projects and substandard projects. Mr. Cooper asked for input from stakeholders, notification of any suggested projects on these issues.

Police, Fire and Safety

Chris Cooper reported his efforts with regard to the City's evacuation plan, made comparison to the Katrina disaster in New Orleans, discussed the 3-phase plan, and mentioned existing plans for emergencies. The 3-phase plan—develop a PRNC evacuation document, approve the PRNC evacuation document, and implement a field exercise in conjunction with the July 4, 2007 festivities at Shepherd of the Hills to obtain projections of people movement by foot. Mr. Cooper emphasized that proactivity is crucial for effective disaster response. Pat Pope asked who will develop the plan; Mr. Cooper noted that the City has overarching responsibility for plan development, noting that PRNC will work with LAFD to augment the City's evacuation plan. Bright Aregs stated that coordination of efforts is needed with regard to emergency preparedness and didn't understand why testing would be done at a time when there would be thousands of visitors to Porter Ranch. Chris explained that the crowds wouldn't even know there was a behind the scenes drill taking place. Discussion followed regarding how best to set up and test the PRNC evacuation plan. Becky Leveque reminded attendees that during the last earthquake, that Porter Ranch was almost completely isolated for a few days. Mr. Cooper clarified that his intent is to provide an evacuation plan for post-disaster and noted that effective community leadership entails taking responsibility for this issue, and suggested that he and Mr. Aregs work closely to establish a viable plan for emergency response.

Becky Leveque advised of recent notification from the Police Department regarding daytime burglaries in the Devonshire Division, near the golf course and near ET Park. She said that BOLO (be on the lookout) information is posted on the PRNC website. Ms. Leveque reported that the police apprehended two burglary suspects and that another suspect is being sought. Ms. Leveque advised of three homicides that recently occurred in Devonshire Division. Ms. Leveque reminded stakeholders to park their cars in their garage when possible, not to leave items in the car, and to use anti-theft devices. Pat Pope asked if the Senior Lead Officer can be asked to provide a translation of acronyms used in their reports. Paula Cracium asked if SLO officer information specific to Porter Ranch can be posted on the PRNC website. Bright Aregs asked what effect auto theft crime will have on auto insurance rates. Ms. Leveque suggested asking an insurance expert to attend a future meeting.

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In an effort to obtain stakeholder participation in the various PRNC Committees, Becky Leveque asked each Committee chair to briefly describe the Committee functions.

Outreach

Paula Cracium discussed plans to reach out to stakeholders and to provide information to stakeholders via mailings and the Internet.

Becky Leveque advised of the locations Tatiana Oueini posts PRNC information: the preschool at Sesnon and Reseda, Castle Bay Elementary School, Library, Starbucks, and Whole Foods.

Election

Paula Cracium briefly mentioned this Committee's activities during the recent elections.

Procedures

Paula Cracium reported on this ad hoc Committee work on proposed by-laws changes.

Land Use

Mel Mitchell encouraged stakeholder participation, mentioned special projects (YMCA, Hidden Creeks estates development, Porter Ranch Development Co.) and discussed plans for the future.

Budget

Paul Drogichen reported that the Budget committee meets on an as-needed basis, outlined procedures for budget proposal and approval by DONE, and described plans for the next fiscal year.

Beautification

Ron Nagai reported on plans for center medians for PRNC major streets, noted the next step to find sponsors for funding and plans for a DWP representative to discuss clean-up plans for a lot behind Whole Foods (Whole Foods employee parking). Mr. Nagai reported the USPS has approved our request for 91326 zip code designation as Porter Ranch. Becky Leveque suggested forming an ad hoc committee whose purpose would be to determine stakeholders' opinion with regard to determine Porter Ranch boundaries. Currently the 91326 zip code does not correspond to PRNC boundaries. Ron Nagai noted plans for stakeholder petition efforts regarding Porter

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Ranch signage. Mr. Nagai also discussed his efforts to obtain funding for tree-planting.

Education

Sue Hammarlund noted the previous support provided by PRNC to Castlebay Elementary School. Castlebay Principal Vivian Ihori discussed LAUSD funding decisions and noted community support, thanked PRNC and stakeholders for support and mentioned Ralphs' schools program.

Emergency Preparedness

Bright Aregs discussed his experiences during the Northridge earthquake as a rationale for his campaign platform to encourage emergency preparedness. Mr. Aregs encouraged stakeholders to take an active part in setting up a disaster relief program. Discussion that followed provided suggestions for stakeholders regarding available classes and programs for emergency preparedness. Mr. Aregs and Sue Hammarlund discussed emergency preparedness equipment. Vivian Ihori suggested CERT training that can be held at Castlebay School.

Police Fire and Safety

Becky Leveque advised of a regular meeting between the Senior Lead Officer and the community on the third Thursday of every month at St. Euphrasia Church on Shoshone. Ms. Leveque reported speed signs that have been proposed. Stakeholder questioned gang activity reports; Ms. Leveque provided an update. A stakeholder asked about graffiti at ET Park; Ms. Leveque reported graffiti removal efforts. A stakeholder reported a threat by a reported gang member. Discussion followed about tagging in the area.

6. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Pat Pope moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm. The motion to adjourn was approved by acclamation.