

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 3, 2006

Shepherd of the Hills Church

Porter Ranch, California

1. MEETING OPENING

a. Welcome and introduction of special guests

1.1 - President Becky Leveque called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM, and welcomed all to the meeting.

1.2 - Pat Pope took the roll. Paul Drogichen notified the board in advance that he would be absent. Chris Cooper was delayed in traffic and arrived at about 6:30. All other Board members were present. More than 25 stakeholders were present during the meeting.

1.3 - Becky Leveque presented the proposed agenda for the meeting. Paula Cracium moved to approve the agenda. Sue Hammarlund seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

1.4 - Pat Pope moved that the minutes for the September meeting be approved. Bright Aregs seconded. Both Mel Mitchell and Paula Cracium were absent in September and abstained from voting. All other members voted to approve the September minutes.

1.5 - Since Paul Drogichen was absent, Becky gave very short report saying we have \$90,939.30 available. Paul will make a full report at the next meeting.

(Taken out of order) Becky Leveque introduced special guests:

Thomas Song, DONE project coordinator; Becky Leveque advised that Mr. Soong will take Manny Durazo's place while Mr. Durazo is on sick leave. Mr. Soong provided contact information and reminded stakeholders to complete the Mayor's Budget Survey.

Michael Toh, policy director for Congressman Brad Sherman of the 27th Congressional District. Mr. Toh reported that Congress is ratcheting up for the November elections and advised that stakeholders should contact him to be placed on mailing lists for updates. Mr. Toh referred to a recent Town Hall and noted plans for another Town Hall in late winter. Mr. Toh asked that stakeholders contact his office in Sherman Oaks for assistance with federal agencies or to comment on federal legislation.

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John Bwarie reported that a clean-up will take place on October 8, 2006 at 8AM in Dearborn Park. The next community service project will take place in Porter Ranch before the end of 2006. Mr. Bwarie reported a major tree planting in Holleigh Bernson Park and asked board members can assist in beautification efforts in Porter Ranch. Vasdev Singh asked if Mr. Bwarie had more information on a July 25, 2006 public hearing on raising trash collection fees; Mr. Bwarie reported that all he knew was that Councilman Smith did not vote for raising the fees. Mr. Singh stated that apartment buildings will be assessed an additional \$1.50 fee for bulky item and white goods pick up, and asked Mr. Bwarie to report on the exact amount of additional fees. Becky Leveque asked if the additional fees will be used for gang intervention efforts. Mr. Bwarie stated that there were funds to be spent to hire officers that came out of the Police Academy in time this year. Ms. Leveque stated that she had been told the additional fees would be used to pay for additional police officers.

John Lee introduced himself and John Hollister, representing Cingular, and stated that they were present to lay the groundwork for a program that Cingular wants to implement in Porter Ranch. Mr. Lee asked to make a presentation at an upcoming Land Use committee on Cingular's status and update stakeholders at a later Board meeting on the status of a business plan to be implemented in the Porter Ranch area.

Thomas Newman, stakeholder, asked Mr. Hollister if partnerships were planned with other carriers; Mr. Hollister replied that one of the reasons for the planned Land Use presentation, is to discuss multi-carrier facilities. Dr. Newman asked what timeframe was anticipated; Mr. Hollister and Mr. Lee noted that there were several agency approval processes that would affect timing. Becky Leveque stated that Councilman Smith would not move forward to approve this project until a letter of support was provided by PRNC. In answer to a question from Bright Aregs, Mr. Hollister referred to a presentation made earlier to PRNC and noted that a trade-off between macro sites and micro cells might have to occur. Ms. Leveque asked if there were specific sites already designated; Mr. Hollister stated that Cingular does not yet have sites designated. Ms. Leveque asked if payment is made to a property owner when hardware is placed; Mr. Hollister stated that monthly payments will be made to a property owner. In answer to Mr. Aregs' question, Mr. Hollister noted that there is often a multi-carrier arrangement, once the initial investment has been made for a cell phone tower. Chris Cooper asked what effect cell sites have had on police and fire equipment, noting that he has seen cell sites interfere with radio signals. Mr. Hollister stated that Cingular is working with the City and County to mitigate interference. Mr. Cooper asked what can be done to enhance police, fire and safety department's ability to communicate. Mr. Hollister referred to work done for police, safety and fire department. Ms. Leveque referred to \$100,000-\$150,000 payments to homeowners for locating cell sites. Ron Nagai asked if payments are made to

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public entities when cell sites are located on property that is in the public domain and asked what community benefit projects can be implemented in the neighborhood. Mr. Lee stated that issues like this are handled on a case by case basis. Mr. Hollister stated that public benefit projects must be tied to the cell site location. Mr. Lee stated that a significant nexus must exist and that utilizing the land use process will allow stakeholders to voice their opinions. Mel Mitchell noted that suggestions were made about where cell sites could be placed and asked if there was a proposal that could be provided. Mr. Hollister stated that everything is conceptual until the community expresses its position, and noted that Councilman Grieg Smith has stated that PRNC approval is necessary. Bright Aregs asked if more than one cell tower is planned; Mr. Hollister stated that there were definitely to be more than one tower. Elias Kahlil asked about a specific Cingular site. Jim Kocinsky suggested that a proposal should be made listing where the individual towers are to be placed. Mr. Hollister stated that he has preliminary proposals that provide this information. Mr. Aregs stated that definite locations should be specified. Mr. Hollister reiterated that the process has to be completed by working through the Land Use Committee. Sue Hammarlund noted that the community has underground wiring, and asked how tall the towers will be; Mr. Hollister explained that tower height is determined by the type of site; a co-located site is 50 feet or higher, and remarked that he has seen 140 feet cell sites. Mel Mitchell stated that a Land Use Committee meeting will be scheduled.

2. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Presentation by Wendy Moore and Mel Mitchell on website

Wendy Moore provided a detailed presentation on the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, compared it to other Neighborhood Council websites, and made recommendations for updates and improvements to the website. There was discussion about using the website to gain insight into stakeholders' opinions by using polling software which would allow PRNC to use the website to take votes.

Mel Mitchell noted that PRNC is fortunate to have Moore Business Systems and thanked Ms. Moore for her assistance. Mr. Mitchell will e-mail the formal proposal to Pat Pope.

Mel Mitchell moved to renew the contract with Moore Business Results for the next year for \$4,500; seconded by Ron Nagai.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

- b. Approval of 2 speed signs in Porter Ranch

Becky Leveque noted that the cost of the signs is \$2,500 each and that Councilman Grieg Smith has promised to cover half the cost of purchasing the

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signs; John Bwarie reported that the cost is actually about \$6,200 and that solar powered signs are less expensive. There was general discussion about the sign on Tampa that is currently in place; some stakeholders contended that the signs do not work at night and do not work consistently in the day. A stakeholder stated that she did not like the signs and wanted to know why they were being considered and where the signs would be placed. Becky Leveque stated that the signs were to be placed at the intersections of Rinaldi and Tampa and Wilbur and Rinaldi. In answer to Bright Aregs's question, John Bwarie reported that DOT requires the signs to be solar powered; the signs cannot be hard wired. Ms. Leveque asked if other Neighborhood Councils have purchased similar signs; Mr. Bwarie noted Chatsworth and Granada Hills have purchased the signs. Mr. Bwarie stated that a deadline on this purchase does not exist; however, Councilman Smith may not be able to provide matching funds for purchases made some time in the future. Ms. Leveque stated that this issue will be tabled until further research can be done. Paula Cracium asked if there are studies available that show how effective the signs are. Vasdev Singh asked Mr. Bwarie to research whether the solar powered batteries can work at night. A stakeholder stated that she would like public service announcements to educate the driver population. Another stakeholder reported street racing on Reseda starting at Sesnon. There was discussion about efforts to curb the street racing. Chris Cooper asked if there was technology that could be coupled with the signs to curb speeding. John Bwarie reported on web-based cameras being used at Macarthur Park; Pat Pope noted that most web based cameras cannot take pictures detailed enough to be effective at night and suggested inviting Valley Traffic to make a presentation. Chris Cooper reported contacting the police several times to complain about street racing; Mr. Cooper noted that street racing has become an industry and that a collective approach will be required to be effective against street racing. After further discussion, Becky Leveque advised that this issue will be discussed at the next Police, Fire and Safety Committee meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Outreach Meeting

Paula Cracium provided copies of a flyer advertising of Councilman Smith and PRNC sponsoring Movie Night at Holleigh Bernson Park on November 9. She also related plans to recognize stakeholders that contribute to the neighborhood. Ms. Cracium advised of signs provided by PRNC to advise drivers to be careful of children. Ms. Cracium advised that the polling feature to be included on the web site.

b. Public Meeting for new Porter Ranch School to be announced

Becky Leveque reported that a community public meeting will take place on Monday, October 16, at 6:30 pm at Bedford Elementary School, to discuss the

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proposed Valley Region Span K-8 School. Ms. Leveque provided an update on the status of the proposed school project, and advised that this school project will probably be two to three years ahead of any other request for a school. Ms. Leveque noted that the site has been obtained, work has begun on the design, and regular meetings occur regarding the school. Jim Kocinsky asked if Mayor Villaraigosa is in favor of building this school; Ms. Leveque stated that she had been told that Mayor Villaraigosa is in favor of building new schools. In answer to a stakeholder's question, Ms. Leveque reported that the school board's approval is needed, but they are confident that the approval will be given.

c. Discussion on illegal signs in Porter Ranch

Pat Pope reported that he had advised Sheppel of illegal street signs for Palm Readers, yard sales and Chatsworth are shops. Some have been chained to a signal light. Mr. Pope asked that the Beautification Committee take action on this item. A stakeholder advised that other signs have been taken care of by contacting Jim Dillinger in Councilman Smiths's office. Jim Kocinsky suggested contacting 311. Ron Nagai concurred that Mr. Dillinger is effective in resolving this problem. Mr. Pope asked that the Board and stakeholders take action proactively. Jim Kocinsky advised contacting the City Attorney's office; Becky Leveque suggested setting up a procedure and drafting a letter to be sent to violators. Stakeholder advised of cars for sale and signage problems in the area. Ron Nagai asked for volunteers from stakeholders to take pictures of illegal signs. The stakeholders that volunteered will contact Mr. Nagai.

d. Police, Fire and Safety Luncheon

Ms. Leveque noted that she and Chris Cooper will attend the meeting.

e. Development of Political Action Committee to discuss and advise Council on topics such as Term Limits, Trash Tax for Police Officers, Mayor Villaraigosa's LAUSD position, etc.

This agenda item was tabled.

f. Youth Mentoring Program

Tatiana Oueini presented information on a proposed project, Porter Ranch Student Tutors, that will provide mentoring by high school students and asked the Board's blessing to implement the project. Pat Pope asked what benefit the high school students will receive; Ms. Oueini noted that students can receive community service hours.

g. Appointment of Transportation Chair

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Sue Hammarlund stated that she was willing to co-chair the Transportation Committee; Jim Kocinsky and Pat Pope said they would be willing to work on the committee. Nellie Derderian said she would ask her husband to volunteer.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

d. Beautification meeting

Ron Nagai reported his efforts to date regarding the name change, noting that Federal approval has been obtained; Mr. Nagai also reported that a 500 signature petition must be submitted; Dr. Thomas Newman provided copies of the petition form to meeting attendees. Regarding sign identifying Porter Ranch boundaries, Mr. Nagai provided an update on work in progress. Mel Mitchell asked where the signs will be put; Mr. Nagai listed the boundaries that are applicable, noting that the Northridge West NC boundary includes a portion of "Historic" Porter Ranch, and that the 91326 zip code extends south of the 118 freeway to Devonshire. Mr. Mitchell stated that this will be a good issue for community outreach. Dr. Newman stated that he would return to the next month's meeting with signed petitions. Suggestions were made regarding where signs can be located. Johnny Nalvan voiced his support for the name change and indicated that stakeholders south of the freeway were interested in being included in the Porter Ranch designation. This item will be agendaized for further discussion at the November 2006 meeting.

e. Education Committee and CERT Update

Sue Hammarlund noted that the Education Committee is now working with Castlebay parents to find out needs for the school and reported that an LCD projector and other items are being considered. Starting January 22, 2007, a CERT training program will take place at Castlebay Elementary School. Ms. Hammarlund reminded meeting attendees that in a disaster situation, emergency resources are scarce, noting the importance of this emergency preparedness training. Ms. Hammarlund stated that www.cert-la.com provides information. Ms. Hammarlund reported that there will not be a signal light posted at the library, parking signs with a two hour limit are being considered.

f. Police, Fire and Safety meeting date to be announced

Tabled.

g. Neighborhood Enhancement

Ron Nagai made his report earlier in the meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

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- a. Letter to Fire Chief William Bamattre for Porter Ranch to be placed on fire vehicles serving Porter Ranch

Becky Leveque reported that the letter to Fire Chief Bamattre has been sent. Chris Cooper reported that the process of adding the Porter Ranch name to fire vehicles has begun.

6. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vasdev Singh reported attending the Neighborhood Council Congress and noted that there is no PRNC appointed representative to the Congress. Mel Mitchell discussed the Congress' history with reference to Porter Ranch and his personal opinion of the Congress. Mr. Singh noted that DONE should be advised that Mr. Singh and Bright Aregs will represent PRNC at the Mayors Budget meeting at Los Angeles City Hall in January.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Carolyn Brown reported that she will host a community meeting at her home, on October 8, 2006 at 1:00 PM and presented a list of her concerns: Illegal street dumping, abandoned vehicles, placement of two mailboxes, bus routes, emergency preparedness, clean-up of the neighborhood, use of parkland, gutter cleaning, irrigation system repair, potholes, graffiti, www.ArborDay.org will sell 10 trees for \$10, street sweeping, more left hand turn signals in Porter Ranch Town Center.

Jim Kocinsky reported that stakeholders should be vigilant in ensuring their safety. John LaCour complained of overcrowded conditions at Castlebay School and the traffic generated parents dropping off their children at the school. Ms. Leveque discussed the reasons for the overcrowding and asked Mr. LaCour and attendees to attend the meetings regarding the new school.

Ed Golden reiterated his concerns about the Soapbox Derby and requested that the Board support his demands that future Soapbox Derbies be held outside of Porter Ranch.

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:45 pm.