

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Shepherd of the Hills Church

Porter Ranch, California

A. SPECIAL GUESTS

Becky Leveque listed special guest speakers SLO Dario Del Core and David Beauvais, Old Granada Hills Residents Group, and noted Vasdev Singh's plan to present information for an upcoming City/State-sponsored event.

1. Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Dario Del Core introduced himself, discussed his history and noted plans to report to the community in the future. SLO Del Core discussed the specifics of police operations out of Devonshire Division with reference to police resources and response, provided copies of hand-outs that mapped the area, listed procedures for citizens to report non-emergency issues. SLO Del Core listed criminal activity in the Basic Car area and noted an 11% decrease in violent crime and a 4% reduction in property crime area wide, which has been consistent for the past 5 or 6 years. SLO Del Core noted recent area criminal activity, advised citizens how to reduce the possibility of car break-in property loss, provided statistics, discussed the www.lapdepolicing.org web site, encouraged stakeholders to attend the local Neighborhood Watch organization and sign up to receive a newsletter. A stakeholder that had been the victim of a crime stated that more lighting in the area near her home is needed. SLO Del Core noted that the nearby park is an area to which he pays close attention but stated that the area has a strong Neighborhood Watch organization. The stakeholder reported complaints made of possible criminal activity. SLO Del Core discussed a resource issue and noted current lack of control over response time. Answering a stakeholder's question, SLO Del Core discussed the Park Rangers' role with regard to problems that occur in the park. Paula Cracium stated that the Neighborhood Council can work with the Councilman's office to discuss problems that occur at the park. Becky Leveque noted plans to contact Councilman's office on this issue, and emphasized the importance of participation in Neighborhood Watch. There was discussion that followed regarding deployment of available police resources over the 44 square miles under the aegis of the Devonshire Division. SLO Del Core noted the need for additional funding. Joe Martin reported a recent incident caused by a vagrant in the area.

Becky Leveque reported CERTS training that emphasized appropriate response when stakeholders observe criminal activity and encouraged stakeholder participation in Neighborhood Watch. There was further discussion about thin deployment of police resources. Paula Cracium summed up issues discussed and asked if stakeholder attention should be paid to activities in Braemar Park. Vasdev Singh reported attending Neighborhood Watch meetings and encouraged stakeholder attendance. In answer to Irv Cohen's question, SLO Del Core discussed Valley Traffic personnel deployment, noting that deployment is driven by statistics. Becky Leveque asked about the value and efficacy of the speed

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Page 2 of 8 Pages

notice signs; SLO Del Core stated that the best value is obtained from the trailers that record information. Sue Hammarlund asked about speed statistic gathering and how it affects posted speed signs; Ron Nagai clarified that State regulations enforced by DOT refer to this situation. A stakeholder asked if police can report need for additional lights; SLO Del Core stated that it could be done. Ron Nagai discussed how additional lights could be funded, noting that the affected homeowners could be taxed for street light installation and maintenance improvements. Sue Hammarlund suggested Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council establish a mechanism for video surveillance in high crime areas. SLO Del Core offered assistance but stated that no prosecution could be made of videotaped activities. There was discussion about the cost to provide additional light poles. Kathy Sullivan, a stakeholder, provided more detail about the home invasion break-in at her home. SLO Del Core offered to assist in organizing Neighborhood Watch. Joe Martin asked about funds not spent for lighting at golf course. A stakeholder asked about a dead body recovered in the area. Another stakeholder asked about flyers distributed in the area regarding the recent home invasion; Chris Cooper stated that he was part of a group that distributed flyers provided by SLO Del Core. SLO Del Core commended efforts made by the group. Ms. Leveque stated that the flyer had been published on the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council website. Ms. Leveque encouraged Neighborhood Watch participation. A stakeholder reported increase in graffiti. SLO Del Core mentioned West Valley Alliance graffiti removal activities. Principal Ihori reported vandalism and thefts that occurred at Castlebay Lane Elementary. Ms. Ihori asked if stakeholders that notice vandals or burglars should advise school police or report these activities to LAPD. SLO Del Core advised that stakeholders should call 311 to be connected to any City agency. Becky Leveque commended the LAPD officer that called to advise about the burglary theft for motor vehicles.

2. Ms. Leveque introduced David Beauvais, who discussed food distribution services for those in need and discussed plans for a second year of Citrus Sunday, a fresh fruit distribution effort sponsored by Councilman Grieg Smith (Council District 12) whose main event will be at Northridge Park, on May 6, 2007. Mr. Beauvais reported how the distribution was handled in the past and noted logistics changes for this year's effort. Mr. Beauvais reported visits to four area Neighborhood Councils in the Porter Ranch vicinity, and asked for \$250 in funding support from Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, to pay for refreshments and picking equipment for volunteers. Mr. Beauvais stated that this will be an excellent opportunity for Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council outreach efforts and noted the opportunity to assist food-insecure stakeholders as well. In answer to Ron Nagai's questions, Mr. Beauvais stated that a flyer is being finalized and the preference for citrus fruit donations. Becky Leveque noted that this item will be agendaized at the next Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Board meeting. Mr. Beauvais asked again for Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council and stakeholder support.

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Page 3 of 8 Pages

3. Vasdev Singh noted two items of interest to stakeholders—Mayor Villaraigosa’s budget review process and plans for the launching of the Los Angeles-specific Keep America Beautiful initiative, which will take place on March 3, 2007, 8 am to 3 pm. Mr. Singh discussed the feedback process as well as plans for the March 3, 2007 event in detail. Mr. Singh noted that he is one of 2 Neighborhood Council representatives for the entire Valley area chosen to discuss feedback with Mayor Villaraigosa.

Mr. Singh described the 22-year old Keep America Beautiful program in detail, including beautification, clean-up, recycling and planting initiatives. Mr. Singh provided the Mayor’s Day of Service, Big Sunday, on April 28-29, 2007. Becky Leveque suggested any stakeholders interested in participating should contact Mr. Singh, to assist in forming an ad hoc committee.

B. MEETING OPENING

1. Welcome and introduction of special guests

Becky Leveque called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm. Board members present: Paula Cracium, Chris Cooper, Sue Hammarlund, Paul Drogichen, Becky Leveque, Vasdev Singh, and Ron Nagai. Absent: Mel Mitchell, Bright Aregs, and Tatiana Oueni. Pat Pope was out of town on business and was absent.

Becky Leveque introduced Manuel Durazo, DONE Representative, who mentioned the need for review and possible revision of Neighborhood Council By-Laws. Mr. Durazo encouraged Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council to include items such as the process of filling Board vacancies in the By-Laws and specifically mentioned checks and balances for identifying Neighborhood Council stakeholders. Mr. Durazo offered his assistance to Porter Ranch to anticipate, identify and resolve potential problems proactively.

Joe Martin asked about term limits for Neighborhood Council Board participation. Mr. Durazo stated that the maximum length of service is 8 years, that an amendment to the Los Angeles City Charter would have to be made to change term limits and that nothing has been done regarding a question about City Councilmember term limits. Discussion that followed regarding City Council proceedings, the selection process for School District appointments and for a new Director for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, a template or suggested guidelines for by-laws, and a similar process for election proceedings. Ron Nagai asked about negative press regarding the Neighborhood Council system. Mr. Durazo commended the process by which guidelines and procedures are being established by DONE. Responding to Sue Hammarlund’s question, Mr. Durazo discussed the possible restriction regarding unspent, unencumbered funds and referred to the continued need for outreach and communications to

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Page 4 of 8 Pages

stakeholders. Ron Nagai asked what could happen with regard to “de-obligated” Neighborhood Council funds; Mr. Durazo mentioned possible uses for those funds, including the funds being returned to the General Fund. Mr. Durazo promised to provide solid, concrete information to Board members whenever possible. Mr. Durazo also promised to communicate new information to all Neighborhood Council Board members. In answer to Paul Drogichen’s question, Mr. Durazo mentioned new spending guidelines resulting from DONE’s contracting with a different bank; Mr. Durazo noted that guidelines developed by Laura Chick are used to determine how funds can be spent and which vendors are approved. There was discussion about Laura Chick’s career plans. Mr. Durazo encouraged Board members to take the mandatory ethics training, noted penalties that could be imposed on elected officials and mentioned AB1234, which does affect Neighborhood Council Board members. Mr. Durazo mentioned an upcoming meeting with Paula Cracium and noted what would be discussed (elections, by-laws). Discussion followed regarding the upcoming Congress of Neighborhood Councils, which is scheduled to take place at the Bonaventure Hotel. Ms. Leveque reported that Bright Aregs has been appointed to have oversight of incoming-e-mail and to compile a meeting calendar and noted that, due to the number of meeting notices that are sent to Board members and that a list of DONE-sanctioned meetings would be of great assistance. Ms. Leveque asked what parameters are imposed for planned speakers that are running for office with the Board of Education; Mr. Durazo stated that guidelines exist that he will provide. Mr. Durazo stated that, so long as City money is not being used to endorse a candidate, candidates can be introduced and allowed to speak. Mr. Durazo stated that Steve Cooley (**SP?**) is interested in speaking to Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council stakeholders.

Dissemination of information within the Board was discussed; Mr. Durazo suggested looking at lacityneighborhoods.org to determine appropriate information for Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Board members.

Becky Leveque reported that Tatiana Oueni resigned from the Board three weeks ago, because of a heavy college schedule commitment. Ms. Leveque stated that the By-Laws will be reviewed to determine how the Student Board member vacancy will be filled.

Becky Leveque introduced LAFD Captain Mike Franklin, Fire Station 28. Capt. Franklin referred to Captain Caspar’s retirement and noted trees planted in a landing area previous used by LAFD. Ms. Leveque noted that Pat Pope is coordinating efforts to recognize Capt. Casper. Capt. Franklin mentioned the Fire Station is planning an event in honor of Capt. Casper. Paula Cracium suggested that Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council participate in that event. There was discussion about speed bumps on Braemar Road. Ms. Leveque asked if Capt. Franklin had any advice regarding fire prevention for stakeholders. Capt. Franklin noted Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council area is in good shape. Capt.

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Page 5 of 8 Pages

Franklin responded to Chris Cooper's question about LAFD response times and available personnel. Ms. Leveque asked about fire deterrents; Capt. Franklin noted that it has been a long fire season and advised that stakeholders should keep an eye out for suspicious characters. A stakeholder asked about brush clearance; Captain Franklin noted guidelines. As stakeholder asked clearing gutters.

Becky Leveque introduced John Bwairie, who discussed Councilman Grieg Smith's initiative to put additional police officers in the 168 Los Angeles Basic Car areas. Mr. Bwairie stated Councilman Smith's contention that the basic function of police is to patrol and asked for Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council's support of the Councilman's initiative. Answering a stakeholder's question, Mr. Bwairie discussed a proposed \$72 parcel tax, noting the proposal by Councilwoman Janice Hahn. Mr. Bwairie discussed the political process, noted that the issue has been sent back to the budget analysts, to look at resources already being utilized, and noted Councilman Smith's reluctance to raise taxes. Mr. Bwairie answered a stakeholder's question about retiring police officers and target police force numbers. Mr. Bwairie advised stakeholders of Councilman Smith's web site, www.cd12.org, and encouraged stakeholder to review the website to gain further insight. Becky Leveque asked new stakeholders to sign up for the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council newsletter and the LAPD notification system.

2. Roll Call

In the Secretary's absence, Board members introduced themselves; a quorum was noted. At Becky Leveque's request, Kathy Sullivan, a stakeholder that attended a Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council meeting for the first time, introduced herself. Ms. Sullivan stated that she and her husband were victims of a recent home invasion crime.

3. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Ron Nagai referred to a typo in the Agenda regarding item D.1—the letter was sent to Councilman Grieg Smith. Irv Cohen noted that Rick Gibby is a LAPD Sargent (item E.2); Becky Leveque noted the proper spelling of Vasdev Singh's name.

Paula Cracium moved to approve the agenda, as corrected; seconded by Paul Drogichen.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

4. Presentation and Approval of January Minutes

Paula Cracium moved to approve the January 2007 Minutes as presented; seconded

by Vasdev Singh.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

5. Motion to approve Treasurer's report

Paul Drogichen provided copies of the February 2007 Treasurer's Report, compared it to the January 2007 Treasurer's Report, and discussed an expenditure to Notify Quick.

Paul Drogichen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Sue Hammarlund.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

C. OTHER ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve \$9000.00 in equipment to Castlebay Lane Elementary School

Sue Hammarlund noted that all City Schools, including Castlebay Lane Elementary, have adopted a new science series, as mandated by the State of California, and discussed the need for DVD/VHS players and televisions at Castlebay Lane Elementary. Ms. Hammarlund reported that 36 DVD/VHS players would cost \$3600 and the cost of each 27 inch CD RAM television is \$246. A stakeholder reported a lower cost for the purchase of a DVD/VHS/TV combination set; Paul Drogichen discussed potential difficulties that could occur with a combination set, and noted that purchasing separate television sets is more cost effective in the long run.

Sue Hammarlund moved that the Board approve purchasing \$9000 in equipment for Castlebay Lane Elementary School, the equipment being DVD/VHS players and television sets; seconded by Paula Cracium.

Paul Drogichen asked if the televisions being considered are flat screen or cathode ray tube; Sue Hammarlund reported that the equipment being considered is Best Buy Government-approved offer. Chris Cooper asked about Best Buy's support of the community. Ron Nagai reported that some area stores are supportive of the community, but Best Buy is not one of them. There was discussion about Best Buy's community-support policy. Becky Leveque noted the Education Committee's recommendation to purchase the equipment.

Irv Cohen suggested spending more funds on community outreach and that Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council should be spending money on building community interest before any more funds are spent on any other item. Paula Cracium noted planned community outreach efforts and encouraged Mr. Cohen to discuss his

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Page 7 of 8 Pages

ideas with the Outreach Committee. Elaine Woo suggested providing Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council flyers to Castlebay; Sue Hammarlund noted that the LAUSD Board had disallowed posting of flyers and bulletins. Paul Drogichen listed funds encumbered and discussed his personal efforts with regard to outreach. Mr. Drogichen noted DONE guidelines regarding 25% of Neighborhood Council funds being spent on outreach. Mr. Drogichen emphasized that available funds should be spent to benefit community members as the funds are available. Joe Martin reported Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Board's intent to cover the Title I funding shortfall to Castlebay Lane Elementary and noted that the school is located with Porter Ranch's boundaries. Neil Estrin reported \$36,000 provided to Castlebay Lane Elementary and asked if all elementary school aged children in the area attend Castlebay Lane Elementary. There was discussion about how Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council funds can be spent.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

2. Purchase fax/copy/printer

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Status of the School in Porter Ranch (k-8 Span); Letter to Councilman Bernson regarding 118, Tampa North Offramp

(Taken out of order) Becky Leveque noted a typo on the Agenda; the letter was actually addressed to Councilman Smith, and promised to provide copies of the letter to Board members.

2. Update on Cell Phone Towers
3. Sue Hammarlund-CERTS
4. Committee Reports

Becky Leveque recapped presentations made earlier in the meeting and encouraged stakeholders to participate on any level of interest in community activities. Ms. Leveque gave a brief Crime and Safety report, referred to CERTS training for emergency preparedness. Ms. Leveque asked Committee chairs to submit their reports.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Outreach committee

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Page 8 of 8 Pages

Becky Leveque provided Paula Cracium's report on the Outreach Committee's activities, reported the 2007 Calendar for community outreach in the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council area is available on the Council's website. Ms. Leveque noted plans to provide information in emergency preparedness, a holiday party on December 4, 2007 for area businesses at Bakers Square, and asked stakeholders to provide feedback that will assist Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council to encourage stakeholder participation and community improvement.

2. Retirement Celebration for Captain Casper, Station 28, for his 50 year retirement from LAFD and Sargent Rick Gibby for 35 years with LAPD

Ron Nagai reported that Pat Pope requested that a special recognition be given to Captain Casper. An ad hoc committee will be formed; Becky Leveque asked interested stakeholders to contact Mr. Nagai or Pat Pope. Answering a stakeholder's question, Ms. Leveque suggested that both Capt. Casper and LAPD Sargent Rick Gibby should both be recognized. Ms. Leveque reiterated Captain Mike Franklin's invitation to stakeholders to attend the LAFD retirement party for Capt. Casper.

Chris Cooper asked that the Aliso Canyon presentation be tabled until the next Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council meeting.

FINAL BOARD COMMENTS

Paul Drogichen reported Sue Hammarlund's successful effort to have a right turn lane marked at the intersection of Rinaldi and Corbin.

Sue Hammarlund advised of a potential problem because of a stop sign marked at an intersection at the shopping center where Wal-Mart is located.

Vasdev Singh reported stakeholder complaints about the timing of the left turn signal from Rinaldi onto Corbin.

Sue Hammarlund reported that the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council web site will report a Transportation meeting coming up in March 2007 and asked stakeholders for visual evidence (pictures, etc.) of transportation issues, such as trees that have lifted up sidewalks.

Ron Nagai noted that trees can be planted along Sesnon Blvd, east of Tampa, but homeowners will have to agree to water the trees. Mr. Nagai stated that the intent is to plant similar trees along Sesnon.

Ron Nagai moved to adjourn at 8:47 pm; seconded by Sue Hammarlund.