

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 10, 2007
Shepherd of the Hills Church
Porter Ranch, California

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Becky Leveque.

1.2 ROLL CALL

Pat Pope called the roll. Board members present: Ron Nagai, Sue Hammarlund, Vasdev Singh, Becky Leveque, Paul Drogichen, Chris Cooper, Mel Mitchell, Pat Pope, and Bright Aregs. Paula Cracium's absence was excused.

1.3 APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA

Pat Pope noted the correct reference for item 1.4.

The amended Agenda was approved by common consent.

1.4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2007 AND MARCH 2007 MEETINGS

Pat Pope presented the Minutes for the February and March Minutes for approval.

Pat Pope moved to approve the February Minutes as written; seconded by Paul Drogichen. VOTE: 5 in favor; 3 abstentions. The motion passed.

Pat Pope moved to approve the March Minutes as written; seconded by Paul Drogichen. VOTE: 5 in favor; 3 abstentions. The motion passed.

Becky Leveque announced for the record that she had been given and had reported erroneous information at the March meeting regarding trees to be relocated from a former Fire Department helicopter staging area in Holleigh Bernson Park. The trees will not be removed; the Fire Department will be given a staging area elsewhere.

1.5 TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Drogichen presented a detailed report of PRNC spending up until Tuesday, April 10, 2007, that included total funds available as well as an Actual vs. Budget Year-to-Date report of spending for the various PRNC Budget line items. Mr. Drogichen outlined the necessary procedure for

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 10, 2007
Page 2 of 6 Pages

reimbursement for Board members' expenses and for purchase of refreshments for PRNC-sponsored events.

Ron Nagai moved to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Mel Mitchell.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

2.1 COVER FOR THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AT HOLLEIGH BERNSON PARK

Becky Leveque discussed the need for a cover for the play yard, that is able to withstand winds of up to 110 mph and is guaranteed for 10 years, and reported that the cover is needed to provide protection for children from the sun. Ms. Leveque stated that the cover would cost \$34,000 and that Council District 12 will fund half the cost.

Mel Mitchell asked if stakeholders from Renaissance have been alerted that purchase of the cover is being considered. Ms. Leveque discussed time constraints; Sue Hammarlund remarked that shade for the benches should also be considered. Responding to a question from a stakeholder, Ms. Leveque stated that the cover will be 30'x30'. Ron Nagai stated that Prop K funds could be used to fund similar items in the future and suggested that a committee should be formed to apply for funding for similar projects from Prop K and the Community Beautification grant agency. A stakeholder was told that the Department of Recreation and Parks would maintain the cover once it is installed. Mr. Nagai urged that funding be considered; Mel Mitchell cautioned that further outreach should be done before action is taken. Bright Aregs stated that stakeholders could be concerned about blocked vistas. Pat Pope concurred and stated that the Renaissance homeowners should be given an opportunity to discuss the issue. Jim Kocinsky stated that the view from the Renaissance community will not be blocked. Mr. Nagai referred to other, similar installations that are tastefully done, to a rare opportunity to do something of benefit to the community and cautioned that input should be obtained from a large portion of the community. Wendy Moore asked about park equipment for children aged 5-10 years; Sue Hammarlund asked Ms. Moore to assist her efforts to obtain funding to create an area for older children. Paul Drogichen reported that the playground equipment is useless in hot weather. Neal Estrin opined that the Renaissance community stakeholders will object to the cover but that the cover will not have that much of an effect on views from nearby homes. LAFD Captain Franklin provided corroboration. A stakeholder asked about cover for another park; Ms. Leveque stated that stakeholders had asked about cover for Holleigh Bernson Park and that no one had asked about the other park. There was discussion about whether to co-sponsor the project; Ms. Leveque stated that, without a

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 10, 2007
Page 3 of 6 Pages

PRNC contribution, the project may take some time to be implemented. Jim Kocinsky asked why funds are not being spent to make attractive Porter Ranch signs. Ms. Leveque discussed how the stakeholders' request to the Council office initiated this project. Pat Pope provided a rationale for his intent to vote against the project, which was to listen to what the neighbors have to say before approving.

Bright Aregs moved to approve the purchase of a cover for the Children's Play Area at Holleigh Bernson Park, not to exceed \$17,000, if recommended by the Beautification Committee, to be taken from the Beautification Budget Line; seconded by Vasdev Singh.

VOTE: Seven in favor; Pat Pope opposed. The motion passed.

Ron Nagai reported that a Beautification Committee meeting will take place in two weeks, where this topic will be discussed. Plans were made for a major outreach effort for the Beautification Committee meeting.

2.2 IMPROVEMENTS AT PORTER VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB.

Mel Mitchell reported on a Land Use Committee meeting that took place on February 28, 2007 regarding changes proposed for the Porter Valley Country Club facilities that would entail a change to the Porter Valley Country Club Master plan. Mr. Mitchell stated that approval for the proposed changes has been obtained from the City, described outreach efforts regarding the topic and discussed a draft letter written in support of the proposed changes.

Mel Mitchell moved to approve a letter of support for the proposed expansion plans for the Porter Valley Country Club; seconded by Ron Nagai.

Ron Nagai suggested a second letter be sent to the Country Club to formalize a request for community benefit in the form of improving the Country Club's exterior. Sue Hammarlund stated her reluctance to support Porter Valley Country Club because the Country Club has not supported the community. Ms. Hammarlund presented photographs of the rear of the Country Club property documenting unappealing views and barbed wire fencing, and reported the Country Club's reluctance to consider concerns voiced by stakeholders. Mel Mitchell stated that the issue raised by Ms. Hammarlund is not germane to the issue at hand. Jim Kocinsky discussed traffic issues he voiced to the Country Club that were not addressed and stated that the Country Club is not responsive to the community. Mr. Kocinsky stated that a Country Club representative should present this issue to the Board. There was discussion about how to make the Country Club a viable part of the Porter Ranch Community. In response to Paul Drogichen's question, it was noted that no Board member is a member of the Porter Ranch Country Club.

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

Page 4 of 6 Pages

Mel Mitchell withdrew his motion and stated his intent to request that a presentation be made by the Country Club. Ron Nagai asked that Mr. Mitchell request that the Country Club be invited to attend the upcoming Beautification Committee meeting to discuss the Country Club's plans regarding the exterior.

2.3 APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION CHAIR

Pat Pope moved to appoint Mel Mitchell as Election Chairperson; seconded by Ron Nagai.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

2.4 LETTER OF COMMENDATION TO FIRE CHIEF DOUGLAS BARRY REGARDING THE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

Becky Leveque asked Board members to provide copies to her of letters written on behalf of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council.

Chris Cooper described Vasdev Singh's suggestion that resulted in the National Clean-Up Day effort in Porter Ranch; Mr. Cooper showed a presentation that detailed stakeholder participation in the event that noted particular successes achieved: amount of trash picked up, and community and agency participation and response. Sue Hammarlund asked if PRNC could advocate for the installation of fencing and signage. Mr. Cooper thanked Mr. Singh for his initiative, and noted that \$450 in PRNC funds was spent. Mr. Cooper provided copies of a draft letter to Fire Chief Douglas Barry written to document the event, and read an excerpt from the letter.

Ron Nagai moved to approve the letter to Fire Chief Douglas Barry and send it; seconded by Sue Hammarlund.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

Wendy Moore reported that another clean-up effort took place on the previous Saturday, sponsored by Mike Dobry, next door to the Korean Church on Rinaldi. Vasdev Singh reported that the firefighters and Explorers expressed appreciation of the Council's support.

2.5 LADWP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Mel Mitchell described the circumstances that resulted in the LADWP MOU being approved by the DWP and a Neighborhood Council Oversight

Committee and reported that a 5-year extension is being presented to all Neighborhood Councils for approval by each Neighborhood Council.

Mel Mitchell moved that the PRNC approve the NC/LADWP MOU II renewal documents; seconded by Ron Nagai.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

2.6 STATUS OF THE K-8 SPAN SCHOOL IN PORTER RANCH

Becky Leveque reported on upcoming meetings regarding the school and stated that progress is being made. Pat Pope asked if the PRNC School Board representative is replaced will make a difference with regard to the progress of the proposed school project.

2.7 PROPOSED COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

(Taken out of order)

Pat Pope moved to approve a budget not to exceed \$2000, to cover the cost of purchasing refreshments and supplies, for a Porter Ranch celebration, to be taken from the Outreach budget line item; seconded by Ron Nagai.

Pat Pope, Sue Hammarlund and Ron Nagai provided details on their efforts to date regarding the proposed outreach event, which will include recognition of Fire Captain Casper. There was discussion about timing, the target for outreach, what will be provided to stakeholders, and DONE spending approval requirements. The celebration will take place at Fire Station 28, on Sunday, April 22, 2007.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

Paul Drogichen asked that Committee members coordinate efforts with him in order to ensure that DONE spending guidelines are kept. Mr. Drogichen reminded Board members that he will be out of the city on the day of the proposed event.

OLD BUSINESS

Paul Drogichen reported that he has not received an invoice for Citrus Day from the Council Office that was to have been sent a week ago.

NEW BUSINESS

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 10, 2007
Page 6 of 6 Pages

(Taken out of order) Mel Mitchell announced that the proposed By-Laws changes are available to view on the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council website. The changes to the By-Laws will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

Becky Leveque invited Ali Dabirian to introduce himself and to describe his qualifications for the vacant Student Board seat. Mr. Dabirian is a junior at Granada Hills High School and volunteers at the Porter Ranch Library. Mr. Dabarian's candidacy will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Ron Nagai reported that Fire Station 28 is in need of a new washer and dryer and a treadmill; M. Nagai suggested that PRNC consider donating the necessary equipment.

Vasdev Singh encouraged Board members and stakeholders to attend an upcoming Congress of Neighborhood Councils on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at the Bonaventure Hotel from 7:30 am to 3 pm.

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm.