

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 6, 2007
Shepherd of the Hills Church
Porter Ranch, California

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1. Welcome and introductions

Vice-President Paula Cracium called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

1.2. Roll Call

Pat Pope called the roll; Board members present: Mel Mitchell, Pat Pope, Chris Cooper, Sue Hammarlund, Paul Drogichen, Paula Cracium, Vasdev Singh, Ali Dabirian, and Ron Nagai. Excused absences were noted for Becky Leveque and Bright Aregs.

1.3. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Paul Drogichen moved to approve the Agenda as presented; seconded by Vasdev Singh.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

1.4. Presentation and Approval of May 1, 2007 Minutes

There were no changes noted to the May 1, 2007 Minutes.

Pat Pope moved to approve the Minutes of the May 1, 2007 meeting; seconded by Ron Nagai.

Vote: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed. Paul Drogichen and Sue Hammarlund abstained.

1.5. Treasurer's Report

Paul Drogichen reported that the new bank card is fully funded and all vendors have been notified of the new card. Mr. Drogichen provided copies of a Treasurer's Report that included current balances for the Visa Commercial, Petty Cash and DONE-held funding. The Treasurer's report also included a budget that compared year-to-date actual as well as budgeted funds for the various Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council line items (Outreach, Administrative/Office Supplies/ Community Projects/Improvements, Beautification/Public Art, Education and Public Safety). There was considerable discussion about how best to show what has been allocated as well as one has actually been spent for each line item. Mr. Drogichen reported that the gym equipment promised to the fire

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station has been processed for payment. Mr. Drogichen stated that the vendor from which the washer and dryer for Fire Station 28 was to have been purchased is uncooperative with regard to City requirements; the company from which the treadmill is to be purchased is willing to cooperate. Mr. Drogichen noted that Becky Leveque reported that she was awaiting a response from Fire Station 28. (Taken out of order) Paul Drogichen reported on a call to him by a salesman from the company from which the fire station laundry equipment was to have been purchase.

Ron Nagai moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Vasdev Singh.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

- 1.6. Paul Drogichen-Motion To correct motion of 5.1.2007 meeting and authorize the Treasurer to reimburse Chris Cooper for expenses he advanced for the Cleanup days in the amount of \$474.00. Minutes showed only \$300.00 authorized.

Paul Drogichen moved to reimburse Chris Cooper up to \$474.00 for expenses incurred for the Cleanup Days; seconded by Mel Mitchell

VOTE: Unanimous in favor; Chris Cooper abstained. The motion passed.

2. OTHER ACTION ITEMS

- 2.1. To investigate purchasing dog "pooper scooper" containers for the various city parks in Porter Ranch. A picture of one will be available at the board meeting

Paul Drogichen provided pictures of the items proposed for purchase and noted on-going problems in Holleigh Bernson Park. Mr. Drogichen reported that if PRNC would purchase the items, they will be maintained by Recreation and Parks. There was discussion about how the funding decision can be made and applied. Ron Nagai will research the issue and report at a later meeting.

A stakeholder, Jeff Moore, interrupted discussion to encourage more outreach and stated that the PRNC's primary function should be outreach. Board members listed examples of outreach efforts that are made regularly by PRNC. Ron Nagai provided examples of recognition of PRNC issues received by both local and state government.

- 2.2. Motion to approve \$1300 for Shepherd of the Hills 4th of July Community celebration for items needed

Chris Cooper described the event, reported that the event attracts as much as 60,000 participants, and discussed how the PRNC contribution will be advertised

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for the purpose of outreach to stakeholders.

Chris Cooper moved to participate at the Jefferson level at the Shepherd of the Hills 4th of July Community celebration, in the amount of no more than \$1300; seconded by Ron Nagai.

After further discussion about the possibility of outreach at the event; Paula Cracium noted that the level of participation does not allow for a booth or table at the event. Ron Nagai offered to research the purchase of give-aways that can be used to advertise PRNC.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor. The motion passed.

2.3. Motion to send a letter to change left hand turn lanes at the Town Center

Sue Hammarlund discussed her concerns about ingress/egress as a result of changes made at the Porter Ranch Town Center and suggested that an exit be altered to allow inclusion of an additional left turn lane. Currently there is only one exit that allows a left turn. Ms. Hammarlund asked the Board to write a letter to the shopping center management that proposes a double left turn lane. There was discussion about how this situation came to exist and what alternatives are available to exit the shopping center. Paula Cracium suggested that Ms. Hammarlund obtain a copy of a traffic study already done in order to quote from it in the letter. Ron Nagai noted that the stop signs were positioned at the order of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

2.4. Becky Leveque-Motion to approve \$22,000 to purchase car equipment used to apprehend stolen cars

Officer Sean Reinhardt, Devonshire Division, provided a demonstration of equipment used to find stolen cars, discussed the automatic license plate recognition system, provided graphic depictions of the Grand Theft Auto and Recovered Vehicle statistics in Devonshire. Officer Reinhardt noted that the license plate recognition system is intended to assist in identifying stolen vehicles and can 'run' up to 200 vehicles in one minute and 5000 in one shift. Computerized technology can assist officers in identifying a stolen vehicle hours after the vehicle was identified and logged by the system. Officer Reinhardt also discussed the advantage the technology offers in the form of eliminating any possibility of discrimination or 'profiling' of citizens. Officer Reinhardt described the equipment used as well as how the equipment works in the field. Officer Reinhardt discussed the process by which LAPD is reviewing the three systems being considered for purchase, noted that some Neighborhood Councils and stakeholder businesses have purchased systems currently in use and that LAPD intends to put the technology into operation. Officer Reinhardt also discussed plans for the system that will be put into effect in the future, including

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a plan to install WiFi in the downtown area. Officer Reinhardt suggested that PRNC consider approving an amount to be designated for purchase of the equipment.

Responding to Pat Pope's question, Officer Reinhardt discussed how current equipment is deployed, noted how effective the equipment is and discussed how criminals use stolen vehicles. Officer Reinhardt also stated that Topanga Mall purchased a separate unit. Paula Cracium asked how much; Officer Reinhardt stated \$20,000. Mr. Pope asked if PRNC is being requested to pay the entire amount; Officer Reinhardt discussed plans to make the same presentation to other area Neighborhood Councils to consider a joint purchase. A stakeholder asked if tech companies would donate demonstration technology; Officer Reinhardt stated that he could not answer that question. A stakeholder asked if the new Far-West Valley Division will help Devonshire. Officer Reinhardt said no, if officers are pulled from Devonshire, which is already stretched thin. Mr. Pope asked if Officer Reinhardt will return after speaking to other Neighborhood Councils, noted that he was in favor of the contribution. Officer Reinhardt promised to remain in contact. Ron Nagai asked if the technology is car-based only. Officer Reinhardt stated that it was not. A stakeholder asked if the car equipped with the technology will be used continually. Officer Reinhardt reported that it will be. There were a number of questions about how the technology will be used and deployed that Officer Reinhardt answered for stakeholders. Officer Reinhardt described the difference between police car configurations and deployment. In answer to Paul Drogichen's question, Officer Reinhardt stated his intention to ensure that the technology will be at the disposal of Devonshire. Officer Reinhardt stated that the technology might be better deployed on an E-car, a police car that handles traffic enforcement. Responding to Chris Cooper's question, Officer Reinhardt noted open-ended architecture and technology. Mr. Cooper noted the possibility of loss of privacy. Irv Cohen ascribed Devonshire's low crime rate to the importance placed on prevention in the area and the strong Neighborhood Watch program. Mr. Cohen asked if Officer Reinhardt has contacted Councilman Grieg Smith; Officer Reinhardt stated that he had been in contact with Councilman Smith's officer. Mr. Cohen suggested that Jim Dillinger be asked to coordinate efforts with all the Neighborhood Councils in the Council District 12 area. Mel Mitchell voiced support for the purchase of the technology; Pat Pope suggested that Officer Reinhardt contact the Porter Neighborhood Council Public Safety Committee Chair. In response to a stakeholder's question, Officer Reinhardt reiterated his plans to continue outreach regarding this. Officer Reinhardt then demonstrated the unit to stakeholders in the church parking lot/

- 2.5. Motion to issue a letter to Vasdev Singh commending his contributions to the community.

Ron Nagai described Vasdev Singh's efforts on behalf of the community and

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noted that public recognition is in order.

Ron Nagai moved to commend Mr. Singh for his contributions; seconded by Pat Pope.

Mel Mitchell asked to which forum Vasdev Singh is seeking an appointment; Mr. Singh stated that he is seeking appointment to a City Commission. After discussion, it was agreed

VOTE: Unanimous in favor; Vasdev Singh abstained. The motion passed.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1. Chris Cooper and Sue Hammarlund reported on the Northridge Community Safety event that took place on Saturday and brought examples of Neighborhood Council outreach materials that are simple and effective. Ms. Hammarlund stated that the items should be considered for purchase by the Outreach and Public Safety Committees.

3.2. Status of Fire Station 28 requests

Tabled.

4. NEW BUSINESS

(Taken out of order) Manuel Durazo provided an update on the 912 Commission. Mr. Durazo noted that the Commission may recommend that Neighborhood Councils be allowed to split, and that a policy may be created that will require the Neighborhood Council to apply for a grant to obtain funding from the City. Mr. Durazo also reported that DONE is reorganizing its policies and noted that DONE representatives will not be required to attend monthly Neighborhood Council meetings. Ron Nagai suggested that the 912 Commission should issue a draft report that will allow Neighborhood Councils 90 days to have input with regard to the proposed changes. Mr. Durazo described the process by which policy or procedural changes are made. Mr. Durazo reported that he will attend PRNC meetings only when there is an issue that requires his attendance, provided his contact cell phone number (323- 972-7798) for stakeholders with issues or questions and encouraged stakeholders to contact him. Mr. Nagai stated that Neighborhood Councils that are operating well should be encouraged.

Paula Cracium introduced Tells Charnofsky, West Valley Area Director, Neighborhood & Community Services, from the Mayor's Office. Ms. Charnofsky offered to provide information on the Mayor's school house plan and Green LA program, and urged stakeholders to participate in the Mayor's Million Trees initiative. Ms. Charnofsky encouraged stakeholders to contact her, and provided her

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business cards to.

Paula Cracium introduced Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Dario Del Core, who provided copies of a map of the entire Devonshire Division that showed residential burglary, grand theft auto, burglary/theft for motor vehicle statistics, as well as copies of the Devonshire Neighborhood Watch newsletter. In answer to Sue Hammarlund's question, SLO Del Core noted that the information a stakeholder requested regarding obtaining neighborhood crime report statistics is available at www.lapdonline.org. SLO Del Core stated that overall the statistics were good. SLO Del Core warned stakeholders about distraction burglaries and that open garage doors should not be left unattended. In answer to Sue Hammarlund's question, SLO Del Core indicated that the difference between Part I and Part II Child/Spousal abuse is the degree of injuries reported.

Ron Nagai asked stakeholders to speak out about the need for clean-up at Palisades Park. Gil Roussel, stakeholder, described the situation at the park and its condition, and asked for support and assistance with a clean-up. Sue Hammarlund noted the need for a low fence, and mentioned that benches and a table could be placed. Ron Nagai asked that the Homeowners Association could draft a letter to the Beautification Committee that mentions specifically what is needed. Mr. Nagai asked that the letter be made available for the Beautification Committee meeting, on the 4th Tuesday of the month. A stakeholder asked if the Beautification Committee is the proper forum for homeowners that park boats and RVs. Mr. Nagai asked the stakeholders to advise the Beautification Committee of the location of vehicles stored inappropriately. The stakeholder was advised that a 72 hour parking limit is determined by LA City ordinance with regard to vehicles.

Mr. Nagai reported that the Beautification Committee addressed the issue of play equipment for older children at Holleigh Bernson Park and asked for input.

Jack Humphreville, Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, delegate to the Oversight Committee for the DWP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), provided an update on issues the Committee has addressed: a 2.9% rate increase is proposed, deferred maintenance, unfunded pensions and post-retirement medical benefits, transfers to the City General Fund, projects sponsored by various City Councilmen, accounting standards, outsourcing, and the appointment of a rate payer's advocate. Mr. Humphreville stated that the DWP has \$14 billion in assets, 8500 employees, \$3.1 billion in revenue. Mr. Humphreville asked stakeholders to refer questions to himself, Soledad Garcia, or Mel Mitchell. Mr. Humphreville provided his contact e-mail, jack@targetmediapartners.com.

Mel Mitchell, as Chair, reported on the activities to date of the Election Committee, noted that the Committee is in the early stages of planning the PRNC election. Mr. Mitchell discussed changes to the By-Laws that are in the process of approval. Mr. Mitchell stated that DONE has not received copies of the paperwork required, noted

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4-year terms for Board members, consideration of a multi-day election proceedings, absentee ballots, and plans for an aggressive outreach campaign. Mr. Mitchell referred to plans to secure an independent election administrator. Board candidates for re-election include Paula Cracium, Paul Drogichen, Becky Leveque, and Ali Dabirian. Mr. Mitchell noted that based on the current PRNC By-Laws, Board officers are due for election in July 2007. Mr. Mitchell suggested that a formal procedure for election of Board officers should be put into place. Paul Drogichen asked what will occur as a result of the By-Laws not being changed; Mr. Mitchell stated that the Board members' terms will be extended. Irvin Cohen asked if the stakeholders be given the opportunity to ratify changes made to the By-Laws. Pat Pope stated that this issue had been discussed at the May meeting and those decisions on the By-Laws changes were the purview of the Board. This item will be agenzized for the next PRNC meeting.

The next meeting will take place on July 10, 2007.

Paula Cracium provided copies of survey results

Wendy Moore noted Councilman Smith's plans to offer movie nights again this summer at Holleigh Bernson Park. Paula Cracium asked if Board members will distribute outreach items to stakeholders.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Pat Pope moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm.; seconded by Paula Cracium.

FUNDS APPROVED FOR EXPENDITURE AT THIS MEETING

Paul Drogichen moved to reimburse Chris Cooper up to \$474.00 for expenses incurred for the Cleanup Days; seconded by Mel Mitchell

Chris Cooper moved to participate at the Jefferson level at the Shepherd of the Hills 4th of July Community celebration, in the amount of no more than \$1300; seconded by Ron Nagai.