

# PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## DRAFT Minutes

Shepherd of the Hills Church, Porter Ranch

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council President Becky Leveque at 6:19 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL** taken by Patrick Pope, PRNC Secretary. Nine Board Members were present,

Pam	Birnkrant	Present
Paula	Cracium	Absent*
Paul	Drogichen	Present
Matt	Gluck	Present
Susan	Hammarlund	Present
Becky	Leveque	Present
Joe	Martin	Absent
Mel	Mitchell	Present
Ron	Nagai	Present
Tatiana	Oueini	Present
Patrick	Pope	Present

\* Paula arrived later

### 3. NEW BUSINESS:

#### a. Manuel Durazo, Project Coordinator for DONE

**Hurricane Victims Assistance:** Manny addressed the Board reporting that a date has been set by the Mayor's Office to help victims of Hurricane Katrina: On Oct 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a "youth – centered" day of service taking place in North Hollywood. This will involve all the Valley high schools helping coordinate donations of non-perishable canned goods: diapers, hygiene kits, etc. to assist victims of Katrina. The Mayor's Office is now working on locating housing in L.A. for some of these people. Presently, 800 people are to be housed at the former San Pedro Naval Base housing. Manny suggested that the PRNC form an Emergency Preparedness Committee so that if there is a disaster, the neighborhood councils can be ready to lead their communities and the first on the scene to assist people. Manny said the Mayor has requested that everyone on each Board receive CERT training as well as any stakeholders who are interested.

PRNC President Becky Leveque asked for volunteers to co-chair this new committee. Sue Hammarlund and Pam Birnkrant volunteered. Paul stated that 25 people are needed to establish a CERT class.

**Community Impact Statement:** Manny explained the purpose of using a community impact statement: The Board writes up a paragraph on a position and sends it to the L.A. City Council. The Council records it in the official minutes.

Ron Nagai and Patrick Pope volunteered to be the official reps for the PRNC to have password access for sending any board approved community impact statements to the City Council.

**Board Retreat:** Manny proposed that the PRNC establish a date for an official Board Retreat to learn procedures for running the PRNC. The training/retreat was scheduled for Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at either the Shepherd of the Hills Church or as a back up, the Porter Ranch Library.

**Budget Day:** On October 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 – 1:30 p.m., the PRNC Board is invited to attend a meeting with the Mayor to discuss priorities for the City budget. The PRNC delegates for that meeting will be: Paul Drogichen, Ron Nagai, Becky Leveque, and Sue Hammarlund.

**Day of Youth:** On Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor's Office will hold a Day of Service/Day of Youth at North Hollywood High School where members of the Neighborhood Councils can meet the staff of the Mayor's Office. Manny said the Mayor's vision is to have community clean ups on that day orchestrated by all the Neighborhood Councils involving both adults and youth

**Office's New Address:** The Neighborhood Council Alliance Office has moved from Panorama City to the old Van Nuys City Hall, 14410 Sylvan Street, Van Nuys. Manny invited the board to visit and meet the Mayor's staff assigned to the Valley.

b. **Candido Marz:** The October 24, 2005 M.O.U. Oversight Committee requests representatives. PRNC President Becky Leveque named Joe Martin as the Board's rep.

c. **Battalion Chief Pat Engel, LAFD** discussed disaster preparedness. He informed the Board of the measures the fire department has taken in sending reinforcements to Mississippi and Louisiana since Hurricane Katrina hit (Their FEMA Strike Team of 70 people went to Biloxi for search and rescue operations and 20 people from their Swift Water Rescue unit have been doing house to house searches and rescues in New Orleans.

On the preparedness side, he said they've been at City Hall designing an evacuee program for people hit by that storm. The Red Cross is the major component in the "Evacuees System" and 800 families are already privately sponsored in Los Angeles. The reception center is in the Westchester Recreation Center. Several shelter sites have also been picked out for accommodating any more people sent to L.A.

Chief Engel talked about the 250 firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty in Los Angeles. He said they will be honoring the lost firefighters with a new museum which will be housed at Fire Station 27 at Cahuenga and Sunset. Outside of the museum they are building a memorial for fallen firefighters. To

raise money for this statue and museum, the firefighters will do a citywide torch run. The run will cover about 30 miles in the North Valley.

**Ron Nagai made a motion: That the PRNC allocate a donation to the Fire Department of \$1,400 for a brush box, storage shed, and two tool boxes to Fire Station 28 and another allocation to purchase a generator for Fire Station 8, not to exceed \$3,500.00. Tatiana Oueini seconded. Treasurer Paul Drogichen made a friendly amendment that this purchase is subject to DONE approval of the PRNC's Budget. Vote: Unanimous.**

Chief Engel also answered Board Members and stakeholders' questions about emergency measures including:

**I.C.E. abbreviation on the cell phone:** He said it could alert emergency workers who to contact if you have a traumatic injury and are unable to communicate. He suggested that you could enter **ICE**, for **In Case of Emergency** as a contact name in your wireless telephone with a telephone number, that person could be called by officials if you could not speak for yourself.

**Power Generators available for a crisis:** Most of the newer fire stations (since Prop F in '95) do have generators. In an emergency, they would bring in these emergency generators to needed locations.

#### **4. Committee Report:**

**a. Clean Up Committee,** Matt Gluck: Matt said his Committee is planning an October 15<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood Clean for Porter Ranch. He requested help with putting the word out on the Internet and the phones.

#### **5. New Business:**

**a. Emergency Preparedness:** Sue Hammarlund gave a report from the Red Cross on flyers for emergency preparedness. She talked about her experience in New Orleans at the Cajun Dome saying a quarter of the state of Louisiana is now homeless. The Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles has aided over 1,000 clients in California, and \$500,000 dollars have been provided in assistance for food and shelter. While the Federal Government has mandated that the Red Cross do emergency work, Sue said they get no money from the government to do this. She said Katrina is going to need billions of dollars of money. She asked the Board to donate if they can to the Red Cross general fund because whenever people need assistance, they will provide it whether it's to hurricane victims or families in need in the community. She urged everyone to consider volunteering.

**6. Minutes:** Pat Pope made a motion to table the approval of the last meeting's minutes since the Board had not had sufficient time to review them.

**7. Next Meeting Scheduling:** Becky Leveque noted that the October PRNC meeting falls on Rosh Hashanah, and Ramadan and out of respect for those who

observe these holidays, she requested that the General Meeting date be moved one week to Tuesday, October 11, 2005.

**8. Treasurers Report:** Paul Drogichen reported that he has submitted the PRNC budget to DONE and until it is approved, the Board can't spend any money.

**8. New Business:**

a. **Cell Phone Towers**, Ron Nagai: Ron said those who have Verizon wireless should notice improved service as the result of new antennas on the towers. He said that Cingular now want to put up new towers. The issues that remain are whether Porter Ranch wants to have the visual blight of cell phone companies' poles over better service.

**9. Committee Reports:**

a. **Budget Committee:** No business to report.

b. **Land Use Committee**, Mel Mitchell: Mel reported on a new proposed development: Hidden Creeks Estates, which made a presentation before the Land Use Committee last May. On Wed., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, the Committee will talk about that project. Mel said they are waiting for the developer to file appropriate documentation. He said they are still a year or two away from anything happening. The proposed property is in an unincorporated area of the County. The developer is trying to get it annexed to the City of L.A.

c. **Beautification Committee**, Ron Nagai said he is interested in obtaining a "no fee" bid from City engineering officials or an engineering firm to construct center medians on designated streets in Porter Ranch complete with irrigation and lighting. Ron made a motion that: **The Beautification Committee be authorized to try to find an entity to do the design of center medians in Porter Ranch at no cost to the PRNC or community. Patrick Pope seconded. Vote: Seven votes. No opposed. (Several board members left at 9:00. Vote was taken in overtime of meeting.)**

Ron also stated that the YMCA wants to expand their youth program with modular units. He requested a letter of support from the PRNC. **Ron's Motion: That the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council provides a letter of support for the "Y" Program for Kids. There was no second to the motion. Discussion took place prior to a second with Board members asking Ron to get more information on where the modular units are to be put on the property and what they would look like.**

d. **Education Committee**, Sue Hammarlund: Tabled until after the Education Committee meets.

e. **Outreach Committee**, Paula Cracium: The next Committee meeting is Friday, September 23, 2005. Some of their plans include a quarterly newsletter, a "Save the Date" postcard system, hiring a mailing company, and a banner.

f. **Police, Fire and Safety Committee**: Becky reported that there will be a dedication ceremony for the new Rinaldi Park on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2005 at 3:30 p.m.

g. **Design Review Committee**: Mel Mitchell was appointed to the committee.

**Other New Business:**

- a. Elaine Pfefferman's Council Rep Update: Tabled. Elaine could not be present.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 9:20 p.m.

Minutes taken by Pat Kramer, PDQ Personnel Services.