

PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 22, 2007

Porter Ranch Library
Porter Ranch, California

1. MEETING OPENING

Mel Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to catch up on official business that had been skipped because of time constraints and agenda issues at earlier meetings.

2. ROLL CALL

Ali Dabirian took roll. In attendance were Vasdev Singh, Ali Dabirian, Mel Mitchell, Paul Drogichen, Sue Hammarlund, Paula Cracium, Becky Leveque, and Bright Aregs. Pat Pope arrived a few minutes later. Captain Chris Cooper was absent because of the brush fires, Ron Nagai had other commitments that could not be changed and also was absent. There were about six stakeholders present.

3. AGENDA

Mel Mitchell moved to approve the meeting agenda. Paula Cracium seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. PRNC THINKS GREEN

Sue Hammarlund moved to purchase 200 "Go Green" canvas shopping bags for about \$713, or less than \$1,000. Paula seconded the motion. The proposal was approved unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CONGRESS

Vas Singh moved to provide \$1,000 in funding to the upcoming Congress of Neighborhoods on October 27th. Becky Leveque seconded. Vas explained that even with no lunch DONE did not have enough money to cover all the expenses at the Congress and they were asking for a thousand dollars from each Neighborhood Council to make up the difference.

There was *spirited* opposition from several Board members who thought that DONE should budget better and not try to take away the Neighborhood Councils' money. Paul thought that this was just the beginning of DONE and the city trying to reduce the power of Neighborhood Councils and reduce their funding. Paul said there was nothing new on the agenda anyway. Mel said that some of the seminars proved useful to him in the past. Becky felt that the request showed a lack of commitment on the part of DONE. Bright said that \$1,000 was too much and maybe we should offer \$500. Sue was concerned about the precedent giving up the money would set. Mel asked what would happen if we don't pay. Vas said most likely nothing would happen. Pat said he thought that sharing the burden with funds we haven't used could be helpful politically with DONE later. Paul said we have already spent \$30,000 this fiscal year. Three stakeholders in the room thought the money could be spent better elsewhere.

Voting for the motion where: Vas Singh and Pat Pope

Voting against where: Paul Drogichen, Ali Dabirian, Sue Hammarlund, Becky Leveque,

and Bright Aregs. The motion failed.

6. WEBSITE MAINTENANCE RENEWAL

Paula moved that we extend the maintenance of our website with Moore Business Results for one year for a fixed fee of \$4,500. Vas seconded the motion. Several Board members expressed great satisfaction with the PRNC website. The motion passed unanimously.

7. WALKINGMAN SERVICE FOR OUTREACH

Paula Cracium said that Walkingman has been approved by DONE and is cheaper than the Postal Service for mass delivery of flyers within a zip code. Walkingman could reach all of the homes in the 91326 zip code for about \$1,175 and USPS is about \$4,000. She said that Walkingman might not be allowed in gated communities. Pat Pope, who is president of the Sorrento HOA, confirmed that they would not be allowed into Sorrento and that the Bylaws of all of the S&S communities have similar restrictions. Sue suggested that we mail flyers to just the gated communities. Mel said we don't have a database, and the combined cost of first class mail and Walkingman would be higher than the \$4,000 we are paying the Postal Service now. Paul said that it doesn't appear that the post cards work anyway. It seemed to him that most of the interested residents are reached by e-mail (free) or by our outbound phone blasts. Paula explained that all she wanted was the authority to look at the options and make a sound business decision. She said that Outreach was a primary concern of DONE.

Paula motioned to approve the possible use of Walkingman for the next Outreach effort. Sue seconded. All present except Pat Pope voted for the motion. Pat Pope opposed. The motion passed.

8. LAUSD AND THE NEW PORTER RANCH SCHOOL

Becky that LAUSD slipped a motion to consider new school funding into the agenda at the School Board meeting tomorrow, at 4:00 PM, downtown. She said that we needed to send a representative to the meeting to insure the Porter Ranch School stayed on track. She could not attend. No other member said they could be downtown at 4:00 on such short notice. Mel said he would contact Ron Nagai to see if he could go. Becky said she would contact our LAUSD member Tamar Galatzan to see how we got blindsided.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM