

Minutes March 2008 MMTC

Call to Order: Troop Presents Colors
Pledge of Allegiance

7:00 PM

Welcome and Introduction of Board Members

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| • President | Jeff Stevens |
| • First Vice President (program chair) | Pam O'Donohoe |
| • Second Vice President (membership) | Ted Brengel |
| • Treasurer | Alan Philpott |
| • Recording Secretary | Albertine Feurer-Young |
| • Newsletter Editor | Maria Pankau |
| • Parliamentarian | Courtland Young |
| • Member at Large | Marlon Austria |
| • Member at Large | Jon Labaw |
| • Member at Large | Stephen Sluyter |
| • Member at Large | John Daley |

OFFICIAL REPORTS

- No community reports tonight.
- The website will be upgraded within the next few days; please provide feedback.
- Fundraiser tonight at Callahan's. Bring a flyer or mention Emily's name and the contributions will go to Emily Rose Bare, a young girl who needs cancer treatment.
- Mira Mesa Planning Group update next month.

MINUTES APPROVED

7:05 PM

BOARD REPORTS (President, Treasurer, Programs)

7:10 PM

- Police Department (Lieutenant Rick O'Hanlon) – Rick is the new Lieutenant for Scripps Ranch/Mira Mesa. He has 30 years of experience in the department. He is meeting with the Council Representatives and has given his cell phone number to Jeff Stevens. Communication will help. He will be available for questions during the meeting.
- SD Fire Department – no one present
- City Councilman Brian Maienschein (Khoa Nguyen) – Camino Ruiz Trail is going to a hearing officer this Wednesday the 5th. Brian's ad hoc committee on fire presentation update: they received Mayor's report today; it can be accessed on [SanDiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov). April 21, the committee will be discussing Brush Management issues at 9:30am. Council voted unanimously to purchase another fire fighting truck. Council unanimously passed a bill preventing sex offenders to be within 300 feet of areas frequented by children. Question – is there a diagram of where the trail will lead? The trail starts at the entrance of the park and goes west. A picture of trail is on the Town Council's website (<http://www.miramesatowncouncil.org/doc/Park/CaminoRuizConnectorTrail.jpg>).
- City Mayor Jerry Sanders (Steven Lew) – the mayor will be presenting the budget to the city council on April 15. There will be a town hall in Scripps Ranch on

4/24 Thursday from 6 to 7 to go over the budget. The mayor is pushing for water conservation. There was a class in Rancho Bernardo for residents on how to save water. There will be a series of classes all over the city. Question: Didn't the mayor already present in Scripps Ranch; why not Mira Mesa? Answer: The Scripps Ranch Library has a very large community room and can handle many more people. Question: What avenues does the mayor use to communicate with his constituents since he won't answer emails or letters or phone? Answer: A staff of only four people handle everything; see Steven Lew with any comments or questions. Questions: Should letters be addressed to the Mayor or Steven Lew? Answer: Steven Lew. Slew@SanDiego.gov. Questions: will the meeting's information be available to those who can't make it? Answer: yes, it will be on the website.

- County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (Erica Holloway) – Jim Gonzalez retired last Thursday. Regional Fire Committee has been formed and includes the Mayor and the County of San Diego to make recommendations to the county as to what to do about our regional fire fighting. State of the County – Chairman Cox. San Diego's financial problems: Effect on county services is still unknown. Community Grants are still available; see Erica for more information. The Supervisor is focusing on a Healthy SD April 17 in Escondido. More meetings will focus on different segments of the population. Pam's appointments for the year are in the newsletter. Question: Youth Minister at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church wants to know how gang violence will be stop. Answer: The committee is looking at more comprehensive approaches to curb gang problems.
- County Supervisor Ron Roberts (Rebecca Leister) – not present
- State Assemblyman George Plescia (Liz Saidkhanian) – All new bills are on the flyer in the back; email her office for more information. I15 project between the 163 and 56 will be completed by 2012. The Ground Breaking is this month. 2.3 billion dollars in budget savings have been approved.
- State Senator Christine Kehoe (Andrew Kennerly) – Package of wild life prevention bills passed. A Bill will be introduced to reimburse local government for wild fire costs. San Diego Water Board has not been responsive enough to the public and she wants to restructure it the way the airport was restructured
- State Senator Hollingsworth (Ellen Malin) – not present
- US Representative Brian Bilbray (Andrew Lund) – not present
- MCAS Miramar (Juan Lias) – not present

OPEN FORUM

7:30 PM

- Steve Francis - Candidate for Mayor of San Diego – will hold budget meetings in Mira Mesa. Many problems are not being addressed: not fully funding police departments, potholes, budget crisis, city government is not leveling with the people. He is not taking any campaign contribution to keep special interests and developers at bay. His salary will be \$1 per year. He will tell the truth about the financial condition of the city. SteveForMayor.com has more information.
- Judy Luticken - Mira Mesa Women's Club - Chalk-the-walk 5/10 Park at the Rec Center to create art on the sidewalks. There is a fund raising by selling squares to sponsors – family of children – and to businesses around town. The

more money raised the more funds to the Visual Arts will be raised. 60% of what is raised will go to the Visual Arts. She has posters; see her for one. Non-profit squares are available and come with a free table. Emily Rose is a young girl who needs cancer treatment; the fundraiser last week was at Fuddrucker's and raised \$730; and another \$800 was donated.

- Kathy Madsen has brought invitations to Taste of Mira Mesa, put on by the Mira Mesa Foundation. Please donate. Go to MiraMesaFoundation.org to donate or buy tickets. There is an Open Meeting to discuss what programs should not be cut due to the \$400K budget cuts for Mira Mesa HS; the feedback must be received by Friday. The meeting is Tuesday 3/4 at 6pm at the HS in the library with Jeff Olivero.

NEW BUSINESS

- Bruce Brown has a request for graffiti paint to paint the walls along Mira Mesa Boulevard. The walls have different shades of brown from years of graffiti paintouts and need to be repainted. He is requesting \$1000 for paint. They will start on Mira Mesa Blvd and Parkdale this Sunday from 8am – 10am and will continue every weekend. 100 feet a week will be completed. He will try to get the paint donated and needs volunteers. A motion to support was made, seconded, and passed with 1 opposed. Call Bruce at 858-578-2186 to find out where the next section will be.

CANDIDATES FORUM

Coin Flip – Carl will go first

Opening Statements:

- Carl DeMaio <http://www.votecarlde Maio.com/> – Mitz decided to stay with the school board; he appreciates it. He is fed up and frustrated by the ethical breaches and the problems that have not been addressed by the City Council. He is a businessman who started two companies. We need to have a watchdog on City Council. He was the first to shed a light on the city's finances. He exposed many financial issues that were denied by other politicians. He pledges to clean up city hall, but he needs our support. He will concentrate on three things: Finances, Services, and Politics. He will balance the budget by having the city live within its means and by reforming the pension system. Public safety and neighborhood services are not what they should be. Benchmarking, measuring, and setting goals and using best practices through fundamental campaign finance reform and ethics reform. The Ethics Commission has not addressed any issues. He plans on cleaning up City Hall through four years of recovery.
- Bob Ilko <http://www.bobilkoforcycouncil.com/> – He is running because he has worked with the city council for 16 years through his volunteerism. He understands all different facets including shopping cart issues, transportation, parks, police, fire, engineering, etc. He has been involved with permits, zoning, and traffic through the zoning board as well as fire prevention and neighborhood watches. He has the experience of a general engineering contractor and is an attorney in the state of California and in the Federal District Court. He organized the Cedar Fire Recovery. Quality of Life is important and check and balances are

necessary. Benchmarks are not necessary as each constituent knows how long it takes the police to come out or how bad a pothole was. He has lived in Scripps since 1991.

Questions:

Q. What are your top three issues to resolve; what will you promise to do for Mira Mesa?

A. Bob – The top three things are checks and balances. The city council must work with the mayor and the city attorney to resolve how the city treats its employees and the condition of the roads and sewers. As far as Mira Mesa, he was a police officer and understands both sides of the badge.

A. Carl – The top three things are a balanced budget, infrastructure issues, and campaign finance reform. Nothing can be resolved until the budget is balanced. Fees need to go to the right purposes. Ethics and campaign finance rules must be fixed.

Q. Will more fire stations be added in District 5 and what will you do to get CalFire to get its act together?

A. Carl – The city needs more fire stations, but a comprehensive plan is needed to figure out where the money will come from to get more equipment. We need more agreements with the military to get help during natural disasters and work with CERT better. More staffing is needed in the fire department.

A. Bob – The city needs 22 more fire stations. A Community Plan was started; the budget will come out of the FBA Funds. Rancho Bernardo needs the fire station to be refurbished. The fire department must respond when called. The CERT program has special needs. He has been involved in Brush Management; in 2004, he helped with the Brush Code upgrades.

Q. Would you be in favor of an ordinance dealing with shopping carts?

A. Bob – He would be in favor of an ordinance, but there are other ways to pressure the property owners and the companies. Stack the carts or recycle them and use the money to help the community. The ordinance needs to be effective.

A. Carl – He would be in favor, but it must be enforced through the community. He will confront the store owners as they are not being good neighbors; he will speak to the store managers. We also need to look at other quality of life issues. Costs are high due to fees. He will clear the bureaucracy to get these projects going. He worked with Station 33.

Q. What are your plans to reduce traffic in Mira Mesa and Hillary Drive?

A. Carl – There is no easy solution. CalTrans wants to have a connection there, but it's not sustainable. He will be challenging the street division to come up with a comprehensive plan. He will work on targeting the limited dollars and will work with the developers. Development should pay its fair share of its impact.

A. Bob – Traffic issues are not unusual. Acceleration lanes were added to streets. He has worked with CalTrans in the past. Knowing the history of the community is important for the council members.

Q. Describe the amount of time you lived in District 5 and your understanding of the district.

A. Carl – If longevity is a measure of success, then our current council members should be successful. If experience is a measure of success, this is what he has. He was orphaned at 13 and came back to San Diego to build his companies and his home. He visited his 11,000 houses since June 5th. He is walking the community and every neighborhood. He is asking what his top priorities should be – people are fed up with City Hall.

A. Bob – He grew up in San Diego. He went to SD State and moved to Scripps in 1991. Every community is unique. The 5th district is his home. He has worked with Mira Mesa, Carmel Mountain, and Rancho Bernardo in addition to Scripps Ranch for years. He believes doing what is needed because it's the right thing to do and not to get awards and recognition. He went to Rancho Bernardo's community meetings for 7-8 months. If longevity is not a measure of success, then anyone who has lived in this community should be offended.

Q. Do you agree not to pollute the community with illegal political signs?

A. Bob – He would not do that.

A. Carl – He has been endorsed by 1000 in the community; signs are only placed in yard of people agreeing to it. More people should be involved in the institution. He wants to create a youth council. He wants people to participate in their local government.

Q. What do you believe is the worst threat to Mira Mesa and how can it be avoided?

A. Carl – Financial problems are the worst threat. He is running because he is fed up with the lack of progress. Four more years of no action on budget, infrastructure, or pension fund is not acceptable.

A. Bob – Traffic, parks, quality of housing, and impact of new developments in areas not capable of handling them are the worst threats. It is important to balance what the community can sustain and support and what the community wants. Open Spaces, fire brush management are causes of worry for anyone living near a canyon. He belongs to both Fire Safety Councils and CERT. These threats don't necessarily require money from the City, but to resolve them will take knowledge and experience.

Q. How will you handle the oversize vehicles, trailers, and parking control issues?

A. Bob – This issue is all over district 5. There is not enough traffic enforcement to go out every 72 hours. Ordinances already exist. A possible solution will be to work with vehicle owners and have them park in a central location; this will pay for the cost of the security by offsetting the cost of towing and parking violations.

A. Carl – This is the common issue that plagues District 5 – RVs and For Sale vehicles are parked everywhere. Another ordinance will not resolve this issue; it is necessary to provide a credible alternative. An ordinance must be comprehensive – for example, establishing a 24 hour limit for parking on the street per week. Vehicle should be in a garage or in an alternative parking area that can be monitored.

Q. How will you help restore confidence in our City Council?

A. Carl – By practicing what he preaches. He is focus on service first. He will finish walking District 5 no matter how many people run for the position. He is speaking with the people and with the politicians and current council members. The new city council

can continue fighting and denying the problems, or they can get to work on the first day. Lead by example. If he can't get the support of the City Council, he will do ballot initiatives to let the public decide what should happen at City Hall.

A. Bob – By establishing Checks and Balances. The budget should be accurate and ready in a timely manner. Credibility is very important. The City Council must work with the Mayor and the City Attorney and address what is wrong instead of constantly arguing. They must develop working relationships. They could learn something by listening to the opposing side. It will be necessary to pay down the pension debt and to work with the county to get more tax dollars back to the city.

Q. Name three traits that you would like to change about yourself.

A. Bob – he wishes he were taller and more articulate. He was very sick as a child and despite this, managed to accomplish a lot in his life, but is not a very good public speaker. He might not be doing a great job getting to City Council, but he will do a great job once there. He also tends to volunteer a lot, perhaps too much.

A. Carl – He agrees that he also might be volunteering too much and taking on too much. He might be naïve because he has no concern for political consequences, but the result of this will be seen in 4 years.

Q. Would you be willing to attend each of the community meetings at least once? If so, how often?

A. Carl – Yes. He wants to be present and wishes he could be at all meetings. He is committing to attend as many things as possible. He wants the people to give him their top three priorities at the beginning of each year and they will hear from him with updates as much as necessary. Khoa did a great job; he is a member of the community council. He will partner with everyone on projects; he might not be at the meeting, but he will be involved.

A. Bob – He would love to be at all the meetings because this is about the voters, not the politics. He will make sure he is available to all his representatives. He would like to have his representatives more involved and to expand their knowledge and experience. He would make it out once a quarter and would focus more on where the work is needed.

Concluding statements

- Bob – He is running for city council because it's personal for him. He was chairing a committee. He started doing the small things, and then moved on to bigger things. He wants to be a city council member because he wants to be an elected representative, not a politician. He and his wife have a family and are teaching them the same principles. He firmly believes in action; talking about it is one thing, doing it is different. Details must be communicated to people. Each community is unique and different and understanding how they operate is very important. He will get things done.
- Carl – He is also running because it's personal. He is fed up. It's about honesty. He has been exposing what the politicians are doing to the city. He will be the watch dog on the city council stopping every single problem. He will clean up City Hall by balancing the budget and paying down our debt. He will clean up services with measurable report cards. He will clean up politics by getting the

money and ethics back on track. This is what he will do over 4 years. Solid relationships will help us overcome issues in the community.