

AGENDA May 2008 MMTC

Call to Order: Boy Scout Troop 1203 Presents Colors 7:00 PM
Welcome and Introduction of Board Members

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Minutes Approved 7:05 PM

Board Reports

President's Report:

- Candidates Forum for School Board: Questions to be written on cards and Jeff Stevens will read them aloud.
- Volunteer of the Year Dinner honoring Mike Davis was last Saturday; eighty people joined us to celebrate Mike Davis and support the Verne Goodwin Scholarship Program.
- Chalk the Walk to be put on by the Women's Club at the Rec Center on May 10.
- Philippine Fair is June 7th.
- Bruce Brown would like to have a Paypal link to the MMTC website so people can donate funds for painting out graffiti on Mira Mesa Blvd. Motion passed.
- The Recreation Council will make a presentation at the June meeting.
- There is no meeting in July.
- The Fire Department will make a presentation at the August meeting.
- Street Fair preparation has started. Robin Stutsman and Mike Davis are co-chairs. The next meeting is May 22nd at the Senior Center. The S.F. Committee needs more volunteers.
- Student applications for the Verne Goodwin-MMTC scholarships must be received by May 27th.

Treasurer's Report:

- \$3,600 income. \$3,278 expenses. Net Profit \$369. A copy of the report is on the website.
- The audit has been completed.

Other Report:

- Photos of the Volunteer of the Year Dinner are available. Contact Ted Brengel at Ted@TedBrengel.com.

Police Department (LT. Rick O'Hanlon/ Officer Paul Lennon)

- Lt. Rick O'Hanlon, Service Lieutenant: Was transferred March 8th from the Eastern Division.
- Residential burglaries spiked in the past two weeks. The average is usually 5 in two weeks; there were 17 over the past two weeks, 14 during the day. If your garage opener is in your car, lock it in the glove box and lock the door from the garage to the house.
- Curfew is being enforced; 11 kids were arrested.
- Car problems (usually a major issue in Mira Mesa, averaging 30 in a two-week period) are down; there were only 8 over the past two weeks.

- Auto thefts were also down by a third.
- Paul Lennon will be back in a couple of weeks; he is recovering from surgery.
- Question: Do foreclosed houses bring vandalism and crime? Answer: A brand new RSVP Academy started today; we need more eyes out there. It takes eight months from the time the officers start the academy for them to be out in the streets. Report anything suspicious.
- Question: Have there been many burglaries while people were at home? Answer: It has been happening later at night due to sliding windows being left open at night. There were five in quick succession and then it tampered off.
- Question: RSVP has cameras with all stolen car information that traces plates against the database; has it been working well? Answer: Yes, very well.
- Any other question can be emailed to Jeff who will forward them to Lt. O'Hanlon.

SD Fire Department (Capt. Myers)

- **George Cornel, Brad Desalle, Shawn Feather** are also present. Fire Department Message: Being ready for the wildfires.
- Suggestions include:
 - Make a defensible space around the house to fight the fire, where the firemen can pull up to protect the home – remove tree branches, clean out 10 feet around the chimney, no matter whose tree it is, clear combustibles, and dump clippings properly.
 - Report any dangers to the fire department, clean out dry debris on the roof, have a emergency (i.e., earthquake or fire) escape plan, and communicate it to the entire family. Make sure the emergency contact everyone calls is out of state or at least out of the city.
 - Make sure the address is clearly written on the house or on the curb; remove trees that hide the address numbers.
 - The 211 system, the non-emergency information line, is up and running; go to <http://www.211sandiego.org/>.
 - We had a fire in Mira Mesa recently. The attic burned, but they were able to save three quarters of the home. The fire was due to an electrical short in the air conditioner. If you smell an electrical fire or see any smoke, immediately call the fire department.
 - Question: Were you involved in fighting the Penasquitos Fire? No. Ten units were there after the fact to make sure it did not rekindle.
 - Question: What is the non-emergency phone number? Answer: 211, but if you see smoke or smell anything, call 911.
 - Question: Have the banks that own the foreclosed homes been notified of these problems? Answer: They will be. If the grass is growing, they have to cut it down to six inches or less. If there is wood against the house, but it's not leaning toward your home, the owners cannot be forced to remove the wood.

City Councilman Brian Maienschein (Khoa Nguyen)

- If you have any concerns about what might or might not be a code violation, call Khoa at 619-236-6655.

- The school district has given the Parks & Rec. Department the plan for the Jonas Salk Elementary school. The **MOU** should be finalized in a few weeks.
- The Angels Depot provides free meals to seniors. Fifty thousand elderly people live under the poverty level. Brian has teamed up with the Verne Goodwin-Mira Mesa Senior Center to communicate that seniors who make less than \$900 can apply to receive 21 meals a month. Call Khoa or the Senior Center for more information. The program will be launched May 15th. Visit <http://www.theangelsdepot.org/> for more information.
- Question: Can we spread the word about the program? Answer: Absolutely.
- Question: Are you aware of the issue with burned homes where owners are waiting six weeks for permits? Answer: If the permits are not issued within 8 days, the individual should call Khoa immediately.
- Thanks to the MMTC for inviting us to the Volunteer of the Year Dinner.

County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (Erica Holloway)

- We had a great time at the Volunteer of the Year Dinner. Thank you.
- Elections: Voter registration cards are in the back. Call her with any problems with registration. Review your registration to make sure it's correct.
- The Regional Fire Committee headed by Mayor Sanders will publish many recommendations in June; some might be on the ballot. Three giant water-drop airplanes might be purchased from Canada.
- Emergency Preparedness Kits are available with new emergency information.

US Representative Brian Bilbray (Andrew Lund)

- Thank you for the invitation to the Volunteer of the Year Dinner. Mira Mesa is the only community that honors its volunteers.
- The fire supplies will not move to LA or Las Vegas. They petitioned the Director of Human Services in D.C. The supplies will remain at the Miramar Air Station.
- Brian is supporting the Post 911 Veterans Benefits Bill.
- Brush clearing funds are part of the proposed budget.
- Question: MCAS Miramar is going to have space for a cemetery; are they running into problems due to the fairy shrimp and can you help with this? Answer: Record of decision has been signed; construction can go ahead. The land-lease agreement needs to be signed, but the environmental issues have been resolved.

OPEN FORUM

7:45 PM

1) Roxayne Spruance/**Janet**

- Vote YES on propositions A, B, & C on the June 3rd ballot; visit <http://abcreform.com/> for more information.

2) **Garet O'Connell and Leo Haze.**

- Beautification of Mira Mesa. The Urban Art Train is a group that paints electrical boxes. They will need permission to paint the electrical boxes and are working on this. The link will be added to the website.
- Leo has started an art club at Miramar College – the Miramar Art Club. They would like to be more involved in the artistic community and will be filling out five slots at the Chalk the Walk event.

1) School Board Candidate Forum with John Lee Evans and Mitz Lee

- John Lee Evans - <http://www.evansforschoolboard.com/>
He decided to run because he believes San Diego is ready for change. A level playing field for every child can be put in place. California is #46 in the nation. He is a product of public schools. He has a Masters and a PhD. He has been a teacher. Over 30% of high school students drop out of high school. The public school system can be greatly improved. He has been involved in the system as a parent for years. Teachers make a difference. One main difference is the role of the school board regarding funding; Mitz was reluctant to support propositions supporting funding reform, but voted to lay off many recently.
- Mitz Lee - <http://www.mitzlee.com/>
She was elected in 2004 to return civility on the board. The one-size-fits-all curriculums will not work. Accountability must be maintained. Leadership must be changed through having an educator as a superintendent. She will not be intimidated by big money partisans. The budget crisis is a reality we must face. She has a duty to make sure we are not going to go bankrupt. We will lobby for new revenues, but expenses must be controlled.
- Question: If you are the decision maker, will you lay off as many teachers as was proposed or what are the alternatives?
 - John: A united community will resolve this issue; it is the school board's responsibility to ask for more funding. Other large districts did not have to cut as many teachers as San Diego because they used other methods to cut costs; the last ones standing should be the teachers.
 - Mitz: She made the layoff decisions. They had to find 25 million dollars. Resolutions have to be passed, but the current one is not strong enough even though she supported it. She did not support Proposition 76.
- Question: If there are layoffs, what will that do to class sizes?
 - Mitz: They cannot find the 25 million dollars without cutting custodians, police, and music. She will try to retain smaller class sizes.
 - John: The class sizes will go up since we will have fewer teachers. Jackson will lose 24 out of its 26 teachers. We need a more activist board. We elected a governor on the promise he will cut new taxes and new services; the car tax was lowered and then money had to be borrowed to cover the shortfall.
- Question: What is your position on the "No Child Left Behind" initiative?
 - John: It's a very noble idea, but it's not doing what it was supposed to do. We are tracking children and punishing the schools for not performing. Between now and 2014, all the schools will be shown to be failures, which could lead to privatization of schools. Am opposed to privatizing schools. You do not base conclusions on any one test; this is not the only measure. We can't just produce robotic learners to pass standardized tests. This needs to be greatly reformed or eliminated.
 - Mitz: She supports this. It should not take the federal government to tell us to not leave a child behind; all children should be educated. Every parent

expects that, every year, when the child moves to the next level, he/she is ready for the next level. This is not punishing the schools, it's making them accountable and focuses on the schools that need help despite limited resources.

- Question: How will you assure our children will get an education in the Basic Three Rs within our budget limitations?
 - Mitz: 11% of our high school students can't do math, and 38% can't read. Starting in kindergarten, children should be able to count to 10 and know the letters of the alphabet.
 - John: the Three Rs are very important. Diplomas are given to not-fully literate children. It's the responsibility of the teachers, the parents, and the community. Kids develop at different rates, and not all children could learn to count to 10 or learn the alphabet by kindergarten. We need a full curriculum that uses both the right and left sides of the brain to get higher basic scores.
- Question: How are you planning to bring more equality between North of 8 and South of 8 schools?
 - John: People in all areas are dissatisfied. Everyone is being cheated. The responsibility is to all of the districts, not the children of just one area. We should not bring everyone to the same level of mediocrity. We need to raise up both sides and work together as it affects all of us.
 - Mitz: She is very supporting of the Standard Base where all children learn the same standard of learning. It's the basis of the accountability system. Every spring, kids are being tested across the board. Regarding funding, Mira Mesa High School has the lowest funding in the whole district. Other schools receive Title 1 money. All schools should have the same level of basic needs met.
- Question: Are you in support of the amphitheater on the Mira Mesa High School grounds?
 - Mitz: Yes.
 - John: He is not fully informed about the issue. It's a private entity that is coming in to provide a movie screen outside to be used in the evenings. There are lots of points where joined-use is effective. Public-private partnerships can make a positive impact on a community.
- Question: Would you support raising taxes to support schools and Prop 13?
 - John: We need to adequately fund our public schools, but we must stop the bleeding by either shifting revenues or through other means. Prop 13 needs to be reviewed and reformed. A parcel tax would be a local tax to support schools, but parcel taxes are the same across the board, no matter when the home is sold; this should be done in a fairer way.
 - Mitz: She supports a balance of revenue and spending cuts. The fight in Sacramento is to either raise taxes or to free up funds and control spending. We need to take care of our own problems through the General Education Bond and a parcel tax.
- Question: If you are elected, what will the school district be like in four years?

- Mitz: We have a new superintendent and goals to meet. The 40% dropout rate will be lowered. We will have a clear and measurable budget. We will have a very clear policy against social promotions; students will move to the next grade only if they are ready to.
- John: We do need to cut the dropout rate, but must make sure the kids are prepared. The centrality of the teachers within the system is important, as a large percentage of new teachers will be coming in. We should be identifying the new teachers early on, even in high school, and begin mentoring them as soon as possible. Our goal is to have the very best teachers. We need to move away from old ideas and be more connected and wired.
- John Lee Evans: He believes that the most important vote you will cast on this ballot will be for the school board. This school board is overseeing a very large budget and over 135,000 students. Uneducated children will lead to more taxes for prison and social problems. Innovation will fuel this economy; routine tasks can be outsourced. Learning facts and figures will not prepare these children for the world. A child graduating high school now entered kindergarten in 1994. The world of 1994 was very different from today's world. We must work together.
- Mitz Lee: San Diego likes conflict; it's good for democracy. These disagreements produce better results. We are here for the children. Everyone must be sitting at the table. Children come from different circumstances; we demand they all have a comprehensive education. We are subjected to contra-negotiation. There are many limitations with limited funding. We all need to work together. She is staying in the race due to these problems; resolving these issues will require experience and knowledge, which she has.

COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

8:45 PM

- Banner District Committee (Steve Sluyter) - \$250 per banner and \$50 for maintenance cost. Sponsors can be found for different committees who would pay more. 5% of the banner can have the sponsors' logo (per City Council). We have 60 banners. We could rotate out sponsors. Steve needs volunteers for the committee.
- Community Pride (Jim Brown) – During the March meeting, the two City Council candidates promised they would not put illegal signs up; they broke their promises.
- Scholarship committee (Robin Stutsman) – Please move community reports to the beginning of the meeting because many people leave early. John Daley: Perhaps we could have a summary of the important parts. Jeff Stevens: The meeting cannot be longer than two hours. Albertine Feurer-Young: Perhaps we can leave a printout of what committees need volunteers on all the chairs at the beginning of the meeting.
- Recreation Council (Joe Frichtel/Bruce Brown) – The Soccer Tournament is on Memorial Day.
- Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee (Pam Stevens)
- 4th of July Committee (Maria Pankau) – We might have the booth sponsored by businesses. They can advertise their businesses on the booth. We need names of

businesses that would be interested. Please see Maria. Robin S.: The parade application has been mailed out and is up on the Town Council website. The Committee meets Wednesday May 14th at 6:30 PM at the Mira Mesa Senior Center. They need volunteers.

- Mira Mesa Library (Pam Stevens) – Laura Preble, author of *The Queen Geek Social Club*, *Queen Geeks in Love*, will be at the library on May 14th at 6:30 PM visiting and signing books.
- Chalk the Walk – Diana. Please put up posters. Judy wants them on every light pole in town and wants to know what could be done instead. Jim asked them to please take them down after the event. High School Juniors for the Leadership Conferences need volunteer hours; they are stuffing pink pillows for the breast cancer movement. Contact her if you want a pillow.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.