

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2006 MMTC MEETING

I. OPENING

- A. Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Arlette Ballew.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Welcome and introduction of board.

II. BOARD REPORTS

- A. Motion made and carried (Jeff Stevens/Pam Stevens) to approve the minutes of the February 6 meeting. It was agreed that extra copies of the previous month's minutes would be available at each meeting.

III. OFFICIALS REPORTS

- A. Police Department (Annie Anderson): Annie discussed several items from last month's meeting that were brought to her attention.
 1. The SWAT incident on Polaris: The property is temporarily boarded up but the residents are still living there. They are working with the insurance company to get the residence back in shape. Be sure to call 911 if you see any suspected violence or problems with that house.
 2. Sandburg Elementary lockdown: A warrant was served on a "chop shop" around the corner so a lockdown was requested. No shots were fired.
 3. Westcoast General building at the end of Camino Ruiz. There has been some night vandalism (paintballs).
 4. Perceived increase in gang activity has not been documented.
 5. Car racing on Flanders near Westonhill: Call when you see that happening but due to the shortage of officers, response may not be immediate.
 6. RSVP: The NE area has received hand held radar guns to take speed surveys. If a noticeable problem shows, they will saturate the area with police. Residents can call the storefront to request speed traps in particular areas of concern. The hours the RSVP typically does its patrols are 7:00 AM until around 2:00 PM so they can be available for the start of school. The RSVP is set up to do vacation house checks. Call to request that service.
- B. City Councilman Brian Maienschein (Khoa Nguyen):
 1. The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is doing its comprehensive operational analysis (COA) to try to trim the fat and make the system more efficient. They are having a final hearing on Wednesday, March 8th and will take the final vote on Thursday, March 9th at Golden Hall. If you have concerns, please call the MTS or Brian's office or go down to make public comment at their meeting. One of the biggest route eliminations that affects Mira Mesa is Route 210. Call 619-595-3711 or go to www.SDCOMMUTE.com. Also, MTS is partnering with the

Coca-Cola Company to give away 28 computers to high school seniors who submit an essay by April 14, 2006. Applications were available from Khoa.

2. San Diego County Labor Council: Brian's office is working with them to help seniors in need. Call if assistance is needed.
 3. Park Projects: The Mira Mesa Camino Ruiz site is 80% completed and set to open in July. The Carroll School site across from the Mira Mesa Community Park is 60% designed with construction set to begin some time next year.
 4. Punch and Cookies Event scheduled for Wednesday, March 29th from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM at the Senior Center for Councilman Maienschein to answer questions on whatever you want to discuss.
 5. Budget: On Friday, April 14th, Mayor Sanders will unveil the new budget. There will be a hearing on Wednesday, April 19th with the budget committee. May 3rd and 4th is when specific departments will be discussed.
 6. Jeff Stevens raised a question about the study on the new airport location and how the city council voted on this. Brian is opposed to joint use or a move to Miramar.
 7. Joe Frichtel urged Mira Mesa residents to write or e-mail the mayor and encourage him to not move money from libraries, rec centers, etc.. but to restore their hours.
- C. County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (Jim Gonsalves): Jim was the rep back in 1993 for 1 1/2 years and is now back again since Joe Sheffo has left the office.
1. Jim passed out January and February District 3 Slates that had information on past accomplishments for 2005, new posts for 2006 and the serious issue of childhood obesity.
 2. A question was asked about the Supervisor's rationale to sue the state to overturn the medical marijuana law. Jim stated that her thought was that since the Federal government was going to prosecute some of these cases that clarity was needed on federal and state guidelines and that many other communities and national and medical groups support the suit. The money being spent on this is only on staff time.
- D. County Supervisor Ron Roberts (David Peavey): Robert's office is restructuring, so this is David's last meeting as the Mira Mesa community rep. Rebecca Leister will be the new community rep.
1. Supervisor Roberts also supports efforts to reduce childhood obesity and has brought in PE specialists to discuss what can be done about this problem.
 2. Roberts and the Air Pollution Control District are sponsoring a lawnmower trade-in event on Saturday, May 6th. You can take in your working gas-powered mower plus \$150 to receive a new rechargeable lawnmower. This event will be held in the parking

lot of the County Administration Center. The new Black and Decker CMM1000 battery-rechargeable mower is valued at \$449.00.

3. Since Roberts is on the MTS board, a question was raised on his position of the suggested changes by the COA and the math that was applied to analyze the routes. David suggested that those concerned attend the March 9 hearing. Stephanie is the new MTS rep in Roberts office.
- E. State Assemblyman George Plescia (Aaron Pottichen): Newsletters from Plescia's office were available in the back. The bond plan is to adopt a certain percentage of the yearly budget for updating our infrastructure.
- F. State Senator Christine Kehoe (Andrew Kennerly): Andrew is new to this office. Copies of "Kehoe's Corner" newsletter were available. Andrew discussed some of the bills Senator Kehoe has introduced.
1. SB-585 is designed to provide a protective order in domestic violence cases when a restraining order is served so that firearms can be removed immediately. This received unanimous approval in the Senate.
 2. SB-1206 was introduced to tighten the laws and regulations regarding eminent domain. This bill will bring more clear definition to what constitutes an area to be classified as "blighted" and thus seized under the new Supreme Court ruling. The classification of "blight" is supposed to be for health and safety reasons rather than for municipalities to declare an area blighted for increased revenue purposes. This is still a work in progress.
- G. RSVP : Les Brandon is the new rep.

IV. OPEN FORUM

- A. Ann Delouri addressed the membership about the MTS plans to change Mira Mesa bus routes. She brought a letter to the TC as well as copies of maps with the current and proposed new routes obtained from the MTS website. Ann attended the November 11th community forum but felt that they weren't open to listening to public comments and are insensitive to the needs of those who will be affected. While she was hoping they would increase DART service, they are instead planning on cutting back on this service. Also, no attempt has been made into serving riders who live off of Calle Cristobol and Sorrento Valley Blvd. Ann urged the MMTC board to look closely into the MTS proposal and write to them with our concerns. She is willing to partner with anyone who would like to work on this.
- B. Glen Clarkson also spoke about the proposed MTS plan to drop Route 210 which is a commuter route from Mira Mesa down HWY 15 into downtown. In dispute is the number of passengers served by this route. COA puts the figure at approximately 150 people served daily. Glen's two week count put that figure at over 200, which would mean about 60

more cars on the heavily traveled roads and freeway if Route 210 is dropped. There are about 30 riders on a bus that seats 37, yet COA claims it is losing money on this route. He urged residents to contact Brian Maienschein's office, the Union-Tribune, MTS and COA members. Also, if you commute to downtown, please consider riding the bus. No timetable has been given for replacing the route. For additional information, log on to his blog: 210route.blogspot.com.

- C. Ricky Logier expressed concern about the proposed substitute routes for 921. The new route would require a transfer at UTC 150 to downtown and sometimes waiting for your transfer bus can be unpredictable. Private companies seem to be able to make money on this route yet MTS claims to be losing money on it. Dan Stephens said that the new trip would take about 70 minutes versus 30 minutes for the old trip.
- D. The MMTC will send a letter requesting that Route 210 be kept open. Arlette asked the speakers to e-mail their information for the council to collect in order to draft the letter. Khoa suggested Arlette give him the letter to make sure that it goes to the proper channels and doesn't get waylaid.
- E. Fiona Theseira from the American Cancer Society (cell # 858-344-2213) told us about the Mira Mesa/Rancho Penasquitos Relay for Life which will be held on May 21 and May 22 at Hilltop Park. There is a kickoff meeting scheduled for Tues., March 7 at 6:00 PM to find out more about this 24 hour event. One out of two men and one out of three women will receive a cancer diagnosis during their lifetime. This event will raise money for research and development of cures.
- F. Stephanie Shigematsu is a resident who lives off Black Mountain Rd and is concerned about the number of abandoned shopping carts. She has counted dozens of carts left for many weeks that create a hazard, an eyesore and collect trash. There is a telephone number in the newsletter for people to call for a service to go out and collect the carts and return them to the stores. The RSVP did a two-month survey and provided the information to the stores who seemed uninterested in the problem. Individuals can sue for up to \$5,000 for property value damage. Tim Allen will send additional information to Jeff to link on the website. Additional discussion was tabled for the next meeting to bring up to the Community Pride Committee.

V. MAIN PROGRAM

- A. Brian Bilbray - Candidate for the 50th Congressional District: Brian has been in the political arena for over 25 years. He served on the Imperial Beach City Council and was elected mayor of Imperial Beach over the issue of eminent domain. He has also served on the California Coastal Commission and has served 10 years as county supervisor, twice as chairman. He was elected to Congress in 1995 and represented the North City area. With the downfall of Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham, Brian received many calls and letters requesting him to run

for Cunningham's spot. Because of his previous service, Brian can go back into Congress retaining his seniority. There were things he started that haven't yet been taken care of or completed when he left office, such as immigration control. Brian has received endorsements from the U.S. Border Patrol, Sheriff Kolender, Bonnie Dumanis, the Police Officers Association and the Deputy Sheriffs Association and the California Republican League. He distinguishes himself from other candidates by noting his past successes, the seniority that is needed to enact changes, and his level of integrity – he won't promise what he can't deliver.

- B. Bill Boyer – Candidate for the 50th Congressional District: Mr. Boyer comes from the private sector, having worked in sales management and consulting. He feels that we have lost the representative part of our representatives and that the majority of Americans believe that congress lacks integrity. In the House of Representatives, there are 66 registered lobbyists for every representative. Bill wants the House of Representatives to be the peoples house. He cited the 45 million people who are without access to healthcare. An ABC poll indicated that 80% of Americans want our borders protected. Mr. Boyer is not accepting campaign contributions. He is using the internet and word of mouth to get his message out.
- C. San Diego Healing Field (Dr. Sarah Young): The Healing Field is a flag memorial commemorating and honoring the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001. Communities throughout the country are participating in the Healing Field memorials to raise money and awareness for a variety of causes. So far, there have been close to 100 healing fields across America. In San Diego, the NTC Promenade has offered the land to do this and the USS Midway museum is also on board. This will celebrate all veterans, police and firefighters. In the San Diego school district, students will be designing t-shirts. The expected date would be in late summer. Any group can be affiliated with this to raise money. They need volunteers, money, and ideas.
- D. Surfrider Foundation (Bill Hickman): The Surfrider Foundation is an international non-profit organization of environmental activism dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's oceans and beaches through CARE: Conservation, Activism, Research, Education. Bill is the San Diego chapter coordinator. There are more than 50,000 members, with the San Diego chapter of over 4,000 members the largest. A major campaign right now is called "Hold On To Your Butt" to help crack down on smokers who toss their cigarette butts out of their car windows. Call 1-800-NOSMOKE with the license plate number of violators. They also sponsor Kids For Clean Water programs that are environmental lessons for students in elementary school through college. Every Sunday, volunteers test water samples around the county. There are beach clean-ups twice a month. Mission Bay is noted as one of the nation's most polluted areas. The Surfrider Foundation filed a lawsuit against the city for violating the clean water ordinances resulting in a decreased number of spills. There

has been a recent proposal to ban smoking at all public beaches. Bill requested the MMTC send a letter of support endorsing the ban. A motion was made and carried (Tim/Chuck) to send the letter on the basis of Surfrider's information.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Budget – Copies of the proposed budget were available on the back table. The proposed changes include: increasing business membership fees from \$35 to \$50; reducing the MM Store Front RSVP donation amount from \$500 to \$300 since the Store Front has not been using any of the money but giving it directly to the RSVP; a new line item for Miramar College scholarships of \$500 to be added and then decreasing by \$500 the “other community events”. The motion was made and seconded (Chuck Sweet/Jim Hearn) to approve the budget as proposed. This passed unanimously.
- B. A motion was made by Sandy Smith and seconded by Fiona to change the meeting time from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This will be discussed further and voted on at the next meeting.
- C. Pat Brown made a motion to add two additional members at large. The bylaws would need to be amended. The motion was seconded by Sandy. This will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting. Both Sandy and Pat will send their motions to Jeff and Steve to be included in the newsletter and website.

VII. COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

- A. Casino Night is Saturday, March 18. Tim Allen had tickets for sale. Of the \$15.00, \$5.00 will go to the MMTC.
- B. A question was raised about arrangements for disabled parking for the 4th of July. That will be discussed at the next meeting scheduled for 6:30 PM on March 15th at the Senior Center.
- C. Mira Mesa Theater Guild (Tim Allen): Tim introduced the members of the Guild. This is a 20 year old organization. It had been quite active up until 2001 when it lost its lease and has been looking for a new home. The Mira Mesa Monster Manor will join with the Theater Guild in lieu of supporting the 4th of July Committee. Tim mentioned that anyone interested in utilizing the Haunted House for fundraising contact: frightful@sbcglobal.net.
- D. Because of the length of the March meeting, other group reports were postponed until next month's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17PM

Respectfully submitted by Beth Davis