

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7 MEETING

I. Opening

- A. Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Brad Buffett, president.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Introduction of board members.

II. Board Reports

- A. Chuck Sweet (Treasurer): MMTC Checking: \$2659.58; Savings: \$2609.22; CD: \$11,142.03; Street Fair: not closed out yet (no report from treasurer of Street Fair Committee).
- B. Mike Davis (1st V.P., Programs):
 1. At the neighborhood cleanup on November 2 at Reagan Road and Camino Ruiz, 13 tons of waste and 2 tons of recyclables were collected. Will try to schedule a hazardous-waste collection event in December.
 2. The December meeting will include the Mira Mesa High School Madrigals (singers) and cookies.
- C. Arlette Ballew (Secretary): Requested approval of minutes of October 3 meeting. Motion to approve (Stevens/Brown) carried unanimously.

III. Reports from Government Representatives

- A. State Senator Christine Kehoe (in person)
 1. Complemented the MMTC on its website.
 2. Legislative Update: The State Senate's legislative sessions are held from Monday to Thursday, January through September, so there is a break now for committee meetings. This is her first year in the Senate after 4 years in the Assembly. Her district extends from Del Mar to downtown and east to La Mesa and Lemon Grove. After fires, spent a lot of time on fire legislation. Homeowners now have 2 years to spend alternate living expenses, rather than 1 year. Continuing response to fire issues, including safety clearances, building codes, and wildland-urban interface. Soliciting public testimony. More info. on website: www.kehoe@sen.ca.gov. Current legislative session not the most productive, because the special election focused all attention on it. Should be doing more on education, public safety, and homeland security. She's chairing joint legislative task force on homeland security. The Governor signed 16/17 of her bills.
 3. Questions and answers:
 - a) Q: Is the state going to fund CERT? A: No answer on funding. In the homeland security budget. Meetings coming up.
 - b) City and state have similar budget problems. What's your assessment? A: Met with nonpartisan legislative analyst last week. Bad news: budget gap and spending deficit growing. Need more roads, fire departments, hospitals, etc. But looks like revenues are higher. Long-term, need to see where we want to put resources: education and especially transportation. Funds for these have been used elsewhere in last few years.
 - c) Q: Any way to get law changed pertaining to vernal pools? A: No, but may be a way to work around it. [Explained community problem re. park

and Salk school site to her.] Is happy to work with Brian on it at the state level.

d) Q: Might need help with new gym at Miramar College with state architect. A: Happy to help with that.

e) Q: Need \$2 million for road for regional park. A: Very difficult to get money. Should apply to city for State Park bond money. Needs to be on city's list.

f) Q: Dam at Miramar Lake re. earthquake evacuation. Is it possible to open other roads, say from Calle Cristobal to 56? A: Developing statewide evacuation plan with all lanes opened going outbound. Problem is transportation budget.

4. See her aide who reports to MMTTC, Laura Hein, who will follow up.

B. City Councilman Brian Maienschein (Khoa Nguyen)

1. Handout distributed: Secret Service is looking for counterfeiters who bleach \$5 bills and reprint them as \$100 bills. High incidence in San Diego. If \$100 bill is held up to light, it should have watermark of Franklin's face, not Lincoln's. If you receive a counterfeit: 1) do not return it to the passer; 2) delay the passer if possible; 3) get passer's description as well as descrip. of any companions and license numbers of vehicles; 4) contact police dept. or U.S. Secret Service (619-557-5640); 5) write your initials and the date in white border area of suspect bill; 6) limit handling of bill—carefully place it in a protective covering (envelope, etc.); 7) surrender the note only to a properly identified police officer or Secret Service special agent.

2. Nov. 14 at City Hall, Freedom Shrine event with Business Exchange Club. Display of important documents (Bill of Rights, Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, etc.).

3. Thank you to all who attended opening of 11-acre Breen Park and to Recreation Council.

4. Tough budget times, but Brian met with director of street maintenance and got \$10 thousand to retime all lights on Mira Mesa Blvd. Taking traffic counts now. Modeling in Feb. Should be done by March to coincide with opening of Mira Sorrento Place. Last time this was done was 1998. [In responses to question:] Emergency services have priority at lights; they should reset automatically after.

5. Questions and answers:

a) Your reports never mention city budget, other problems. A: No current proposals to cut library or rec. center hours. Would report.

b) Q: Would like insight into what's being done. A: Brian voted against cutting library and rec. center hours (one of 2 who did so). City manager brings budget to council. Will let TC know when hearings are.

c) Q: Completion date for on-ramp from I 15 to Rt. 56? A: Should be Dec. '06; all the rest of work on I 15 by Dec. '07, except Lake Hodges work to be finished in '08.

d) Q: When are we getting trolley? A: Too expensive. The Mission Valley East trolley, La Mesa to Old Town, cost SANDAG \$500 million. So are using existing infrastructure to develop bus-rapid-transit managed lanes on I 15 to downtown. Will be a station at Miramar College.

e) Q: Would help to extend north and to border. A: There are plans to do up to Rt. 78 so far.

f) Q: Will there be a trolley on Rt. 56? A: Probably not.

C. County Supervisor Ron Roberts (Natalie Clark)

1. Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) community meetings to be held. November 17 in Mira Mesa, 6-8 p.m. Discussing trolley, bus services.
2. Changes in Medicare on January 1. Part D to offer insur. Coverage to help for prescription medicines. Can sign up starting Nov. 15. All on Medicare are eligible. Informational handout on back table. Call 1-800-633-4227 or go to www.medicare.gov or to www.accesstobenefits.org.
3. SDG&E light bulb exchange Nov. 9 at Clairemont Comm. Serv. Center.
4. Time to get flu shots. Information handout on back table. Priority groups eligible for shots at County Health facilities after Oct. 24. Mira Mesa office is at 10737 Camino Ruiz, Suite 135. Shots available on walk-in basis on Thursday, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$10.
5. Sea World sponsoring special admission Nov. 11 to Dec. 2 for local vets.
6. RR's Newsletter: Violent crime rate in county has dropped to lowest point in 10 years, according to SANDAG.
7. Natalie leaving position; to work for Supervisor Bill Horn, who will be chair of supervisors next year. Dec. will be her last TC meeting. Hiring replacement.

D. San Diego Police Storefront (Officer Steve Higuera)

1. Commendation from Brian Maienschein to Steve for work at MM Street Fair.
2. New captain for Northeastern Division: Jim Collins, a 33-year veteran, 3rd-generation police officer whose son is also in the dept. Worked homicide for last 12 years. Will be here in a month or two. Outgoing Captain Chris Ball went to Central Division.
3. There are more burglaries during the holidays (Nov., Dec., Jan.). Hide any packages left in your car and take special precautions.
4. Caught 5 car burglars in the area last week: 3 adults, 2 juveniles. Cleared up a lot of cases with these arrests. Car burglars usually work 2 or 3 together at a time.
5. \$250 donated to Storefront by MMTC is given to Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol, which depends solely on community donations for equipment and operating expenses. RSVP provides house checks while you are on vacation; checks on the elderly who live alone; sets up radar-controlled speed monitors on request; patrols neighborhoods and checks banks, shopping areas, and schools; and assists police with traffic, fingerprinting on auto break-ins, interviewing at crime scenes, and bringing equipment to scenes of accidents. Three local RSVP grads recently. Have 40-some now and need 60. Please volunteer if you 50 or over, have a valid driver's license, and can donate three days per month.
6. Abandoned vehicles can be ticketed and towed after 72 hours. Call Storefront at 858-538-8174.
7. Steve is retiring next month. Annie Anderson [introduced] is taking his place. Was volunteer coordinator for the district. Will have cards next month. Standing ovation for Steve.

IV. Main Program

A. MCAS Miramar (Melanie Dowd and Suzi Gold)

1. Invite all to come to base for a tour. Base has 19,000 active-duty service members, families, and civilians.. Base has brought \$1 billion in income to San Diego since Marines moved in.
2. 550 families. MC family services make life easier for service personnel and their families. Rotation of deployment requires different services. Have a bowling center, theater, gyms, events, etc. About 20 events during the year. Xmas carnival for families, 5K run, homecoming events. Community members can volunteer to help with these.
3. Air Show is biggest event of year. Helps to let public know what they do. 750 thousand guests in 3 days this year. Partnership with businesses—customized programs to give them access (via sponsorships) to people on base during air show, e.g., names on signs, passing out coupons. Various levels available. Melanie is sponsorship manager. Other opportunities throughout year. New program is business ambassador—passive approach.
4. Do a lot of other programs and events during the year. Have a Single Marine program. Part is volunteering in the community.
5. Questions and answers:
 - a) Comment: Please keep us updated on housing going in on Santo Road. Also, there will be a major push to make Miramar the new S.D. airport. Need you to work with us to stop it.
 - b) Q: Any info. on new cemetery planned on MAS, at 805 and Nobel Drive? A: No.
 - c) Q: As part of redeployment, people are looking for places to live. Has change from rentals to condos in community affected you? A: Always need affordable housing. Have less housing on base than most other bases. Please let MAS know when housing is available.

B. Francine Busby, Candidate for U.S. Congress: Running to replace Dick Cunningham. Qualifications: on school board and other business and nonprofit experience. Grass-roots campaign. Supported by people who are ready for change at federal levels. [Showed map of 50th district.] Very diverse communities; want elected officials to hear us and want to hear from them.

V. **New Business**

A. MMTC Board Nominations and Elections (John Daley, Parliamentarian)

1. Report of Nominating Committee.
 - a) Thanked Robin Stutsman and Pam Stevens for their help in finding people to volunteer for board.
 - b) Presented slate: President: Arlette Ballew; 1st Vice President (Programs): David Tam; 2nd Vice President (Membership): Sandy Smith; Treasurer: Brian Wissinger; Recording Secretary: Beth Davis; Parliamentarian: John Daley; Newsletter Editor: Steve Barrera; Member-at-Large: Pat Brown; Member-at-Large: Al Radick.
 - c) Committee also noted need to link with people in other community groups, e.g., Robin Stutsman brings us up to date on Stakeholders Committee. Using term “liaison” for now. Will put on agenda. Don’t need

change in bylaws. Recommendations for new ones: Marlon Austria for Filipino-American community; Chuck Sweet for Golden Friends, FASCA, and Senior Center; Mike Davis for MCAS Miramar, HEROES, and MMHS Foundation (also Pam Stevens for MMHS Foundation); and Brad Buffett for CERT.

2. Call for Questions

a) Robin Stutsman: Minority report from Nominating Committee. Agreed on slate. But she and Pam suggested board be expanded to add additional members-at-large because don't want to disenfranchise board members such as Chuck. "Liaison" means "contact," "association." Only drawback is not being invited to board meetings. Read aloud: "Minority members (Stutsman and Stevens) also suggested that the board be expanded to add two additional board members-at-large. Would require a 2/3 majority vote from the general membership as an amendment to the Bylaws." Said other committee members preferred to create liaison positions.

b) Barbara Peluso: Need to focus on elections, not on other issues.

c) Chuck Sweet: Knows Brian has better setup on computer to be treasurer, but feels he should have been asked. Offered to fill Brian in.

d) Jeff Stevens: For Pam [she is out of town], liaisons are positive thing; were supposed to be new without necessarily being board members. Hopeful that it will work out and be a good thing.

e) John Daley: Suggestions will evolve. Can't do changes right now; have to do election first.

f) Brad Buffett: Part of his process during year has been to include chairs of committees with e-mails, etc.

3. Election

a) John Daley restated slate and opened nominations from floor.

(1) President: 0

(2) 1st VP: 0

(3) 2nd VP: 0

(4) Secretary: 0

(5) Treasurer: 0

(6) Parliamentarian: 0

(7) Newsletter Editor: 0

(8) Member-at-large: Tom Derr nominated Chuck Sweet.

b) John read amended slate.

c) Ballot slips distributed to members of MMTC. President appointed ad hoc Tellers Committee to count ballots: John Daley, Sandy Smith, Ted Bregel.

d) Tom Derr said he is not familiar with other members nominated for member-at-large positions. Pat Brown introduced herself: Joined MMTC in Nov. 2004, wanted to help community, has lived 15 years in MM, deeply involved in Street Fair Committee, wants to help out. Al Radick introduced himself: Resident of MM since 1978, has been active in MM Recreation Council for 3 years. Chuck: Said, "You all know me."

- e) John read slate again, asked for any further nominations for other offices. Nominations closed.
- f) Bylaws say election held by voice if position is unopposed. Restated slate. "Aye" votes for all uncontested seats were unanimous. Elected slate: President Arlette Ballew, 1st VP (Programs) David Tam, 2nd VP (Membership) Sandy Smith, Secretary Beth Davis, Treasurer Brian Wissinger, Parliamentarian John Daley, Newsletter Editor Steve Barrera.
- g) Ballots for member-at-large positions: Members informed they can vote for 1 or 2 people. Ballots collected.
- h) [Skip in time while ballots are counted.] John Daley thanked tellers. Results are: Members-at-large are Pat Brown and Chuck Sweet.

B. Opening of San Diego National Bank Branch in Mira Mesa (Linda Goycochea, VP and Branch Manager): The bank has been open for 2 months at 9400 Mira Mesa Blvd., in Ralph's shopping center. Grand opening tomorrow night, from 5:30 to 7:30. Great prizes. All are invited. Bank spokesperson Jerry Coleman will be there.

VI. Old Business

- A. Update on Banner District Committee (Steve Barrera): Committee is forming, have some members but can use more. Call Steve. Pat Brown volunteered.
- B. MMTC Solicitation of Members' Issues (Arlette Ballew): Issues and responses read:
 1. Cleanliness—filthy off ramps. Debris everywhere in streets, curb area. A: CALTRANS is responsible for cleaning up off ramps. City is responsible for streets. Khoa said call Brian Maienschein's office with complaints about either.
 2. Vehicles running stop signs. A: Call MM Police Storefront or Northeastern Division police headquarters and ask them to put patrol car there for a while.
 3. What can we do (as individuals and as a council) to clean up San Diego City government? A: 1) Vote in upcoming election; 2) Requested Jeff Stevens, MMTC webmaster, to put links to Brian Maienschein's office, League of Women Voters, Mayor's office, and government reform group(s) on MMTC website, to facilitate citizen involvement. He agreed.
 4. Illegal immigrants at 7/11 on north end of Camino Ruiz. A: 1) City and Federal agents broke up encampment on Horsehead Ridge at north end of Camino Ruiz. 2) Construction of Camino Ruiz Park and its presence afterward may well alter the situation. Will keep on top of it. 3) Can call Boris Martinez, SDPD's immigrant liaison officer, with specific complaints. Keep in mind that illegal immigration is a federal concern and city and police cannot respond to that per se—only to specific incidents. 4) Have information sheet from Pam Slater-Price's office re. actions to remove illegal encampments and contact information for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Border Patrol (handed out at last MMTC meeting). Will give to anyone who requests it.

VII. Community Group Reports

Community Pride Committee (Jim Brown)

1. Regarding filth in streets, call CALTRANS and Brian's office. Note that you are responsible for keeping the curb area (between the street and the sidewalk) in front of your house clean.

2. It is illegal to leave inoperative vehicles on the street. Call Khoa at Brian's office, as it may be faster than calling Vehicle Abandonment office.
3. Committee is enforcing neighborhood code compliance. Took down many illegal election signs. Others are invited to join committee.

VIII. Open Forum

- A. MCAS Miramar as airport site (Ted Brengel). There will be a push to take it over for the S.D. airport. When existing airport land becomes available, huge fortunes will change hands. This will spur developers to change site of airport.
- B. Fairy shrimp (Ted Brengel). Ted talked to Fish and Wildlife Dept. rep. The S.D. School Board hopes we back off re. Salk school site. Will negotiate to lose about 4 acres—not a natural vernal pool site. Already have lost 26 acres of park to preserve shrimp habitat.
- C. “Breakfast with Mrs. Claus” (Sandy Smith). This fund raiser to benefit the MM Theater Guild will be held Dec. 10 at Home Town Buffet. Cost is \$7. The Theater Guild will try to put on a play at the Epicentre later.
- D. Need to be aware of change in MMTC Bylaws (Jeff Stevens).
 1. In 1987, extensive changes were made to the bylaws. Language was added to Article 3 (Meetings), to say that general membership meetings and executive board meetings shall be open to the public and shall be held at a public place within Mira Mesa. A move in 2000 to change this to “attendance at board of directors meetings shall be at the discretion of the president” was defeated. The bylaws said that members who were not on the board may not participate in any deliberation unless authorized by the president. The board also could adjourn and reconvene in an executive session to discuss and vote on personnel matters, litigation, and other matters of business of a similar nature. This had the side effect of not requiring that board meetings be held in a public place. In the 2003 update to the bylaws, the sentence re. all meetings being open to all members and held in a public place was deleted, probably inadvertently as the result of a clerical error. Jeff recommended that “Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to all MMTC members” be reinstated in the bylaws.
 2. John Daley said that that has been the policy of the current board—just need to recodify it in the current bylaws.
 3. Motion to reinstate the wording in the bylaws (Barrera/Davis) approved unanimously.
- E. MMTC Volunteer of the Year Nominations (Jeff Stevens). Explained purpose of VOY—a person with a history of community service. Has a couple of nominations already. Please send him more. Will vote at next MMTC meeting. Sandy will plan the VOY dinner, which raises money for the MMTC Scholarship Fund.
- F. Freedom Shrine at City Hall (Brahna Derr). Will be held at City Hall for 2 weeks and in MMHS next year. Currently there are ones in Scripps Ranch HS and other locations. Info. on the Business Exchange Club of SD website.
- G. Mira Mesa High School Foundation (Bob Klein). MMHS Foundation is sponsoring “Taste of Mira Mesa” on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Country Inns & Suites Hotel, to showcase the fine eating in the community and raise money for the high school. Cost is \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. Will include a silent auction. Hope for it to be an annual

fund raiser for the foundation, to finance scholarships, campus improvements, athletic fields and equipment, computers, media center upgrades, textbooks, a ceramics kiln, and security cameras for the school.

H. Traffic Problems (Orlando Vernacchia). Why can't we get people to monitor Hilary, Greenford, and Gold Coast area? People speeding and going through stop signs. Cops can't catch them. Talked to Steve. Wants to set up speed-monitoring device. Chuck: turned 3 of the cars in. Orlando: Police say they don't have enough officers. Brian W.: Going on at all hours on his end, too. General discussion: Police officers leaving city dept. in droves. Other cities in county hiring them for more money. Not enough officers on force. Ted: 2 officers in Mira Mesa. Khoa: City is limited, but there are 4 new police academies now. Losing officers to other cities; 6 or 7 officers to all of Northeastern Division. Call him with info. and he'll call Steve. Orlando has not called Brian's/Khoa's office.

VIX. More Community Group Reports

- A. Stakeholders Committee (Robin Stutsman). Dark until January.
- B. Maintenance Assessment District (Tom Derr).
 - a. Budget to be discussed at Dec. 6 meeting.
 - b. Have done colorful scheme for medians; first at high school and next at I 15.
- C. Recreation Council (Joe Frichtel).
 - a. Breen Park is open.
 - b. Camino Ruiz Park and Carroll school site progressing.
- D. Planning Group (Ted Brengel). Business is mostly re. condo conversions. Still fairly low-priced property to buy in MM, even if fewer rentals.
- E. MCAS Miramar (Brad Buffett). General Jensen addressed the Community Leaders Forum. Once BRAC is done, the gag on the Airport Authority, re. using Miramar, comes off. Joint use won't work at Miramar. The Marines have live ordnance, too many flights, etc. Will be a political process and choice. Lots of activity in other communities near Miramar to stave this off. Contact Brad.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Arlette C. Ballew