

MMTC General Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2008

7:00: CALL TO ORDER

Troop 1212 presents colors

Scouts:

Gregory Garcia
Brandon Palugod
Bryce Johnson
Kyle MacDougall
Geoffrey Jasinskin
Ryan Garcia
Sean Belknap

Pledge of Allegiance

Contact Jeff Stevens or Pam O'Donohoe if a group would like to present the colors

Welcome and Board Officer Introductions

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were published and posted on the website. Minutes are approved as written.

BOARD REPORTS

Treasurer's Report
Monthly income \$767.69
Surplus \$227.23
Beginning balance 73,367.78
Ending balance \$73,595.01
Annual Budget approved – no one opposed.

7:20: OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Police Department (Officer Paul Lennon) – deferred until later

City Councilman Brian Maienschein (Khoa Nguyen)

- We will install driver-feedback signs on Sorrento Valley Road westbound within the next week. They flash speeds and ask people to slow down. Eastbound is already installed.
- Camino Ruiz Trail – review period is over 2/2/08. No public comments. It will be docketed and approved. Construction should begin at the end of the month.
- City Council passed a resolution regarding oversized vehicles – RVs parking on the street, semis parking on the street, etc. Item was controversial. Council voted for the mayor to do an analysis pilot in district 2, but an analysis of ordinance is needed city wide. Maienschein wants this to be city-wide.
- City Council voted to send the language of several propositions for 6/3 ballot – whether to extend the strong mayor form of government that ends in 2010. Other big proposition that will take place is whether we will have a 9th City Council district; the 9th district will be implemented after the census. Geographic area is to be determined.

County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (Erica Holloway)

- Tomorrow is Super Tuesday; registrar was opened Saturday and tomorrow from 7am to 8pm. Log on to sdvote.org to find polling places.
- Supervisor and district attorney starting a domestic violence program to enlist the interest of people and teach them to recognize the signs of domestic violence.
- Last week, the supervisor's board letter, supporting the state's vegetation program to clean out dead trees, was sent out
- Measles outbreak – isolated case (3 siblings vacationing in Switzerland who were not vaccinated). 38 students were not vaccinated at a charter school (vaccination not required for charter schools).

County Supervisor Ron Roberts (Rebecca Leister)

- Fires – two board letters from Ron looking at funding options for 50 fire trucks and one for a regional fire protection committee; letter lists all members that will sit on that board.
- 2006/2007 Annual Report; first page describes what the supervisors do for us.

- Ron is no longer the Chairman.
- Community Enhancements are online.

State Assemblyman George Plescia (Liz Saidkhanian)

- Fire legislation - 1/17 operating plan agreement with the Marine Corps – procedures and conditions.
- Grant deadline 3/2.
- Brush removal 2/22 deadline for the bills.
- Health Insurance bill was defeated.
- RB fire station renovation – still seeking items.
- Recognition of the three Volunteer of the Year nominees.

OPEN FORUM

OLD BUSINESS

- Zeny Ravelo - Philippine Festival – Mira Mesa Community Park, June 7 – Philippine Independence Celebration. They will be collaborating with another organization and are looking into having a parade.
- Jason Brock – lives on New Salem. Neighbors have been broken into twice in the past two weeks. The first time was while they were asleep. They came back a week later and stole a car.

NEW BUSINESS

San Diego Police Department - Fighting crime in Mira Mesa: update on crime statistics, gang involvement and what can be done to reduce problems. Lynn Sharpe-Underwood (gang task force), Rosario, Lennon among others will be present on the panel.

Captain Rosario: Reason he is here tonight is due to crime concerns in this area. A result of his meeting with Jeff and Pam last week. He needs more specifics as to what has been happening. What seems to work is when the police, schools, and community meet regularly to discuss issues and potential strategies. The police can't do it all, even at full strength. If we work together – neighborhood watches and other strategies – crime will drop. Criminal activity in MM is down except for residential and commercial robberies. If someone in our community does not feel safe, we are not working together to handle the problem.

Panel Members:

- Captain Miguel Rosario
- Lt. Dawn Summers
- Officer Jeffrey Carter
- Officer Paul Lennon
- SCS Sgt. George Anderson
- Detective Dave Collins
- Officer Jeff Carter
- Lynn Sharpe-Underwood
- Detective Joe Yamane

Dave Collins, detective, 4 years working with gangs.

Most of the gang sets are 5 to 12 members. 18 months ago, there was a larger gang-related problem in Mira Mesa. He spent 90% of his time in MM. They had gang sweeps in June and September of last year that were very successful. Sweeps put gangs into disarray. Pacific Islander gangs are trying to unite.

Questions: where do the gangs go? A: Our job is displacement – restraining orders, dispersing them to break the groups into smaller numbers

Question: what distinguishes a group of young people from a gang? A: 3 or more people who commit a series of criminal activities – burglaries to assaults. Section 186.22 of the CA Penal Code describes gang-related crimes. Intimidation through dress and attitude; fear keeps community from responding. Police wants to be notified; contact him – his business cards at meeting.

Captain Miguel Rosario

Displacement does not mean they are not working long term on ending the problem or arresting them – juvenile hall/probation/parole. Displacement can work very well. Four two-officer units and a sergeant aggressively attack where the gangs are going to be.

Questions – how are statistics related to gangs gathered? A: Charges used when arresting a gang member – stats are compiled because arresting officer knows it's gang related. Inner city areas are worse. Kids lose hope and become gang members. It starts with the schools and the parents – mostly blacks and Hispanic in inner city.

Question – Are the police helping public schools--helping kids not lose hope? A: Police, schools, and community must work together and all have equal say. Let us know what we can do; we have the expertise, but everyone should be involved. Executive direction of gang commission – Police Dept. focuses on suppression, but it's clear to the commission that it must be balanced with the social services – Harmonium, UPAC – many communities have started working on this neighborhood by neighborhood. The website has a plan that discuss this structure: www.sandiego.gov/gangcommission.

Potential Strategies: Montgomery Middle School in Linda Vista. Principal talked to teachers, show a presence, and took pictures, and it drove the gang kids away. Everyone needs to be involved. Another project – Encanto – service providers and truancy issues. Gang commission only facilitates. Process has just begun. We are not going to tolerate this in this community. Commission was tasked to significantly affects gangs – must be neighborhood by neighborhood. Community Summit – collaborations that work. Rosario – 4th gang-suppression team was just added; this will not solve the problem (6 officers/1 sgt – bumped up to 8). If we added 24-hour coverage, there is no way we can solve this problem just through enforcement. It must be a collaboration between the police department and the community. The commission and the community is the solution.

Lynn Sharpe-Underwood

Schools can contacts Lisa Grogen using the tkf.org website to get them to come to schools. Jeff Olivero - Principal of Mira Mesa High: 95% are local kids. Gangs in Mira Mesa are very different from gangs in other communities. Many are 4.0 students, respectful, and leading double lives. Makes it harder to identify them. Need to watch associations – who they hang out with and what colors they wear. Parents don't know, they are in denial. MM gang kids might not be territorial.

Lieutenant Dawn Summers

She works with gangs and narcotics. Started undercover at MM High School. This community is different. Worked black/Hispanic/white gangs. Asian gangs are very different. Parents have no idea. Gang sweep w/young community members that see a difference. Different ways to stop the crime and to reach the family so the family becomes aware and recognizes the problem. Parents need to ask some questions.

Question – what do you consider 'gang activity'? A: They sell a lot of meth, they like guns, assaults.

Question for Captain Rosario – would it assist the police department if we increased the membership of the RSVP to do the mundane work so the officers can concentrate more on crime? A: absolutely, the more the merrier. We need more RSVP members even though this area enjoys the biggest group of volunteers.

SSCS Sgt. George Anderson, School Police, Northern School District (area from Rte. 8 to Poway).

We are short-handed, and the state is cutting the budget; we need volunteers. MM does not have a full-time assigned officer. There is an officer assigned to the high school 5 days a week, but it's a new officer each month. He should have 11 officers for Interstate 8 to Poway; he is down to 9. Superintendent wants the cops there from 7 to 3 or 10 to 6.

Question - Challenger has been vandalized 7 times since October; how can we get some surveillance? A: School district won't provide it. Broken windows, property destroyed, set fire to lost and found clothing, graffiti during the weekends. Graffiti task force; four officers are available. Task force just needs a picture of the moniker; they can go back up to 3 years based on a moniker. At some point, someone will talk about the moniker. Call gang unit if there is graffiti so they can get a picture of the tagging before the custodian paints it over.

Captain Rosario

Question - Isn't it hard to believe that no one saw kids take a sign on Parkdale? A: Someone is seeing this, someone who lives in the area; we can hit every single home and ask them to be on the lookout. Officers can park in the parking lot at night when writing their reports. Officers have been notified. Potential money rewards – probably not Challenger students.

Question: What number should we call to report vandalism? A: 858-484-3154 / 619-291-7678 (school police dispatch). 619-531-2000 is the non-emergency number. Take pictures or videotape while waiting for the police.

Question – Motorists ignoring stop signs and red lights; what are the police doing? It's particularly bad on Mira Mesa Blvd. and Hillary (speeding on Hillary in the morning; ignoring stop signs in the evening). Police did patrol the area for about a week. Bicycles on the side walk. A: police deal with crimes and with quality of life. Crime may be down, but quality of life may be down too. Captain will get motorcycles out there.

Question - Connection between gang-related crimes and gangs? A: It's across the board. It could be a neighbor, a couple of gangsters. DNA evidence helps, prints, cigarettes, etc. Burglaries are crimes of opportunity. The police reached out to businesses to help them make their businesses more secure and found that many businesses won't do what they need to do. Example: crooks will walk by a business after hours, a business located off the street. They asked businesses to close blinds and drapes so burglars won't see what's inside; many businesses won't do that. Only 6 businesses called to get additional help.

Joe Yamane – Detective.

MM/Scripps Ranch is different. Gang members don't hang out; they're mobile or in houses. You won't recognize them. They get information from already documented members and who they are hanging out with. If you have kids, they will probably know. It's very much on the down low.

Question – How do you know that someone knocking on the door is truly a police officer? A: He or she will be in full uniform. If in doubt, don't open the door; call dispatch. Officers have an ID card behind the badge. Comment – get your neighbors' phone numbers – on each side and across the street. Neighbors don't know each other anymore; crime thrives in such an environment.

Question – Parent has a kid who comes home and states he was beaten up – what can a parent do? A: Call the police. If it happens at the school, the school will call the police. If the school didn't know about it, let the principal know.

Question – What are the black hearts on boxes? A: Volunteers are covering tags with hearts. Call 858-531-2847; it is the number of the gang office. Report any graffiti to Officer Franchini (graffiti) M-Th. from 2 pm to midnight – send him pictures of tags.

Question – if a parent has kids who say they are scared of someone who might be in a gang, what should the parents do? A: Get in touch with the gang unit.

Question: what should parents do if they are worried that their kids got in with the wrong element? A: There are non-profit organizations; there will be a list of services on the website that people can access in the next few months. Most schools have counselors.

Question – focus is on high school/middle school – does the gang problem go to the elementary level? A: There are gang members as young as 8 years old who learn from brothers or sisters.

Question – Daughter is at Challenger; school is vandalized every weekend; it's disturbing. What will the police do to help with this situation and how can we help the police? A: Police will try to dedicate some officers strictly to that to catch them and be made an example of. School district has a "lights out" policy to save money, so campuses are dark at night. Crime prevention unit will come out to see what improvements can be made to help with safety. Statistics don't warrant additional funds, but we can get grants.

COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS

MMTC Committees

Banner District (Steve Sluyter)

Banners are up; they need volunteers. Send an email to the Town Council and it will be forwarded to Stephen Sluyter. The committee meets at 6:30 at the Senior Center on Monday, Feb. 11.

Volunteer Recognition Committee (Courtland Young)

Dinner will be on May 3. Heroes theme. Needs volunteers to help out with invitations, contacting representatives, declarations, party planning for the day of the event. Email CourtlandY@gmail.com
Scholarship Committee – Robin Stutsman will chair the committee. The committee is being formed, and volunteers are needed to review applications.

Other Community Groups

Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (John Sunde)

They need volunteers. Will be at Scripps Poway Parkway Vons recruiting next Friday between 10am and 2pm.

Planning Group (Ted Brengel) - Meeting is on Tuesday the 19th at the Senior Center, 7 pm.

Recreation Council (Joe Frichtel) – Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm, at Lopez Ridge.

Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Comm. (Pam Stevens) – Meetings are on the 3rd Thursdays in odd months, LP Ranch House. Camino Ruiz trail is set to start construction later this month. Call rangers before going hiking.

MM Library (Pam Stevens) - Banned book group meets on 4th Mondays, 7 pm, library.. Reading *Huckleberry Finn* this month.

4th of July Committee (Pam Stevens) – Meets 2nd Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, Senior Center. Flyers about Casino Night on 3/29 are available. To volunteer, contact n6imv@juno.com. Donations for door prize or silent auction needed; contact Pam. Tickets are \$15.

Teen Center – brochures available on how to get involved.

Next MMTC Meeting: Monday, March 3, at the Mira Mesa Library.

Next Board meeting: Thursday, February 7, at the Senior Center.