

# ***Mira Mesa Town Council – Minutes***

**January 9, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.**

**1) Call to order – Ted Brengel, MMTC president**

**2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**3) Recognition of First Responders (SDPD/SDFD):**

- a) SDPD Northeastern Division - Miguel Gonzales. 3.5 months in current position. Went to San Diego State. December crime report: 3 stolen cars. 7 commercial burglaries. 13 car breakins. 14 residential burglaries. 1 Monday, 11 pm. Unlocked sliding glass door. Residents were home. Tuesday AM, forced rear glass door. Thursday 9:50. Open rear window. Thursday 10:45 unlocked sliding door. Thursday 12:30. Known to victim. Thursday 6pm, entry into storage area. Thursday, unlocked bathroom window. Thursday 5 pm, unlocked front door for 10 minutes. Q. Good Shepherd – someone came in with backpack. A: Taken into custody. Mental health issues. Had some background on him.

**4) San Diego City Councilmember Chris Cate – Swearing In Ceremony for 2017 MMTC Board of Directors, Featured Speaker with a District 6 Update**

- a) Public safety was significant issue. Tomorrow get 5 year outlook. Next year does not look great. \$48 million budget deficit. Could be worse. Need to find way to deal with it. Pension bill going up by \$40 million. Retirees are living longer. Budget town hall in May time frame. Epicentre waiting for RFP. MM community plan update will start. Want public participation. Mayor asked all departments to identify 3.5% cut. Pension assumed earnings 7%, actual 0.8%. Previous year negative. May take some money from reserves. Police dispatch improving. Waiting to find out about stadium/Chargers. Chris does not support any general fund subsidy.

**5) Short-Term Vacation Rentals – Save San Diego Neighborhoods, John Thickstun**

- a) Grass roots organization. What is happening in the beach areas in particular is that investors are buying houses with no intent to live in them and essentially turning them into hotels. Lots of parties in them. Trying to get the City to do something about it. Some places families are being driven out. 6000 homes now being used like this. Other cities have addressed this by enforcing current codes. Chris Cate thinks there is some middle ground. Disagree. Don't need new regulations, just enforcement of existing. Causing lots of trash – City absorbing cost. Q: How to differentiate between vacation rentals and student housing? A: Students there for a longer time.
- b) John Thickstun – lifelong San Diegan. AirBnB has created issues in cities all over the world. Rentals for less than 30 days in residential areas is prohibited under current law. Mini-hotels also competing with actual hotels. San Diego has let problem fester for last 8 years. Mike Aguirre issued a memo saying that they were not prohibited. Mara Elliot considers it an acute problem. They eliminate housing stock. Investors from Texas and Utah are buying houses and renting them as AirBnB's. Only allowed uses are listed in the Municipal Code. "If it doesn't fit, you can't permit."  
SaveSanDiegoNeighborhoods.com. Q: Have several group homes. A: They are a listed use. Q: What

about renting out part of your home? A: Doesn't apply to residents renting out part of their home.

Defined in municipal code. Q: what about imposing tax on investors who do this? Better to impose big fines for violations.

**6) Grocery Outlet – Announcement Re Mira Mesa Grand Opening (Jan. 19, 10am)**

a) Bud and Treava Kottman. Lived in Kansas, decided to move to San Diego. 3 kids, 2 grandkids. Discount groceries. Looking forward to being part of community. Food stamp challenge – live on \$3/day. Need Grocery Outlet to do it. Partnered with San Diego Food Bank. 7700 military people get food from Food Bank. Also have wine and healthy food. Sold house and moved to California. Will be 4-6 new Grocery Outlet stores next year. Active or retired military get \$3 discount. Typically 30% cheaper than Vons. Open January 19. Ribbon cutting at 10 AM.

**7) Scripps Mesa Fireworks – Michael Spencer.** New website [Miramesafireworks.org](http://Miramesafireworks.org). Will be doing fireworks this year. Need \$40,000. Envelopes in back. Please get the word out. 501c(3). Need half for deposit by April 1, and must guarantee remainder.

**8) MMTC Newsletter – New Format and Title Discussion.** John Horst – called it the “mecca” because people John’s age who graduated from MMHS called Mira Mesa “The Mecca”. Created some controversy because of alternate religious meaning. Asked for 3 issues to try it. Full color front and back page. John used to do desktop publishing. Sarah Young – very offended by name because of religious connotation. Otherwise newsletter is good. Maybe Monitor or Messenger. Most people don’t know history and hard to explain. Clark Young – worked in Saudi Arabia. Mira Mesa is a very inclusive community. Saudi Arabia is not inclusive. Have lived 30 years and not heard name used. Ted – will have debate endlessly unless we change name. Engenders needless debate. Suggested names: “Sentinel” “Monitor” “Messenger”. John would like to have a name that works with the masthead (not too long). Pam “Mosaic”. Jim – “Melting Pot”.

**9) MMTC Committee Reports**

- a) Treasurer’s Report – Bari Vaz; Final Expenses for 2016; Budget Committee to review draft 2017 MMTC Budget, to be presented to MMTC membership in February. Postponed.
- b) Membership – Lainie Hardman. Please renew or join and talk to your friends.
- c) Fourth of July Parade and Fun Day – John Horst. Want to have a meeting at 6pm before February MMTC meeting. Theme: Avenue of Heroes. Want to have display of people with medals of honor. No stage. Maybe kid’s zone. Eileen Magno would like to do it.
- d) Volunteer of the Year Dinner – Pam Stevens. Later in March or in April. Need to coordinate with Sabrina.
- e) San Diego Northeastern Communities Pageant – Maria Pankau. Moving to April. Need to avoid weekend with High School production. 13-26 ages. Pageant based on community service and education. Require 2.5 GPA or better maintained through year.

**10) Recognition of Elected Officials**

- a) County Supervisor District 3 Kristin Gaspar – will be featured speaker at February MMTC meeting
- b) Congressman Scott Peters (Anthony Nguyen) – Priorities – fight for veterans and seniors. Housing and homelessness. With new president and republican Congress will be more vocal in standing up to

what he thinks is right. There is a lot of uncertainty about what will happen in the coming year. On energy and commerce committee. Office hours every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at Senior center 10-11 AM. Jan 25 is next time.

**11) Open Forum (2 minutes/individual or group on topics not elsewhere on agenda)**

- a) Margaret Jahn – would like to have contact numbers in newsletter,
- b) Margaret Prouty – TOPS meets weekly at rec center. Weight loss program. \$5/week. Space for Veterans memorial at Senior Center.
- c) Sarah Young – Taking care of Veterans. 22/day commit suicide. So Brave Foundation. Free clinics are held the second Saturday of each month from 12 to 4 PM at the Veteran’s Memorial Museum in Balboa Park. Near Navy Hospital. Open to any veteran and his or her family dealing with PTSD or traumatic brain injury. Radio Show starting.

**12) Government and Community Resources**

- a) Pam Stevens for Barbara Schwartz, Mira Mesa Library Branch Manager. Library closed for two weeks at the end of January while RFID stickers are being installed. Banned Book Group discussing Pillars of the Earth on January 31.
- b) Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – Jeff Stevens, Chairman. Next two months meeting will be on the Thursday following the normal third Monday meeting date since those dates are holidays. Jan 19 and Feb 23. Starting update to the Mira Mesa Community Plan, which will likely take 3 years to complete. Elections are in March – to run for a position on the Planning Group must have attended two meetings in the previous 12 months. All residents are encouraged to attend and participate.
- c) Mira Mesa Recreation Council – Bruce Brown, Chairman. Meeting tomorrow night at Wangenheim will include a workshop on the new field development at Wangenheim.

**13) Adjournment [9pm]**