

Mira Mesa Town Council Minutes

February 7, 2022 - 7:00 pm via Zoom

1) Call to order by President Bari Vaz

2) Recognition of First Responders

- a) SDPD Northeastern Division – Officer Christina Santos.
 - i) There have been a number of complaints about cars parked on Rickert Road, which appear to be part of a business renting the cars. The company is 247 AutoRent. ~12 cars plus a white van on the street. Not clear yet if this is legal or illegal.
 - ii) Nothing new to report on auto arsons.
- b) SD Fire Department Station 38 – Captain Joe Raymundo.
 - i) MAST (Metro Arson Strike Team, composed of SDFD, SDPD, FBI and ATF) has been investigating arsons in Mira Mesa. There have been 6 fires which may be arson along Montongo.
 - ii) Ambulances are transitioning to FALCK. Currently have a problem with insufficient beds at hospitals, causing paramedics to wait with patients. If no bed is available at a hospital, paramedic from ambulance must stay with patient until admitted.

3) President's Report & Approval of January Minutes by MMTC membership – Bari Vaz

- a) Minutes approved
- b) President's report – please see Bari's article in the newsletter. Residents need to put some time into the community.

4) Featured Program: Co-Existing with Wildlife, Particularly Coyotes – Andy Blue, Campus Director, Project Wildlife Ramona

- a) Project Wildlife started in 1972 to care for sick animals. Currently take care of 8,000 to 14,000 per year. There are 6 bear cubs in Ramona right now.
- b) Skunks – 70% of diet is insects and spiders including Black Widow spiders and scorpions.
- c) Coyotes - smart, usually wary of people, but they will come after food and water if left out. Don't leave out dog or cat food, in particular. See the Urban Coyote Initiative <https://jaymiheimbuch.com/portfolios/urban-coyotes/>.
- d) Relocating animals is not allowed in California, except by State Dept of Fish and Wildlife. Project Wildlife can relocate injured animals.
- e) Allow mothers and babies time to raise their young. Do not approach.
- f) Safe deterrents – Fence 6 feet or higher, chicken wire at the bottom; at top either "inrigger" (fencing panel slanted in) or roller to keep animal from balancing on top then jumping down (Example: coyoteroller.com), vinegar stations, sprinkle capsaicin.

5) Government and Community Resources

- a) Mira Mesa Branch Library – Pam Stevens for Ina Gibson, Branch Manager
 - i) The Mira Mesa Branch Library has a number of upcoming special events as well as regular programs in February. The Library provided information to put on display at the Mira Mesa Town Council booth at the San Diego Tet Festival in Mira Mesa Community Park Feb. 4 – 6, and MMTC volunteers staffing the booth enjoyed sharing it as well as information about MMTC and Mira Mesa as a community overall. February events sponsored by the library include:
 - (1) Mira Mesa Library presents a Special Storytime with Ms. Hazel reading the One Book, One San Diego title for children, All the Way to the Top, by Annette Bay Pimentel, followed by a chance to meet Hershey Kiss, the miniature Therapy Horse, on Wed Feb 16 from 10:30am - 11:30am. (For details see: <https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/events/meet-miniature-therapy-horse-hershey-kiss>)
 - (2) Regular story times for children and book groups for adults open to everyone interested. The Mira Mesa Library now has two monthly book groups: Bibliomaniacs, on the second Tuesday (Feb. 8), 6:30pm in the community room (<https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/events/bibliomaniacs-book-club-6>); and the Banned Book Club, on the last Tuesday (Feb. 22) at 6:30pm, currently meeting on Zoom (<https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/events/banned-book-club-11>).
 - ii) For details about these and other programs call the library, 858-538-8165.

- b) Miramar College – P. Wesley Lundburg, President
 - i) Enrollment is down due to pandemic.
 - ii) Next plan update will have performing arts center.
 - iii) Had planned to be back in person in January, but had to delay due to Omicron.
 - iv) Anticipating continuing demand for online courses.
 - v) Academic departments have expressed some interest in Community Gardens, which came up at an earlier MMTC meeting.
- c) Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – Jeff Stevens, Chair
 - i) We have a vacancy for a business member
 - ii) Last meeting – presentation from Local Clean Energy on energy issues including proposed large increases to homes with Solar Power.
 - iii) Discussion of proposed Community Plan Update. City received \$650,000 grant from State for the Plan Update in which it promised to add 10,000-20,000 housing units to the Community Plan before we started. City wants to add 24,000 units to commercial and industrial areas along Mira Mesa Blvd, which would increase Mira Mesa population to 164,000, more than double current population. So far no proposals for additional schools, parks or other public facilities. Still waiting for reports on projected impacts on traffic, parks, schools. City Planning staff suggested that we add second stories to current schools. Working draft of the proposed Plan Update expected in February or March. Traffic study promised for February.
 - iv) Next meeting Thursday, Feb. 24, 7 PM. Proposed changes to Cannabis regulations; 3Roots signage program. Plan Update meeting prior to MMCPG meeting, 5:30 PM (time subject to change).
- d) Mira Mesa Community Recreation Group – Joe Frichtel, Chair
 - i) Wangenheim has finally started although it took them a week to get the fence u
- e) Mira Mesa High School – Jennifer Kvalvik, MMHS Hospitality and Tourism, Food Prep and Nutrition Instructor, FCCLA CTSO Advisor / FAN CLUB PLUS.
 - i) Taste of Mira Mesa will be live at The Vault on Miramar Road on Saturday, April 23.
 - ii) Library is being remodeled and will have a mini museum of Mira Mesa History. Looking for a committee of 6-8 people.
- f) Scripps Mesa Fireworks – Michael Spencer, President
 - i) There is a virtual meeting between Pyro Spectaculars, Scripps Mesa Fireworks, SDUSD, SDFD and hopefully Bari from MMTC on Thursday and we hope to have a plan for 2022 as a result of this meeting. If we do, we will announce immediately and will absolutely need donations from the community to make it happen. Pay attention to social media and the Scripps Mesa Fireworks website.

6) Elected Officials – standing reports

- a) San Diego Unified School District A Board Member Sabrina Bazzo
 - i) Attendance has been low due to Covid – about 80% compared to a normal 95%.
 - ii) Tet festival was great! Shows rich Vietnamese cultural heritage.
 - iii) Meet the candidates for superintendent at Wilson Middle School on Sat Feb 26.
- b) San Diego Community College District Board Member Bernie Rhinerson. Not present
- c) City Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6 – Denise Torres. Not present
- d) Assemblyman Brian Maisenschein, 77th District – Rob Knudsen
 - i) Working on legislation to prevent dangerous sexual predator release
 - ii) Working on legislation to allow people placed in conservatorships to have more say.
- e) San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria – Michaela Valk. Not present, but sent report which follows.
- f) County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, District 3 – Amanda Berry
 - i) Working on a program to promote local food production.
- g) State Senator Toni Atkins – Diana Lara. Not present
- h) Congressman Scott Peters - Anthony Nguyen. Anthony will be leaving the Congressman's office and going to work for Rady Children's Hospital. His report follows.

7) Open Forum (2 minutes each, items not on agenda)

8) Other MMTC Committee Reports

- a) Treasurer's Report – Jonathan Lea. Little activity, only \$300 spent to date this year. Have draft budget that will be posted on the website for approval next month,
- b) Banner District – Jennifer Kvalvik. No report
- c) Membership – Yvonne Negron. No report.

9) Adjournment 8:55 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7, 2022, 7 pm

Location TBD – via Zoom or in-person at the Mira Mesa Branch Library community room – MMTC members will receive announcement prior to meeting, details will also be posted at www.miramesatowncouncil.org

Report from Michaela Valk for Mayor Gloria

Carroll Canyon Road Feasibility Study

- The Engineering & Capital Projects department is estimating to complete the feasibility study in March

Wagenheim & Salk Update

- Wagenheim joint-use construction has officially started as of January 31
- Salk joint-use bids opened December 8 and Purchasing & Contracting is initiating the award of the contract

Parks & Recreation Update

- We currently have around 100 full-time permanent vacancies in the general fund for Parks & Recreation positions. Of those, we have:
 - 11 park rangers – currently in the interview process with backgrounds pending; we should be able to make offers later this month
 - 48 grounds maintenance workers – currently in the interview process as well
 - 3 assistant recreation center directors – very recently resigned from position and may be filled from previous recruitment process
 - remaining FT vacancies include a variety of positions, such as custodians, utility workers, laborers, heavy truck drivers, mower operators, aquatics technicians, and several administrative support positions. Each of these are also in the process of being filled, with some currently out for recruitment/application. This includes a few supervisory positions that became vacant since our recruitment efforts last fall, such as a recent retirement for a district manager and a recent promotion of a grounds maintenance manager.
- On the hourly side, we continue to have open, continuous recruitment for recreation aide, recreation leader, and swimming pool guards. We are seeing more submit applications, so we are optimistic that more people will join the list and allow us to continue interviews and recruitment of those positions. It is clear that our efforts to increase outreach efforts, specifically related to the virtual job fairs and sharing of recruitment announcements with nonprofit partners, has been effective in helping generate interest in a job in public service and recreation.

Streetlight Repair Update

- In partnership with the Performance and Analytics Department, the Transportation Department has created a data driven approach to addressing the streetlight repair backlog.

The streetlight program has been re-tooled to focus on identifying and making repairs to significant blocks of streetlights quickly by using, for example, some of the following criteria:

1. High crime areas
2. Neighborhood blocks with multiple streetlight outages (geospatial clusters)
3. High crash/injury areas
4. Historically underserved communities
5. Service levels by Community Planning Area
6. Age of service notification

- Using data collected via Get It Done and from the Performance and Analytics Department to validate the Transportation Department's initial findings and analyzing streetlight repair locations with the Transportation Department's Electrical Section, a work plan has been created that is organized by Council District and priority.

The City is working on addressing the backlog with existing City forces by shifting their service delivery focus directly to this issue. Should the City decide to contract supplemental services to assist with the backlog, the City's Purchasing and Contracting Department would require a competitive solicitation for additional electrical services as well as meet and confer with the City's labor organizations.

Report from Anthony Nguyen for Congressman Scott Peters

Updates from Washington

- Last month, Congressman Peters and Congressman Bill Pascrell Jr from New Jersey sent a [letter to President Biden](#) calling on the administration to provide full reimbursement to Medicare recipients who purchase at-home COVID-19 tests. Broad access to COVID-19 testing is critical for identifying and mitigating spread.
 - **"We write today to urge you to take immediate action to ensure that those covered by Medicare have the same ready, cost-free access to COVID-19 diagnostic tests. Beneficiaries should have continued access to at-home COVID-19 testing and their providers should be involved in ordering of tests and made aware of test results,"** wrote Rep Peters and Pascrell.
 - February 3, 2022: *"Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing that people in either Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage will be able to get over-the-counter COVID-19 tests at no cost starting in early spring. Under the new CMS initiative, using demonstration authority, Medicare beneficiaries will be able to access up to eight over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per month for free. This policy will apply to COVID-19 over-the-counter tests approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration."*
- **Go to [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) to order your free COVID test kits from the federal government.** Alternatively, people can order kits by calling 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

Updates from San Diego

- [Make a Veteran's Valentine's Day special!!](#) This Valentine's Day, Congressman Peters will be delivering special letters and cards to a local housing complex focused on supporting veterans transitioning out of homelessness. We welcome **YOUR** help by writing a card to a special someone who sacrificed so much defending our freedom.
 - Cards and letters can be dropped off or mailed to Rep Scott Peters District Office at **4350 Executive Dr, Ste 105, San Diego, CA 92121**.
 - **Drop OFF or delivery must happen by Friday February 11**
- Anthony's last day with Congressman Peters' office is Friday February 25, 2022. He will be starting a new job with Rady Children's Hospital – San Diego next month.