

Mira Mesa Town Council Minutes

November 7, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

1) Call to order by President Bari Vaz, Pledge of Allegiance

2) Recognition of First Responders (SDPD/SDFD if present)

- a) SDPD Northeastern Division – Officer Christina Santos. Lots of accidents with the time change; more with rain. Watch for pedestrians. Don Moody from RSVP is here.
- b) SD Fire Department Station 38 – Captain Joe Raymundo. Not present.

3) Approval by MMTC members of October Minutes. Approved.

4) Main Program: Discussion on Homelessness - Our November meeting featured a discussion of the number one topic today: homelessness. Speakers included, from the City of San Diego, **Hafsa Kaka, Director of Homelessness Strategies & Solutions, and Michaela Valk, Director of Community Engagement (Council District 6)**, from the office of Mayor Todd Gloria; and from the County of San Diego, **Dijana Beck, Deputy Director, Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, and Dr. Piedad Garcia Ed. D., LCSW, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Services**. Discussions touched on what is driving the increase in homelessness, what programs are currently available both to assist homeless individuals and to manage homeless encampments, and the direction legislation and programs are taking in the future.

- a) Number of homeless growing faster than housing can be found. Rents have skyrocketed. Seniors moved out.
- b) Michaela Valk – introduced Hafsa Kaka. Homeless strategies and solutions dept.
- c) Hafsa Kaka – worked throughout Southern California. Epidemic of homelessness. Socioeconomic issues. Mayor Gloria is trying to create a program to get people off the street. 1. Outreach is critical. Homeless may have lost trust in people. Provide transportation, water, etc. May take multiple contacts. Integrative behavior services. 2. Shelter. Must get people off streets. 1650 beds in San Diego. Over 90% are filled. Keeps ~1500 people off streets. 3. Permanent housing. Very hard to afford housing in California. Go to homeless strategies and solutions website. Created 150 beds in Midway district. For every 10 people being housed, 13 became homeless. No shelter in Mira Mesa.
- d) Dijana Beck – Deliver services county wide. Need outreach. 18 cities. Supporting role in cities. Doing outreach. Getting medical help. Unincorporated areas have no shelters, few services. Provide legal help. Disability services. Trying to reach people before they are evicted. Behavioral welfare.
- e) Piedad Garcia – Mental health and addiction services. Embedded social workers. 43,000 adult clients. 18,000 children. Homeless outreach programs. \$900 million budget. Can help people without insurance. Takes a lot of time to build a relationship with homeless people. Mental health services act provides funding for mental health services.
- f) Bari – working on guide for what to do when encountering homeless. Will put on website.
- g) Micheala – GetItDone will redirect to right department.

5) Community group profile: Mira Mesa / Scripps Ranch RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol) – Don Moody. The RSVP program helps promote community awareness and helps all San Diego citizens feel safe. Volunteers perform vacation house checks, You Are Not Alone checks, and other community crime prevention programs. Administrator of program. Volunteers, not paid employees. Work closely with Police Department. Patrol community, residential and commercial. Disabled parking enforcement. Covid hurt us. Lost people due to attrition. Need to get more patrols out. 50 years old. Have one 90 year old. Need to be retired or semi-retired so you can meet commitment of a few hours per month. Drivers license. Do not need law enforcement experience. A week or two of academy training plus some on the job training. Two people together in each car. White police cars.

6) MMTC Board elections: MMTC members vote to elect/re-elect Board members for 2023-24 (who will join in serving along with the other half of the Board who are continuing members for 2022-23). Positions to be filled are: First Vice-president (Programs) Pam Stevens; Treasurer Jonathan Lea; Newsletter Editor Javier Farkiya; Director at Large, seat #3 Kaanchan Farkiya; and Director at Large, seat #4 Dorothy Lorentz. Director at Large, seat #2, 2022-23, is currently vacant. Slate of candidates approved 18-0-0.

7) Government and Community Resources

- a) Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – Jeff Stevens, Chair
 - i) MMCPG reviewed the proposed Mira Mesa Community Plan update. The Plan as currently proposed is deficient in public facilities, fails to meet the City standards established in the Parks Master Plan and other City policies, has significant unmitigated impacts, and engages in too much wishful thinking. The Mira Mesa Community Planning Group made 13 specific recommendations to address these deficiencies, approved 17-0. Park and Recreation Board approved the plan with the incorporation of our recommendations. Planning Commission described our recommendations as “implementation issues” and approved the Plan Update. These “implementation issues” are essential to making the plan work, so we hope the City Council will take them more seriously and add teeth and funding. Details are at <https://www.miramesatowncouncil.org/mmcp-g-community-plan-update-recommendations/>.
- b) Mira Mesa Community Recreation Group – Joe Frichtel, Chair
 - i) Salk Park construction has started. Will take about a year. Expanding dog park to include a separate small dog area.
 - ii) Recreation Council meeting tomorrow. Last Zoom meeting.
- c) Miramar College – P. Wesley Lundburg, President. Not present.
- d) Mira Mesa Branch Library – Pam Stevens for Ina Gibson, Branch Manager
 - i) Library has to be back early for election day tomorrow, so all librarians went home.
 - ii) Banned book club is reading the Wizard of Oz.

8) Elected Officials – standing reports [8:20pm]

- a) City Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6 – Denise Torres.
 - i) New Chief Operating Officer hired.
 - ii) Voted to declare housing a human right.
 - iii) Salk groundbreaking last week, attended by councilman and mayor.
 - iv) Aderman and Mira Mesa Blvd getting new crosswalk. Traffic lights getting fixed. Site of fatal pedestrian accidents.
 - v) City Council on recess this week. December 5.
 - vi) Thursday, 6:30 PM, Nov 10 MMHS media center. Epicentre meeting,
 - vii) Don't forget to Vote!
- b) Mayor Todd Gloria – Michaela Valk
 - i) Gold Coast and Parkdale groundbreaking November 17 at 8:30 A. M.
- c) County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, District 3 – Jeff Yuen.
 - i) Eager to support City in homeless efforts.
 - ii) Thursday Mira Mesa Epicentre meeting. Redirecting County dollars to lease and operate building. \$4 million to renovate. 6:30 meeting.
 - iii) Fentanyl is leading cause of death among young people. Increasing Fentanyl education.
 - iv) Get your Flu shot and Covid booster.
- d) State Senator Toni Atkins – Diana Lara. Not present
- e) State Assemblyman Brian Maienschein – Rob Knudsen. Not present
- f) Congressman Scott Peters – Priscilla Huang. Not present
- g) San Diego Community College District Board Member Bernie Rhinerson. Not present

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

- a) Joe – Friday is Veterans Day. Ceremony at Senior Center Flag. 11 AM.

10) Other MMTC Committee Reports

- a) Treasurer's Report – Jonathan Lea. Started with \$68,000. Ending with \$64,000.
- b) Volunteer of the Year (VOY Dinner Oct. 22 honoring Jennifer Kvalvik a success!) – Pam Stevens
 - i) Will vote for next VOY sometime next year.
- c) Tom Derr – MMMAD. Budget for 2024 will be posted on website. Vote in December. \$16/month. \$140/month for Zone 3. Could do more if fees were higher.
- d) Banner District – Jennifer Kvalvik. If you see a broken banner email banner@miramesatowncouncil.org.
- e) Membership – Bari Vaz for Yvonne Negrón. Please join or renew your membership.

11) Adjournment 8:56

Next Meeting: Monday, December 5, 2022 – MM Library, 7pm, social meeting, entertainment TBA