

Mira Mesa Town Council Minutes

February 5, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

1) Call to order by President Bari Vaz

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

- a) SDPD Northeastern Division – Officer Christina Santos
 - i) Driving school instructor arrested for spying on students.
 - ii) Rancho Bernardo High School – gun threat, arrested student and father. Found ghost guns.
 - iii) Pop up car meets seem to have stopped. MMTC worked with mall owners and police to shut them down.
 - iv) Police will be at Tet Festival
 - v) May 6 - NE officers attending Sacramento Police Memorial.
- b) SD Fire Department Station 38 – Captain Joe Raymundo. Not present.

3) President’s Report & Call for MMTC member approval of January 8 Minutes – Bari Vaz.

- a) Minutes approved with no changes

4) Mira Mesa Girl Scouts announcement – It’s Girl Scout Cookies sales time! – Mira Mesa Girl Scout Troop 3017 “cookie mom” Jennifer Spencer and Brownie Girl Scout Caroline Spencer

- a) Girl Scouts will be outside most grocery stores and a few others starting Friday, February 9
- b) Cookie sales continue until March 10

5) Announcement about 2024 Fireworks – Michael Spencer, Scripps Mesa Fireworks

- a) Fireworks will be at 9pm on Wednesday, July 3, at Hourglass Field Community Park. This will kick off the Independence Day celebration. As with last year, 2024 Fireworks will be set off at the new joint use fields at Wangenheim Middle School and viewed from Hourglass Field Community Park at the southwest corner of the Miramar College campus. Mira Mesa Town Council will work to plan a Community Festival at Hourglass Field Park for late afternoon / early evening July 3.
- b) Currently Scripps Mesa Fireworks has about half the funds needed for the fireworks show on July 3. Looking for donations in any amount as well as sponsors at various levels. 3Roots will be “name sponsor”. Casa Mira View, Vulcan will also be sponsors. February is “We love our community fireworks” month. Donors can receive complimentary SMF heart-shaped logo merchandise – bags, hats, etc. Next meeting of SMF fundraising team is Wednesday, February 28, at Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church at 6pm in the preschool (off patio on side of church facing Reagan Road). For donation and sponsorship information see <https://www.miramesafireworks.org>

6) Main Program: State of Homelessness in Mira Mesa – Shane O’Garro, MMTC Board member and Pastor, Church of Salvation in Mira Mesa, with participation by City Councilmember Kent Lee’s office, Jermaine Rocacorba

- a) See attached presentation.
- b) Many people are one paycheck away from being homeless. Increase in number of senior homeless – spouse died or something happened to their income.
- c) Shane’s volunteer organization (sponsored by his church not as part of their religious programs but as a community service with the goal of homeless outreach) can get people into housing in one day. Organization is in Mira Mesa, Lemon Grove, North Park. Needs office space and also space for storage of donated supplies to assist homeless (such as sleeping bags, toiletries, etc.) Shane’s church does not have office space. Are there any other Mira Mesa churches, businesses (retail, commercial, or industrial), or individuals with room to donate space for an office and/or storage? Is anyone interested in becoming a volunteer? If so, contact Shane.
- d) Most unhoused in Mira Mesa are from Mira Mesa, but more now coming from downtown after crackdown on homeless there.

- e) shane@thechurchofsalvation.org
- f) Jermaine: <https://www.sdhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SDHC-at-a-glance-homelessness-solutions.pdf>.

7) Government and Community Resources

- a) Mira Mesa Branch Library – Marta Brandes-Miesner, Branch Manager. Not present.
- b) Mira Mesa Community Planning Group – Jeff Stevens, Chair Emeritus
 - i) January meeting cancelled so members could attend the public meeting on the search for a new police chief.
 - ii) February meeting will be on Thursday February 22, since 3rd Monday is President’s Day.
- c) Mira Mesa Community Recreation Group – Joe Frichtel, Chair
 - i) Completion of Wangenheim joint use fields project is delayed by 6 months because the contractor mixed the dirt incorrectly.
- d) Miramar College – P. Wesley Lundburg, President
 - i) Enrollment is up 8%
 - ii) Bond measure on November ballot. Will benefit Miramar College greatly. Among other improvements, it includes an arts gallery, performing arts center and athletics field improvements. Includes 4 pickleball courts. Offer to give a detailed presentation at a later meeting.
 - iii) Question – why are pets no longer allowed on the Community Park fields. Joe – joint use committee made regulation because people were not cleaning up after their dogs. Service dogs are allowed.
- e) Mira Mesa Farmers Market returns Feb. 20 - Pam Stevens

8) Elected Officials – standing reports

- a) City Councilmember Kent Lee – Jermaine Rocacorba
 - i) [Dumpster Day](#) – March 2nd.
 - ii) Contact: jrocacorba@sandiego.gov.
- b) San Diego Unified School Board – Sabrina Bazzo
 - i) Facing \$100 million budget cut now that Covid money has run out.
 - ii) Groundbreaking at MMHS for next phase of High School modernization.
- c) Mayor Todd Gloria – Michaela Valk. Not present.
- d) County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, District 3 – Evan Bridgham
 - i) <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/LIVEWELLSD/bulletins/388d0a4>
- e) State Senator Brian Jones – Mark Schaeffer. Not present.
- f) State Assemblyman Chris Ward – Miki Holmes
 - i) Getting rid of proposal to have flat rate electric billing portion of AB 205 as it was not used as expected.
 - ii) Senior scam stopper on Wed 2/28. See <https://dfpi.ca.gov/event/senior-resources-event-with-asm-chris-ward-ad78/>
 - iii) Cash for college webinar Mira Mesa/Clairemont Community Office.
 - iv) Can assist with questions related to insurance and flood relief funds.
 - v) Asm Ward’s website: <https://a78.asmdc.org/>
 - vi) email: Miki.Holmes@asm.ca.gov.
- g) US Congresswoman Sara Jacobs – Gita Akbarpour
 - i) On job a few weeks now. gita.akbarpour@mail.house.gov, Office #: (619) 280-5353
 - ii) Asking constituents for priorities.
 - iii) Sarajacobs.house.gov website.
 - iv) Attended groundbreaking of REC Innovation lab at Miramar College.
 - v) 2,691 constituents assisted.
- h) San Diego Community College District Board Member Bernie Rhinerson. Not present.

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

- a) Larry Webb spoke to support Mayoral Candidate Larry Turner. www.lt4sd.com.
- b) Connie Kraus asked whether a performing arts center is planned for Mira Mesa. Answer: Mira Mesa High School is planning to build a performing arts center that will be available for rent. There are currently no plans for a City performing arts center. Rental cost estimate based on Patrick Henry High is \$75/hour for nonprofits.
- c) Sabrina Bazzo is running for reelection and asked for support. <https://www.bazzoforschoolboard.com/>

- d) Lainie Hardman asked to protect the \$1 million in the Mira Mesa Community Fund for the use of the community.
- e) Alex Nguyen – Announced the San Diego Tet Festival in Mira Mesa Community Park. See below.

10) Adjournment by 9pm

The Vietnamese American Youth Alliance (VAYA) & Vietnamese Federation of San Diego are excited to sponsor the San Diego Tet Festival in Mira Mesa Community Park, February 16 – 18, 2024. The Mira Mesa Town Council will have a booth to share information about MMTC and the Mira Mesa community. Please join us! The Festival celebrates the Lunar New Year (Tet), For details see www.sdtet.com

Next MMTC meeting: Monday, March 4, 2024, 7pm, Mira Mesa Library community room