the mosaic

the newsletter of the mira mesa town council

Volume 46, Issue 8 November 2017

Mira Mesa volunteers line up to support Recreation Councils

By John Horst
Editor, The Mosaic

Mira Mesa community volunteers joined almost 100 San Diegans from other communities at City Hall on October 31st to speak against efforts by the city's Parks & Recreation Department to reduce Recreation Councils to mere advisory bodies.

The dispute arose from a question presented to Mara Elliot, San Diego's City Attorney, as to whether the funds in Recreation Council bank accounts, which are separate from the City's accounts, fall under the jurisdiction of the City.

Numerous speakers from the community pointed out that this was not in dispute. Elliot's memo only addressed the question of jurisdiction, but Parks & Recreation appeared to have interpreted it

» Rec Councils, pg 5

City Attorney Mara Elliot looks directly at Herman Parker and Parks & Recreation Staff in Council Chambers as she expresses her disappointment in being misled about community consultation.

Photo extracted from City Council chambers video.

the mosaic — President's Message

By Ted Brengel
President, Mira Mesa Town Council

November is here and so is the end of this year's daylight savings time. Don't forget to fall back on Saturday, November 4. Ah, an extra hour of sleep!

The Mira Mesa Town Council has been asked to support the Combat Arts Project. Combat Arts is aimed at helping veterans of recent conflicts make the difficult transition to civilian life by engaging them in artistic projects. Thus far they have created several murals. Information is available on their website at http://www.combatartssd.org/.

» president's message, pg 4.

Don't Forget!

November 6 — November MMTC meeting, Library at 7pm.

November 14 — Rec Council November meeting, Lopez Ridge, 7pm.

November 20 — November Planning Group meeting, Library, 7pm.

December 4 — MMTC Volunteer of the Year Selection. Library, 7pm.

In This Issue

Politics & Opinion..... pp. 2-3
News & Features..... pp. 4-9
Business Member Directory. pp. 10-11

The Mira Mesa Town Council is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organized to foster the public welfare of the community. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at the Mira Mesa Library at 7pm. See pg. 14 for newsletter advertising rates and contact info.

politics and opinion

Chris Cate: City Council District 6

Thanks to the Mira Mesa Library for inviting me to read "Can You Make a Scary Face" by Jan Thomas to launch the City of San Diego's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

The early literacy program gives parents a clear path to follow to develop literacy skills in their children before they begin school.

The City of San Diego will be hosting the 2nd Annual Pure Water Day Open House on Saturday, October 21 at the City's North City Water Reclamation Plant. The event is open to the public and will include free tours of the demonstration Pure Water Facility along with free snow cones, kettle corn, succulents, face painting and youth activities.

Lastly, let me extend a warm welcome to Chick-fil-A to the neighborhood of Sorrento Valley.

Toni Atkins: Senate District 39

On October 15th, the Governor signed SB 5, which places a measure on the June 2018 ballot asking voters to approve a $4-billion bond for parks, water and environmental projects. I am proud to support this bill.

What interests me most about SB 5 is its focus on improving access to local and regional parks. San Diego will be well-positioned to compete for millions of dollars in park funding grants under the proposal.

The bond will include $12 million specifically to improve the 52-mile San Diego River and will be a source of funding for my bill SB 667. Signed by the Governor last month, SB 667 will help organizations improve rivers and streams in their communities.

Parks, open spaces and natural waterways enrich our lives and provide environments that recharge us. I'll always work to enhance these special places.

Brian Maienschein: Assembly District 77

Assemblymember Brian Maienschein recognized Stuart N. Hedley as the 77th Assembly District's Veteran of the year. Hedley is a survivor fof the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"Stuart Hedley's courage and conviction was demonstrated time and time again throughout his career in the United States Navy," shared Maienschein. "It is our duty to remember and honor those who serve and protect our nation."

Hedley's career is memorialized in ten various medals from World War II and Korea.

After retirement he continued to serve his community, including involvement on the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District for 21 years, and his participation in the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Hedley, a resident of Clairemont since the 1950's, has served as chair of the Parades, Chaplain and Speaker bureaus for the Pearl Harbor Survivor Association.

Kristin Gaspar: County 3rd Supervisory District

This year's Miramar Air Show was spectacular and a very special one for me.

I was privileged to ride with the elite "Patriots Jet Team" as they took to the skies. My pilot, John "Boards" Posson gave me the ride of a lifetime that included several Gs and maneuvers that are not for the faint of heart. The view thousands of feet in the air was breathtaking.

The Patriots pilots travel to several air shows around the West Coast year after year. What's unique about them is that they and their crews are all civilian volunteers. They do it because they are passionate about aviation and hope to inspire the young children at the air shows to explore the field. My flight gave me a greater appreciation for the Miramar Air Show and for our country's military pilots.

Thank you to those at MCAS Miramar for making this such an incredible experience.

Recreation Council controversy undermines civic trust

By John Horst

In the current political environment it is clear a deep deficit of trust exists between the citizenry and their government. San Diego's Department of Parks & Recreation has significantly worsened this state of affairs by pushing to eliminate decades of collaboration between Recreation Councils and City government. This, alone, merits a strong rebuttal on editorial pages throughout the community. But the patently dishonest way in which Parks & Recreation pursued this effort merits nothing less than a call for the resignation of Herman Parker, the current director.

At a City Council meeting on October 31st, after hearing unanimous opposition to Park & Rec's proposal, City Attorney Mara Elliot excoriated Parker and his department for their dishonesty.

"I have been advising City Staff on this since just about the time I was inaugurated," Elliot said. "This is not a new issue and it was raised during my predecessor's term. We delayed issuing our opinion on this for many, many months because the Parks & Recreation Department assured us they were working to resolve all the issues that have been raised by the public today. We took them at their word. And its apparent to me right now that did not occur. I am very disappointed, and we will not make that mistake of trusting [this] department to communicate again."

Parker based his argument to the City Council on a City Attorney memo which was in answer to a very narrow question of whether the City Council had jurisdiction over monies in Recreation Council accounts. This has never been in dispute. Recreation Councils have operated under Council Policy for decades. The City Attorney's opinion is that the status quo does not comply with the law in several respects. Parker could have asked Elliot to outline how to remedy the defects in the status quo in order to allow Recreation Councils to operate largely as they have for decades. Instead Parker asked a very narrow question, and then went on to hide behind the narrow opinion which resulted, waiting until the last minute to manufacture an

» Civic Trust, pg 5

Scott Peters, CA 52nd Congressional District

I recently voted in favor of two bills that will take measures to better target border security. The first bill, The INTERDICT Act, authorizes funding to be spent on new technology that will further enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to catch people attempting to smuggle in illegal drugs, particularly fentanyl, a synthetic opioid.

We must equip our Customs and Border Protection officers with the most up-to-date technology to catch people trying to bring illegal drugs into our country. The bill I supported authorizes funding towards screening devices specifically directed towards detecting fentanyl. This is an epidemic we must get in front of to protect the people of San Diego County.

The second bill, the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) Reauthorization Act, will reauthorize a "flagship" global supply chain security program. The program creates an agreement between the U.S. CBP and companies who work outside the United States and rely on a global supply chain that will increase security of that supply chain and identify lapses in security.

When it comes to border security, we must place a priority on advanced technology and programs that counter global terrorism, such as investing in biometrics, enhanced surveillance, and other state-of the-art technology. This is a far better use of federal resources than a wall that is more about politics than keeping us safe.

The Mosaic welcomes news and opinion pieces authored by our elected representatives. Opinion pieces written by residents are welcome, but must have a community "angle" which helps inform readers of the importance of current events and issues to the Mira Mesa community. *Articles published here do not reflect the official position or opinion of the Mira Mesa Town Council, its Board of Directors, or any of its members.* Submissions may be sent via email to newsletter@miramesatowncouncil.org

etcetera...

president's message

From Page 1

They have estimated the cost of one of their murals at $30,000 and have asked if we are interested in partnering with other groups to sponsor a mural in Mira Mesa. The first step, obviously, is to find a location that is

- Not on City property
- Very visible
- Easily accessible
- Has the full support of the property owner for a mural.

Once the site is identified, then fund-raising and mural design can begin in earnest. Please let the Board of Directors know what you think of such a project.

Changing the subject as usual… I need some help. One thing I find troublesome as I drive along in Mira Mesa is people walking and running in the street. This includes the bicycle lanes of major thoroughfares such as Calle Cristóbal and Sorrento Valley Boulevard. My question is, why do people do this? We have wonderful sidewalks that are far safer for walking and running than are the streets. Why not use those?

I was once told by someone that the asphalt on the streets is softer than the pavement of the sidewalks. Do other pedestrians share this reasoning for using the streets? If so, one thing I can promise is that the sidewalks, no matter how hard, are far softer than car bumpers.

Some of you may have noticed a new stop sign at the intersection of Montongo Street and Westmore Road. Residents have been complaining about the dangerous character of this intersection for some time. So, how, you might ask, did it get changed? Changes of this type when properly justified are very easy to get approved. In this case residents from the immediate area made a brief presentation to the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group. At the following meeting, the item was on the Planning Group Meeting Agenda as an action item. After a brief discussion of the merits of a three-way stop at that intersection a vote was taken and the idea passed. That prompted a recommendation to the Streets Department for the placement of the signs, and after a few weeks, they were put in place. A very similar process is in progress for the intersection of Westmore Road and Garde Street, adjacent to the new baseball park.

There are a great many uncontrolled intersections in Mira Mesa, and certainly we don't want traffic controls at all of them, but if you know of one that you think is particularly dangerous, let us know, but be prepared to provide background information.

Have a great November and mark your calendars for the December MMTC meeting. We will once again be regaled by the Mira Mesa High School Madrigals with some Christmas carols. It's a great way to kick off your Christmas season.

Community Contacts & Resources

GENERAL COUNTY SERVICES INFORMATION

2-1-1 San Diego	2-1-1

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police/Fire/EMS	9-1-1
Poison Control	800-222-1222

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

SDPD Community Relations	858-538-8120
Suspected Arson	800-472-7766
Gangs	619-531-2847
Graffiti	619-525-8522
Non-Emergency Crime	858-484-3154

UTILITIES

Fire Hydrant Accidents/Open	619-515-3525
Gas Leak	800-411-7343
Power/Phone Lines Down	619-811-8081
Tree Limbs in Power Lines	800-411-7343

NUISANCES

Dangerous Animals	619-236-2341
Dead Animals	858-492-5060
Animal Manure	619-338-2283
Rodents/Rats	858-694-2888
Abandoned/Dangerous Buildings	619-236-5500
Abandoned/Inoperable Auto	858-495-7856
Loud Noise	619-236-5564
Code Compliance	619-236-5500
Uncollected/Overflowing Trash	858-492-5055

STREETS & ENVIRONMENT

Bus Station/Shelter Damaged	619-231-1466
Manhole Cover Missing/Damaged	619-515-3525
Flooded Street/Potholes	619-527-7500
Sinkhole/Street Collapse	619-515-3525
Traffic Light Malfunction	619-525-8650
Weeds/Fallen Trees/Clogged Storm Drains	858-689-6296

Rec Councils

From Page 1

as necessitating the confiscation of monies in these accounts.

Elliot's memo also only addressed the questions from the perspective of state law, municipal ordinance, and City Council policy. Most Recreation Councils are recognized by the federal government under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3), which has strict rules about how non-profits spend their money. The memo did not address these rules.

Two members of the community had marked their speaker slips as supporting the action to close down these accounts, but in their comments it appeared they opposed it and had marked the wrong box on the slip. In substance, all public comments were in opposition to the proposal.

Five members of the City Council opposed the manner in which the matter was rushed without going through committee. Barbara Bry, Lorie Zapf, Chris Cate, David Alvarez, and Georgette Gomez all expressed regret for and opposition to the hurried manner in which Parks & Recreation sought to have the matter decided. Scott Sherman believed it was inappropriate for "unelected citizens" to have control of "tax payer dollars" and made the motion. Mark Kersey agreed and initially seconded the motion.

Council President Myrtle Cole seemed to believe that despite her reservations, she "had to" support the action based on Park & Recreation claims that Recreation Council programs would have to be closed down as of December 31st without the action. Discussion on an amendment wording offered by the City Attorney resulted in Kersey rescinding his second. A subsequent motion to refer the matter to committee was approved unanimously, with Chris Ward abstaining.

Over the course of the debate, the most pointed comment was made by Elliot: "I have been advising City Staff on this since just about the time I was inaugurated. This is not a new issue and it was raised during my predecessor's term. We delayed issuing our opinion on this for many, many months because the Parks & Recreation Department assured us they were working to resolve all the issues that had been raised by the public today. We took them at their word. And its apparent to me right now that did not occur. I am very disappointed, and we will not make that mistake of trusting [this] department to communicate again."

The rescinding of the initial motion, and the passing of the subsequent motion to refer to committee means the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee, chaired by Cate, will take up the matter in December.

Civic Trust

From Page 3

emergency so as to browbeat the Council into implementing his agenda.

The City Attorney does not direct City Staff; that is the Mayor's prerogative. The City Attorney advises both the Mayor and the Council as to what legal risks are posed by the defects in the status quo. Elliot has said her office will not sign any new permits next year until these defects are remedied. Parker argues this means Recreation Council programs will have to cease as of the end of the year.

This is simply dishonest.

The Mayor may, if he so chooses, direct Mr. Parker to do what has been done in the past: to continue operating under the status quo while the needed changes are worked out between the Council (in committee), the community, and the department.

The City Attorney's job will be to outline any risks involved; the Mayor's job will be to decide whether or not to temporarily assume those risks so we can continue with our rich tradition of community engagement.

This is clearly the path which ought to be taken. Mr. Parker needs to reconcile himself to the fact that we have deep traditions in our communities and we insist on keeping them - we are not, and will not, ask his permission to do so.

If this meets with his dissatisfaction, Mr. Parker needs to resign and move on with his life.

business member directory

COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Sabrina Bazzo

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Sharla Rocha

Next Generation Educational Center
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858-536-8800
Geralyn Windt
info@nextgenerationec.com

FINANCE/BANKING

Navy Federal Credit Union
(888) 842-6328 - All Branches

Black Mountain Branch
10865 Black Mountain Rd
San Diego, CA 92126

Miramar Branch
2727 Elrod Ave
San Diego, CA 92145
(Base access required)

Sorrento Mesa Branch
6755 Mira Mesa Blvd,
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FITNESS/RECREATION

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Xanesti Technology Services LLC
11075 Ice Skate Pl
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John Horst
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MEDICAL/DENTAL

Children's Dentistry of San Diego
10717 Camino Ruiz Ste 103
San Diego CA 92126
858-536-1111
Charlene Valverde
contact@starrysmile2.com

Miramar Chiropractic and Health Center
9550 Black Mountain Rd Ste E
San Diego CA 92126
858-566-2446
Robert Simmons
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Take Off Pounds Sensibly "TOPS"
8961 Carley Cir
San Diego CA 92126-1510
858-536-9047
Richard Prouty
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PERSONAL/FAMILY SERVICES

Brengel Productions *
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San Diego CA 92126
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Ted Brengel
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El Camino Memorial Park
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San Diego CA 92121
858-453-2121
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REAL ESTATE

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Julius Hitchens
julius@san.rr.com

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

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858-549-2479
Darrell Dunlap
pastordarrell@gotochrist.com

First Bapist Church Mira Mesa
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San Diego CA 92126
858-566-3671
Elisha Rimestad
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Generations Life Center
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San Diego CA 92126
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Rev. Bill Impey
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8081 Mira Mesa Blvd
San Diego CA 92126
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Parrish Bridges
mmpcusa@sbcglobal.net

RESTAURANT/GROCERY

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Bud Kottman
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858-603-4953
Dennis Conzemius
president@miramesalittleleague.org

Mira Mesa Youth Baseball
PO Box 261344
San Diego CA 92196
858-699-3705.
Carlos Weckmann IV
miramesayouthbaseball@hotmail.com

North County Soccer Park
14530 Espola Road
Poway CA 92064
858-748-4260
fun@ncspsoccer.com

'Spread' Ad: $600.00

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COMPANION NAME(S) _____

COMPANY NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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PHONE _____

CITY, STATE ZIP _____

DATE _____

- ☐ **Individual ($20)**
- ☐ **Companion ($10)**
- ☐ **Senior/Military/Student ($10)**
- ☐ **Corporate/Business ($50)**
- ☐ **Non Profit + MMCC ($90)**
- ☐ **Business + MMCC ($150)**

Annual membership runs from July 1st to June 30th. Any resident, business, or non-profit with an address in the community of Mira Mesa as shown in the Mira Mesa Community Plan may join as a voting member. Members with addresses outside the community will be non-voting members. Dues are used to support the mission of advocating for the welfare of the community of Mira Mesa.

Amount $ _____ Cash / Check # _____ ($25 fee for returned/declined checks/ACH.

Mira Mesa Town Council
10606-08 Camino Ruiz, PMB 230
San Diego CA 92126

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