

**Mira Mesa Planning Group
Meeting Minutes
April 20 2009**

Attendees: Bari Vaz, Joe Frichtel, Marlon Austria, John Brand, Bruce Brown, Darrell Dunlap, Steve Esquilin, Ian Firth, Linda Geldner, Mark Kornheiser, Michael Linton, Phil Lisotta, Marvin Miles, Rich Ragus, Erwin Rose, Sandy Smith, John Horst.

(Executive Committee Absent: Pat O'Donohoe and Jori Tulkki)

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm. Ted Brengel introduced Marvin Miles who presented certificates for 20+ years of service to Jeff Stevens, Bob Chamberlain and Ted Brengel.

1. Election of Executive Committee Officers

Ted Brengel, outgoing Chairman, chaired the seating of new Board members. An opportunity for candidates for Chair to speak was given. Ballots were collected with the candidate receiving the most votes seated as Chair and the candidate with the second most votes being seated as Vice-Chair. The candidates were Linda Geldner, Bari Vaz and Steve Esquilin. The Secretary was voted on separately. The sole candidate was John Horst. The Executive Committee voted. Jeff Stevens collected the ballots.

While the ballots were being counted City Councilman Carl DeMaio spoke to the audience briefly to introduce the main purpose of the meeting with respect to CalTrans and the Mira Mesa Direct Access Ramp (heretofore "DAR") project/traffic issues in the neighborhood. Councilman DeMaio also spoke to the larger issues of city finances and budgeting. Councilman DeMaio also introduced John Ly as his liaison to the Mira Mesa Community Planning Group.

A member asked about a vote on various fees. Carl indicated that the fee increases passed, but he voted against them.

Ted Brengel announced the results of the election. Linda Geldner was seated as the new Chair and Bari Vaz as the new Vice-Chair. John Horst was seated as the new Secretary. Linda Geldner assumed the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

2. Agenda Deletions or Additions:

None

3. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Bari Vaz to table the approval of the previous minutes to provide an opportunity for further review by the new Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

4. Information Items

MCAS Miramar:

Juan Lias reported on the closure of the public comment period on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the location of the MV22 Osprey squadrons at MCAS Miramar. The current base Commanding Officer (CO), COL O'Conner, retires May 1, 2009. (COL?) David Meyers will server as temporary base CO. COL John Richie will be the new base CO.

A proposal for a pedestrian bridge across Mira Mesa Blvd. has been discussed in previous meetings, and the matter of Mira Mesa Blvd. possibly being a "military access road" was raised as a possible barrier to being able to build such a bridge. Juan Lias reported that the Marine Corps has responded that Mira Mesa Blvd. should not be considered a "military access road" unless the Executive Committee receives otherwise in writing.

District 5 Update:

No information other than the update provided by Councilman DeMaio during the election of officers.

Planning Department: No information

Public Comment (non-agenda): None offered.

Others:

Linda Geldner provided a report on a subcommittee concerning a Mira Sorrento lot development.

Rich Ragus will take over chair of the Mira Sorrento subcommittee.

Oscar Urteaga representing Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher was introduced. John Ly introduced himself to the audience. Joel Rizzo introduced himself from city traffic engineering.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Chairman's Report: None as a new Chairperson was seated.

7. Old Business

a. I-15 Managed Lanes Environmental Impact Report

CalTrans Representative Andrew Rice started Mira Mesa Direct Access Ramp (DAR) Presentation. Rancho Bernardo DAR is the most similar to what will be built in Mira Mesa. Traffic mitigation/calming methods will be included during the design process with community input. Rice presented a PowerPoint (incorporated into these minutes as Appendix 1) and completed his presentation after which the Chair opened the opportunity for community comments. A summary of public comments follows herein. Speaker slips were received from each speaker and are incorporate into these minutes, with certain private information redacted, as Appendix 2).

Rochelle Dawes from Walker Elementary: Registered displeasure with the fact that the final decision seems to have been made without any input after the original meeting. Has concerns about the traffic, which is already bad, and will only get worse with the DAR.

Jim Maloney: Felt that notice was way too short. Wondering how people will access the DAR with respect to Hillery Dr. Feels that traffic is already backed up. Is asking whether eminent domain be involved.

Jeff Stevens: Asked for clarification on “no significant impact” in the report and raised the issue of traffic and parking. On traffic: Many roads will run at Level of Service (LOS) ratings of “F” but with larger volumes. This is a significant impact. Improvements in Mira Mesa Blvd (heretofore “MMB”) and Black Mountain Rd. (heretofore “BMR”) need to be incorporated to keep load off Hillery Dr. Concerning parking, a structure for both Miramar College and public transit needs to be built together with the project.

William Hanley: Wanted to know what will be done to lessen the traffic. Presentation was too vague on mitigation. How will residents on Hillery evacuate in case of an emergency?

Carol Marsh: What exit strategies exist for fire/earthquakes? Very worried for the kids at Walker Elementary School. Also wants to know what is happening with construction along Maya Linda Rd. Also asked about access to Mira Mesa Market Center via Hillery Dr.

Michelle McBride: Was surprised by the notice and wondered why the community was not notified more clearly.

Oscar Urteaga: Asked whether the parking structure have enough for both students and residents carpooling or using public transportation?

Connie Kraus: Was upset because this was the first she has heard of the project. Indicated that traffic is already so bad that walking is faster than driving to the Mira Mesa Market Center. Asked if any properties be acquired as part of traffic calming? Responded to the idea presented of narrowing lanes as actually making matters worse with respect to safety.

Forrest Simmons: Traffic is already overloaded. Marbury Rd. and Hillery Dr. is already very unsafe and sees numerous rear-end accidents. Feels other options have not been looked at carefully.

Delanie Brewer: Asked what lessons were learned from Rancho Bernardo DAR. How accurate were impact predictions?

Sheila Guzman (Chair of Walker Elementary Partner Council): Very concerned about safety on Hillery Dr., especially for younger kids. Adults often have to step out in front of traffic to stop cars from running student traffic control.

Ayesha Bokhary: Cannot allow her kids out in the front yard because of the traffic on Hillery Dr. Turns on Marbury Rd. or Rickert Rd. are next to impossible. Felt notice of the project was sorely lacking. Has had guests' children almost get hit by vehicles on Hillery Dr..

Nordie El Hafidoun: Has the third option – not building a DAR at all – been seriously considered?

After completion of public comment, CalTrans provided an initial response by Andrew Rice and Gustavo Dallarda:

Rice: The project does not bring in new traffic. It diverts current traffic off of MMB and Carroll Canyon Rd. (heretofore "CCR"). The project is designed to support mass transit and the transit for Miramar College. Traffic calming will reduce volume on MMB and CCR. "Value Analysis" study part of the project will "open the box" for various options.

Dallarda: Wants someone from Walker to participate in Value Analysis. Wonders whether something can be done about drop off and pick up at Walker as part of the project.

Rice (responding to the matter of community notification): All notifications are documented in the EIR. Recounted the various forums in which the project was discussed publicly.

Dallarda: Eminent Domain is **not** planned along Hillery Dr. Some right-of-way issues elsewhere need to be addressed. Parking is top priority for SANDAG funding. Miramar College will build a parking structure and will

make parking spaces available for transit center, reserved and not available to students. On evacuations, “no build” alternatives may actually make this worse. Shopping center access by Hillery Dr. should not be affected. Scripps Ranch (responding to an observation about no impact on Scripps Ranch) actually wanted an east-side connection. The east side does not have current or future transit service plan that would justify an east-side connection. Miramar College/Mira Mesa has that transit service level.

On questions concerning Rancho Bernardo DAR projections, the estimates are over 20-30 years so it is too soon to judge.

Joel Rizzo: Introduced himself as a point of contact from city engineering in case of questions.

Sandy Smith/Bari Vaz: Observed that homes in Mesa Village have only Hillery Dr./Greenford Ave. as an outlet and asked why these “single family homes” were taken out of the “study area.”

CalTrans/KOA Corp George Ghossain: All traffic including these areas have been considered and analyzed with project and without project. The DAR & traffic calming are expected to lower the volume that is being experienced today. Joel Rizzo will follow up on these studies.

Bruce Brown asked for investigation into not allowing eastbound traffic on Hillery Dr. through BMR in either direction (east or west). Traffic should be forced to turn left or right on BMR. Also asked who will pay for traffic calming. CalTrans responds that the project will pay. Chair asked about the budget.

Darrel Dunlap (Executive Committee): What does “no significant impact” mean?

Dallarda: The term “significant” is defined by CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and means something specific with respect to the natural environment, but may mean something different to members of the impacted neighborhoods with respect to traffic and how residents perceive the impact of the project.

Erwin Rose: Still wants MMB traffic addressed by the city to keep load off of Hillery Dr.

Chair: Suggested a subcommittee be set up and led by a board member to include the Walker Elementary community. Bari will chair and SC will include Mark Kornheiser and Sandy Smith. Residents Ayesha Bokhary, Rochelle Dawes (Walker Elementary) and William Hanley expressed interest on being part of the subcommittee.

Steve Esquilin asked about the Rancho Bernardo DAR and how it is similar. Dallarda indicated that the similarities are architectural and not about the neighboring community

Bari Vaz: Why was Hillery Dr. DAR reinstated after an initial project document indicated that it was not going to be included. Dallarda indicated that a much greater degree of study was done after the initial report, and this greater level of study changed the view.

Chair: Requests info on what process is available to contest the conclusions of the EIR.

Joe Frichtel: Spoke to the community about board members helping notify the community an asking the community to keep their strong interest over the coming two years.

Jeff Stevens: Asked for more info about intersection improvements including MMB and BMR.

Chair: Project appears to be intended to divert volume onto Hillery Dr., which is exactly what the community opposes.

John Horst: Asked about CCR off-ramp from SB I-15 having only one lane. Dallardo gave a larger update on the work being done at CCR with respect to a water line that needed to be replaced. The off-ramp lane will be returned after completion.

Chair: Informed attendees about becoming General Members to get on distribution list. Promoted Mira Mesa Town Council (MMTC) web site where documents related to this project can be found.

Unknown audience member asked about the appeal process, which Chair indicates she is requesting from CalTrans. Wants to know how to "protest" the decision.

Unknown audience member wants to know if public comment can still be expressed.

Rochelle Walker: Does not see any difference between what was asked in November and what is being asked in this meeting. Chair answered that the process is still ongoing and needs the widest amount of participation as possible.

Joe Frichtel promoted MMTC web site www.MiraMesaTownCouncil.org and MiraMesa.com as sources of community information.

8. New Business: None

9. Committee Reports:

a. Los Penasquitos Canyon Citizen's Advisory Committee: Pam Stevens reported new officers have been elected and reported on Camino Ruiz Park trail being under construction.

b. CPC: Jeff Stevens provided regular CPC Report.

c. Stone Creek Update: None.

d. COMPACT: None.

Motion to adjourn was made by John Horst at 9:10pm, seconded by Bruce Brown, carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Horst
Secretary, Mira Mesa Community Planning Group

Appendix 1: CalTrans Presentation

Appendix 2: Speaker Slips (phone numbers are redacted to protect the privacy of the speaker)