

MMTC GENERAL MEETING
March 2, 2009
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Girl Scout Troop 8416 Presents Colors

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome and Introduction of Board Members
 - President Jeff Stevens
 - First Vice President (program chair) Pam O'Donohoe
 - Second Vice President (membership) Ted Brengel
 - Treasurer Alan Philpott
 - Recording Secretary Albertine Feurer-Young
 - Newsletter Editor Maria Pankau
 - Parliamentarian Debbie Vincent
 - Member at Large Marlon Austria
 - Member at Large Jon Labaw
 - Member at Large Robin Stutsman
 - Member at Large John Daley
- Chuck Sweet gave the library a new flag. He presents the new flag to the library: "Please don't let it leave this room." The library is very grateful for this gift.

MINUTES APPROVAL

- Minutes Corrections:
From Erica Holloway, Communications Advisor for Vice Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price: "The correct spelling for the chairwoman is Dianne Jacob."
- Jeff Stevens makes a motion to approve the minutes.
- Debbie Vincent seconds the motion
- Minutes are approved as corrected and written.

BOARD REPORTS

- President:
 - John Lee Evans, School board.
 - Volunteer of the Year Dinner on 6/6 at Miramar.
 - New Farmer's Market.
 - Harmonium Work Program
 - Agenda flow has been changed; community reports will be allotted a maximum of two minutes each. Longer reports will be agenda items. We are not minimizing the reports; we want to make sure there are people here to hear them. Open Forum is moved to the end of the meeting.
- Treasurer:
 - Beginning balance \$83,576.26; Income \$863.06; Expenses \$193.43; Net cash flow \$669.63; Ending balance \$84,245.89.

OFFICIAL'S REPORTS

- Police Department (Officer Paul Lennon, Lt. Rick O'Hanlon)
 - Not present
- SD Fire Department
 - Not present
- City Councilman Carl DeMaio (John Ly)
 - New red light camera – Westview Parkway and Mira Mesa Blvd.

- Fire Station 38 0 renovation passed through council.
- New access ramp – he is setting up a town meeting with CalTrans.
- Environmental Drive – used batteries and oil can be dropped off at Mira Mesa High School.
- DeMaio praises SDCERS Board for adopting key pension reform.
- Pledge of Allegiance is a former item on the docket during City Council meetings; there will be night meetings the first Monday of the month.
- Council President will be elected once the new council will be voted in.
- DeMaio is in Scripps Ranch on Fridays and is available to meet there.
- City Mayor Jerry Sanders (Steven Lew)
 - Not present
- County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (Erica Holloway)
 - State of the Economy Address was last month. Supervisor Dianne Jacob is the Chair this year. The state budget has been passed.
 - 27 employees were laid off, but these employees were offered positions elsewhere in the county.
 - The county has not had a staffing increase in over 10 years.
 - Assessor Job – there are two finalists: David Butler and Jeffrey Olson.
 - Supervisor’s newsletter:
 - Chuck Sweet: Can we start a city-wide food program to help the unemployed in this county and in North County? San Diego Food Banks need help. Please get this message out to the community and through public TV as well. We need food donations.
 - When will the Nature Center reopen? The Nature Center is not closed. The Grand Avenue Bridge will reopen in one month. The grand opening was last month; it was subsequently closed because it didn’t meet ADA.
 - Jeff Stevens: What is happening to the County’s Pension? Answer: The fluctuation in the market, including the hedge fund scandals, have affected the County’s pension fund. Dianne Jacob discussed it at length during the State of the Economy. It could be turned back into a two-tier system. The fund is losing value and the employees must make up the difference.
- State Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher (Oscar Urteaga)
 - 37 bills were passed on 2/20 that included reductions, revenues, and other answers that provide solutions to the state’s fiscal crisis as well as policy changes and reforms intending to provide short term needs and our long term benefits to California’s economy.
 - The total shortfall projected in the Governor’s budget is \$41.7 billion.
 - The plan included a large tax increase that Fletcher did not support.
 - The state has seen a 40% increase to the general fund. This new budget contains \$15 billion in permanent spending reductions, coupled with a spending limit so the state lives within its means.
 - Tax Policy Changes:
 - AB 15xxx New Hire Tax Credit
 - ✓ \$3,000 tax credit to small businesses for each new full-time job created to promote job creation.
 - ✓ Small businesses represent 99.2% of California’s employers and account for 52.1% of private-sector jobs.
 - ✓ The tax credit would be available to companies with 20 or fewer employees.
 - AB 15xxx – Single Sales Factor
 - ✓ Encourages companies to hire and retain workers by changing the state’s tax structure.

- ✓ California businesses would be given the option of being taxed under the current double-weighted system, where taxes are assessed by the formula of 50% sales, 25% payroll, and 25% property or, instead, businesses could chose to be taxed based solely upon their sales.
 - Check out Nathan's video message "Nathan's Capitol Update."
<http://arc.asm.ca.gov/member/75/?p=video>.
 - Q – Regarding the budget, which issues will be brought up to vote?
A. On 5/19, Spending cap proposition increases the size of the rainy day fund to 12.5% and salary increased during budget for legislative pay. Also, Prop 10 and Prop 63 (Funding for Mental Health programs for children).
- State Senator Christine Kehoe (Andrew Kennerly)
 - Budget was passed and was signed into law.
 - Last Friday was the deadline to introduce new legislations.
 - SB 428 – this will give the city the power to make a decision regarding Children's Pool.
 - SB 93 – redevelopment reform in the Grandville neighborhood. Funds were redirected to the Trolley and to a parking structure. The Attorney General stated it was not illegal; this bill will make it illegal.
 - Unemployment rate is above 10%; highest since 1983. The unemployment call line is receiving over two million calls a day. Kehoe's office can email their legislative liaison and forward a message to the appropriate person; the response time is about 10 days. Filing from the website is much more efficient.
<https://eapply4ui.edd.ca.gov/>
- US Representative Brian Bilbray (Andrew Lund)
 - Budget introduced by the President. Four Trillion dollars: (1) Estate Tax will return and (2) the Marriage Penalty will return.
 - New healthcare reform.
 - Q. What type of dog is the First Dog. A. Andrew will research this, but it seems to be a Portuguese Water dog.

COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS (not all groups will present at every meeting)

- Kathy Madsen
 - Taste of Mira Mesa invitations are ready; take as many invitations as you can. This is the biggest fund raiser for Mira Mesa High School. Gavin from the UPS Store by Ralphs has been very helpful with this effort.
 - Motion from Chuck to donate \$200 to the Mira Mesa High School Foundation, which may be used to purchase up to four business memberships in MMTC.
 - Second from Arlette
 - Motion is passed – 1 opposed.
- Sandy Smith
 - Casino Night is April 25th
 - MiraMesa.com – thanks to Mark Smith.
 - Chamber's website
 - Town Council website
 - Volunteer of the Year Dinner is June 6th at MCAS Miramar's Officers' Club.
- HEROES
 - Mark Twain painting on 3/7th
 - April 25th project? Let him know.
 - Non-Profit list
 - PCs for the Senior Center
 - If anyone needs help, let Mike Davis know.

- Woman's Club
 - Chalk the Walk is 5/9.
- Mira Mesa Library
 - 3/30 Joy Luck Club.
 - Catalog terminal has access to the EDD online unemployment application.
 - New program to study a new language – online language instruction from home computers through the library's database: Mango Languages.
 - Every branch library now has passes to the Children Museum downtown for two adults and all children in the family. At the moment, it's on reserve; there will be more of these available.
- Senior Center
 - They are doing a lot of work at the Senior Center and need volunteers. This Senior Center is the only one almost completely maintained by volunteers.
- Theatre Guild
 - Monthly meetings at Lopez Ridge 3rd Wednesday of every month 3/18 at 7 PM.
 - Production this year.
 - Theatre Acting Class – monthly or bi-monthly

NEW BUSINESS

- Farmer's Market
 - Brian Wissinger and Ron Lachance.
 - Grand Opening Date: 4/21
 - Location: Mira Mesa High School
 - Certified farmers grow everything in the state of California; most items are picked that morning.
 - Fish, fruits, crafts, oils, jewelry, photography, etc.
 - Comment: This area was designated as an in-ground theatre.
 - There will be free booths to non-profits.
 - Vendor application is on the website: www.miramesafarmersmarket.com; check out www.miramesachamber.com for more information.
 - Gardeners in our community can also become certified farmers.
- John Lee Evans – School board representative
 - Carol Hunters, Volunteer Community Liaisons, is present to assist with questions.
 - 20/20 Vision for the schools - his long term vision for the schools.
 - What we need in our public schools:
 1. A better way of measuring students' success.
 2. The very best teachers.
 3. Individualized instruction using technology.
 4. More computers available to students.
 5. Life-long learning.
 6. Staffing.
 7. Our school system being more of a model of democracy with planning groups.
 8. Individual schools having more control.
 9. More local sources of funding.
 10. Assess the overall results.
 - The district has not been attentive to what people want. In response to this, the time of the meetings has been changed to 5 PM so more people could attend.
 - Splitting lunch period into two different lunches created havoc and will not happen. The schools are looking for better more nutritious lunches to be available to the students. Lunch period might be extended a bit to assure all students have time to eat. Breakfast might be moved to the classrooms.
 - High school starts too early because of bus schedules.

- Mira Mesa High only has four buses.
- He would like feedback on the nine items above.
- Speak to Carol Hunter regarding having Advisory Counselors for each community that will meet with him regularly.
- Budget – schools need to cut \$33 millions. \$7.7 million was cut from the central office. 6.2 million was cut by freezing open positions and raises until the end of the year. Next year, we have \$104 million shortfall. They are trying to avoid laying people off and want to improve attendance. By raising it by .5%, revenues can be increased drastically. All potential solutions are being reviewed.
- There are a lot of things San Diego Public Schools are doing right. In fact, we are seeing an increase of people coming from private schools and being pleasantly surprised by the quality of the teachers and of the education being offered.
- He has been on the board for only 90 days and has made plenty of enemies already; he wants direct feedback from people.
- Comment: The survey on the district's website is excellent and is a great place for everyone to go and look.
- Q: Will you reach out to the parents directly? A: Yes. There will be open meetings in high schools and elementary schools.
- Q: There are concerns about switching the start times for high schools to save some funds. They are concerned there will be attendance and tardy problems and that preschoolers will be going to school in the dark during certain periods of the year. Is it correct that this will not be benefiting Mira Mesa and will instead benefit other communities?
A: That's correct. They are still looking at other options.
- Q: How did you vote on the football field with the sprinkler systems?
A: The number of hours per week that the field in Mira Mesa is used is large; it's an intrinsic part of the community. This was part of Proposition S.
- Q: Why are we allowing the transportation system to decide what time our children should be going to school? If studies state children can't learn this early, then we should follow the study.
A: I agree. They are going to school much too early and the bus schedules should not be driving this. He is the main one of the five on the board who is talking about this the most. He is looking at any possible solution he can put in place.
- Q: Elementary school students are being asked to come in half an hour early and are in after-school programs until past four. It's a long day for them. Erickson was changed, but has no buses. How come?
A: Honestly, I'm not sure. I'll find out. (person in the audience stated that these are special education buses.)
- Comment: No matter what time school starts, the kids biological clocks are not fit for it and no matter what you serve in the cafeteria, they will not like it. Fish and cut bait.
- Q: What website is the survey on?
A: Sandi.net
- Gavin, UPS Store by Ralphs
 - We offer a lot more than just shipping or packaging.
 - We work for MiraMesa.com a lot.
 - The location was completely remodeled
 - 3/26 at 5:30 PM is the Grand Reopening Party – it's a fund raiser for the Mira Mesa Chamber of Commerce as well.
- Harmonium (Meredith)

- Harmonium is working on a youth hiring drive for the summer program. It must be for a non-profit, so hiring youth to help with the Senior Center, different community projects (4th of July, Street Fair), etc. Harmonium would assess all the youths and would then place the youths and provide an 8 hour orientation and a 6 hours skill training session. Harmonium would pay all the youths between June 1 through September 30th.
- Meredith needs a letter of support. Arlette makes a motion; Courtland Young seconds it. Motion passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

- Shopping carts
 - Carl DeMaio's office is working on this.
 - Ordinance has been drafted to push companies to become better corporate neighbors.
 - San Diegans Against Abandoned Shopping Carts is a local organization working on this problem.
 - The retrieval service is not working.
 - Complaining to the stores could help; all residents finding abandoned shopping cards should immediately let the stores know and lodge a complaint.
- Mira Mesa High School
 - Theatrical production - Hello Dolly.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Board Meeting: **Monday, April 13 at 6:45 PM** at the Senior Center. Unless otherwise scheduled, Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Senior Center at 6:45 PM.

FOLLOWING MEETING

The following regularly scheduled general meeting will be **on April 6, 2009** at the Mira Mesa Library. Planning Group Chair Ted Brengel will be guest speaker.