

## **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3 MEETING**

### **I. Opening**

- A. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Brad Buffett, president.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Introduction of board members.

### **II. Board Reports**

- A. Chuck Sweet (Treasurer): MMTC Checking: \$2271.58; Savings: \$2506.50; CD: \$11,061.11; Street Fair: \$34,000 (minus recent checks).
- B. Arlette Ballew (Secretary): Requested approval of minutes of September 12 meeting. Motion to approve (Stevens/Radick) carried.
- C. Mike Davis (1<sup>st</sup> V.P., Programs):
  - 1. HEROES will work with “United We Paint” on October 15 to paint an elderly couple’s home and will do clean up at the Woods Trailer Park on October 29.
  - 2. There will be a small neighborhood cleanup November 2 at Reagan Road and Camino Ruiz.
- D. Jeff Stevens (Webmaster): The MMTC and the Scripps Ranch Civic Association are co-sponsoring a Voters’ Information Forum featuring Jerry Sanders and Donna Frye on October 7 at 7 p.m. at Miramar College.

### **III. Reports from Government Representatives**

- A. City Councilman Brian Maienschein (Khoa Nguyen)
  - 1. Brian and Khoa congratulated the MMTC on the successful Mira Mesa Street Fair, which has grown in the number of vendors and attendees.
  - 2. Construction of the 4 managed lanes and Bus Rapid Transit stations on I 15 will be completed in December, 2007. The Lake Hodges expansion will be delayed to 2008. There have been complaints about debris left by CalTrans on I 15 ramps. You can call Brian’s office to report it. Contractors are supposed to clean up.
  - 3. The opening ceremonies for Breen Park will be held Wednesday, October 19, at 5 p.m. All are invited.
  - 4. The Miramar Air Show is October 14, 15, and 16.
- B. County Supervisor Ron Roberts (Natalie Clark)
  - 1. The County has contracted with Sigma Communications for a “reverse 911” system to notify citizens in case of an emergency or evacuation.
  - 2. The County has many openings for volunteers on County advisory boards, committees, and commissions and in County departments. There are volunteer positions in the areas of health, social issues, criminal justice, senior programs, planning and land use, parks, libraries, animal shelters, housing, cable t.v. regulation, and elections. Many services and programs could not be provided without volunteers. For more information, call the Clerk of the Board’s office at 619-531-5600 or the County Volunteer Coordinator at 619-531-5616 or visit the County Administration Center at 1600 Pacific Highway (downtown), Room 402. The County website is [www.co.san-diego.ca.us/cnty/cntydepts/general/cob](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/cnty/cntydepts/general/cob) (click

on the Department Services button, then on “Volunteer” or “Commissions & Committees”).

C. County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (Joe Sheffo)

1. The County has approved \$5 million per year to expand the California Department of Forestry’s services and coordination with other fire services.
2. Distributed an information sheet on illegal encampments in parks. Said that the migrant camps in Los Penasquitos Preserve are the City’s responsibility, as the County is responsible only for the adobe. (Pam Stevens questioned this. She also said that a trail from Camino Ruiz Park to the preserve might help to deter illegal encampments. City Trails Coordinator Ranger Rick is working on it.)

D. State Assemblyman George Plescia (Eric Pottischen)

1. The Governor has signed legislation, co-sponsored by George, that makes California part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact—already in place in the other 47 contiguous states. This allows states to share emergency response resources immediately during a disaster.
2. George’s office is participating in “Operation: MOM” to send packages to our troops overseas during the holiday season. Items most desired are: fleece lap blankets, disposable cameras, phone cards, music CDs, DVD movies, socks, washcloths, votive candles, cards and letters, candy canes, ornaments, Christmas stockings, ornaments, beef or turkey jerky, microwave popcorn, Koolaid, chewing gum, trail mix, and granola or protein bars. Donations will be accepted until the end of October. Call 858-689-6290 with any questions.
3. Throwing a cigarette (or butt) onto a highway is a violation of state law. If you witness this, you can call 1-800-NOSMOKE. There is a \$1,000 fine.

E. State Senator Christine Kehoe (Laura Hein)

1. The senator’s newsletter ([www.senate.ca.gov/Kehoe](http://www.senate.ca.gov/Kehoe)) contains information on the CA Office of Emergency Services’ efforts to aid hurricane victims and what you can do to help. It also contains a legislative update.
2. All bills on eminent domain have been put on hold because they came up so late in the session. The Senator will hold a hearing in S.D. on Wednesday, October 26, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the City Heights Library. She will hold another in November.

F. RSVP (Larry Brady): RSVP graduation is Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the War Memorial Building in Balboa Park. There are a couple of graduates from Mira Mesa.

#### IV. MMTC Survey

A. Paper was distributed, and MMTC members were asked to write down what issues they would like the MMTC to address.

B. Replies were:

1. What can we do as individuals and as a council to clean up San Diego City government?
2. Illegals [migrant workers] at the 7/11 and the north end of Camino Ruiz.
3. Cleanliness-filthiness of off/on ramps.
4. Debris everywhere in streets and curbs.
5. Vehicles running stop signs.
6. Community apathy.

**V. Open Forum:** Maria Pankau announced that the annual MMHS Invitational Band Review Field Tournament will be held on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. It will include a short street parade. Maria asked the MMTC for a donation of \$110 to pay for the top trophy for the tournament. It was explained that this item was not approved for the MMTC 2005 budget. Jeff Stevens volunteered to pay half the amount, and Chuck Sweet volunteered to pay the other half.

## **VI. Main Program**

### **A. CERT--Community Emergency Response Team (Barbara Ayres)**

1. Introduced three Mira Mesa CERT graduates (Christine, Brad, and Mike) and presented a slide show on the program.
2. Background: CERT was created by the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (fire, lifeguard, and rescue operations) in response to local wildfires. Lack of available aid from the south, west, or east puts San Diego in a vulnerable position. Often, the Los Angeles communities have fires when we do and cannot help. Two other issues are earthquakes (there were 7 temblors in Southern CA between 4/9 and 7/2) and tsunamis (which El Nino can affect). FEMA has adopted CERT as a national program. Funding is mostly from private sources.
3. Training: Because people do not know how to react in an emergency, the goal is to train enough people in the community to work as a team (10 to 50 members), to stop the problem from growing and to speed up response and recovery time. Team members are trained in how to assess the situation and what responses are needed; basic fire suppression; basics of hazardous materials and terrorism; evacuation and search and rescue strategies; basic medical triage and medical aid (bleeding, breathing, shock); crisis support for victims; and how to better support authorities before, during, and after a crisis. Local teams develop equipment caches that they can use until professional assistance arrives, which could be hours, days, or weeks. (Often, the caches are funded by the Town Council. Scripps Ranch has 10-15 sheds throughout the community.) Working in conjunction with the Fire Dept. gives the team more real-time information. CERT-training teachers are firefighters and paramedics. In all, twenty-four hours of training is required. Four-hour classes are held Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings (can mix), and there are special classes for businesses. Ongoing follow-up events (e.g., annual refresher courses and drills) are held. Each team has regularly scheduled meetings. Volunteers must be 18 or older, and persons with all types of abilities are welcomed. (Brad added that the training also increases awareness of disaster-preparedness issues at home, for example, having a “safe” room where nothing bad can fall on you.)
4. Currently, there are 18 CERT programs in the county; San Diego’s is the largest. The first team was in Scripps Ranch; now there are teams in Tierrasanta and Navahoe (San Carlos and Allied Gardens)—a total of 192 volunteer graduates to date. More volunteers are needed from Mira Mesa for the Scripps-Mira Mesa area. Mike is leader of a HAM radio operators team. Brian Maienschein is a great supporter of the program. (Khoa said that the “Good Samaritan” law protects most people. If you are deployed by CERT, you are covered by Workman’s Compensation.

**City of San Diego Water Department (Charles Yackly, Assistant Director)**

1. Discussed proposed fee and charge revisions for fiscal year 2006. All changes have been approved by citizen and governmental review groups, and departmental cost recovery is a legal requirement of the municipal code and bond covenants. Increases would be effective January 1, 2006, and notices will be sent out before then with customer bills.

2. Fees requiring City Council approval are for: developer-construction, water service and meter installation, tapping into water mains, connections to water mains, and cross-connection testing.

3. New billing and collection fees for regular customers would be:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2006</u>
a. shutoff for non-payment	\$24	\$30
b. restoration of service after shutoff	\$16	\$25
c. meter removal (for illegal reconnection)	\$31	\$45
d. meter reinstallation	\$31	\$38

There would also be fees for backflow replacement and maintenance.

4. Several factors affect pricing: equipment usage; developer fees (last updated in 1998), customer-related fees (last adjusted in 2000), increased labor and fringe-benefit costs, increased materials and disposal fees, mandated storm-water pollution prevention, overhead rate fluctuations, and lack of economies from repetitive developer work. The department's restructuring of employee classifications (collapsed layers and a new, 5-year contract to provide competitive-rate services) will help to decrease work hours, but costs are increasing.

5. Questions and Answers:

- a. Is any of the money collected spent for capital improvements? A: It all goes to the department, which allocates it.
- b. What is meter reinstallation for? Do people steal meters? A: If a customer doesn't pay, we lock the meter. Sometimes they cut the chains. After a couple of times, we remove the meter.
- c. Where does the money go? A: \$300 million (3/4 of it) is used for operating expenses. \$100 million is for capital replacements—things that break, pipeline replacement. Since 1998, the department has spent \$600 million upgrading treatment plants and upgrading infrastructure (mains, lines, etc.). \$100 million is used to buy water. Lack of city audit has held up the department's ability to do debt financing and curtailed spending. Now it can spend only \$20-30 million per year.
- d. Why with so many new people coming to S.D. is there not enough money to upgrade? A: New-development fees pay for expansion but not for replacement as things get older.
- e. Is money for capital improvement diverted to surface streets. A: Yes. How does Mira Mesa stand re. age? A: Mira Mesa was built in 1960s and '70s. The department's comprehensive asset-management system assesses capacity and age requirements and replaces 10-15 miles of pipe per year. Mira Mesa hasn't had significant problems (e.g., major main breaks); however, the department has recently started assessing the Miramar area.

## VII. New Business

- A. Business Exchange Club of San Diego (Owen Fabert, Past President)
  - 1. The BEC is a national service club. Its projects are related to youth and senior citizens, Americanism, and community service. A national project is child-abuse prevention (3.25 million cases of child abuse are reported every year, and 2000 kids die every year). The club trains volunteers to work with families to break the cycle.
  - 2. On October 25, the BEC will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Law Enforcement Volunteer of the Year luncheon, at 11:30 a.m., at the Courtyard by Marriott, off Kearney Villa Road. The luncheon is \$35 per person or \$265 for a table for 8. A motion (Brown) was made that the MMTC purchase a table for 8. There was no second. Discussion explained that this would strain the MMTC budget, coming this late in the year. However, Sandy will send an e-mail to the members telling them about the event.
  - 3. On 9/11/2006, the club will be co-sponsoring "A Healing Field" (with the NTC Foundation). This will be 3,000 American flags, ten feet apart, in 40 fields across the country. Brian Maienschein is an honorary chair of the event. Flags are for sale at \$35 each. The club will need volunteers in mid-2006.
  - 4. Telephone solicitors for the Business Exchange Club are legitimate, but take 50% of the profit, so it is better to donate directly.
  - 5. The BEC meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month (evenings) at the Courtyard by Marriott off Kearny Villa Road.
- B. Report on Mira Mesa Street Fair
  - 1. Pat Brown: The Street Fair was a success. It had 175 vendors this year— 40 more than last year. They confirmed that thousands more people attended this year.
  - 2. Brad Buffett: Spoke to several vendors. They said that they had more foot traffic but not as many sales. 80% said they would come back next year; only 5% said they would not come back.
  - 3. Sandy Smith: The MMTC booth signed up 28 new members, and we also have 18 new business members.
  - 4. Arlette Ballew: A cordless phone and a key ring (with keys) were turned in to the lost-and-found. We are holding them for the owners to claim them. Contact Arlette.
- C. MMTC Welcome Committee (Sandy Smith)
  - 1. Would be a subcommittee composed primarily of business members, who would meet regularly, probably at 7 a.m. It would deliver packages to new MM residents, containing information on the community (businesses, churches, schools, etc., and free items). This effort would encourage people to get involved in the MMTC and to use local businesses. It would also create business-to-business opportunities and more business support for local projects (such as HEROES and perhaps the MM banner district).
  - 2. Distributed free passes for a sneak preview at Edwards Theaters.

## **VIII. Community Group Reports**

- A. Recreation Council (Joe Frichtel)
  - 1. Need to make sure new mayor doesn't delay or cut construction of expansion of Mira Mesa Community Park. May need to raise our voices.
  - 2. MM Halloween Carnival (for young children) will be held on October 28, from 4 to 8 p.m., by the Recreation Center on New Salem Street.
- B. Monster Manor (Sandy Smith)
  - 1. Monster Manor will be open October 14-15, 21-22, and 27-31, from 7 to 10 p.m.
  - 2. "Light Fright" (for younger children) will be presented October 22-23 and 29-30, from noon to 4 p.m.
- C. Planning Group (Jeff Stevens): The Crescent Point development (Pardee), planned for Calle

Cristobal near C. Santa Fe, keeps coming back to the Planning Group. Changes have been required by the Coastal Commission.

D. MM Maintenance Assessment District (Brad Buffett)

1. The "Welcome to Mira Mesa" monument at the west end of Mira Mesa Blvd. has been replaced.
2. Landscaping will be redone on Mira Mesa Blvd. near the high school, as hedges are replaced by colorful plants.

E. MMTC Volunteer of the Year (Jeff Stevens): Jeff is chair of the Volunteer of the Year nominating committee. He is soliciting nominations now, and nomination forms will be in the next *Newsletter*.

F. MMTC Board Elections (John Daley)

1. Need nominees for board officers for 2006. Please send suggestions (you can suggest yourself) for nominees for MMTC board positions to him. He sent an e-mail out and received only 1 response.
2. A nominee for the board must have been a member for at least 30 days. A nominee for president has to have served previously on the MMTC board.

G. Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee (Pam Stevens)

1. Committee members took a tour of Camino Ruiz Park site. It's looking good.
2. The park ranger is looking for funding to pay for an environmental study regarding a proposed trail from the new Camino Ruiz Park to the preserve.
3. Need to set up a subcommittee to take training in code enforcement because of encroachment from houses onto preserve land. At this time, most violations are on the Penasquitos side.
4. "Friends of the Preserve" conduct guided hikes in the preserve in cooler weather.

H. Mira Mesa High School Foundation (Pam Stevens)

1. MMHS sponsoring a parking lot sale on October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. to noon. Will be a blood drive, food, etc.
2. A new event, "Taste of Mira Mesa," is scheduled for February 7.
3. The MMHS Business Partnership Council will meet on October 18 at the school.
4. The MMHS drama department is producing the play *Steel Magnolias* in November.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Arlette C. Ballew*