



SCRIPPS MESA
FIREWORKS
A Neighborhood Celebration!

Scripps Mesa Fireworks Minutes 2025-04-23

Members present: Michael Spencer, President; Pam Stevens, Secretary; Lou Labaw, Treasurer; Karin DeJauregui; Jennifer Dronick; Linda Lewis; Morgan Nipper; Neil Bradon; Amy O'Connor

Others present: Jeff Stevens, Mira Mesa Town Council secretary and webmaster, and July 3 Community Picnic co-chair

Members absent: Andy Mercado; Shane O'Garro

Meeting called to order by Michael Spencer, President, Scripps Mesa Fireworks.

SMF currently has \$5,648 in the bank, after making the payment on April 1, 2025, of a \$12,202 deposit (50% of the total fireworks cost) to Pyro Spectaculars for the fireworks show on July 3, 2025.

SMF needs to pay Pyro Spectaculars the remainder on July 3. In addition, there are costs for security and clean-up for the fireworks show.

Michael announced the City of San Diego has approved a \$2500 grant to SMF, which can be used for security and/or clean-up, but it must be spent by June 30, 2025. Michael is contacting Gorilla Services (clean-up) and Island Services Security, to see if SMF can be billed and pay in advance for our July 3, 2025, event. Michael will research and report back at 5/21 meeting.

Sponsorships / Donations Update for the 2025 fireworks display:

Pet Wants Mira Mesa - \$250 donation received and check given to SMF Treasurer Lou Labaw tonight. Pet Wants owner Peter Gregg, a new and active MMTTC business member, made the donation at the April 7th MMTTC meeting. This is a great donation from a small local business!

Mira Mesa Women's Club – It was mentioned that, according to Susan Sragovicz of MM Women's club, this year's budget for the club has been made, and the club overall did not have a fireworks show donation budgeted. Pam made the suggestion to ask the club to spread word to members and their families who might be interested in making individual donations to SMF to help pay for fireworks. We could ask MM Women's Club to share with members the appeal SMF is currently making to MM and SR in general, asking everyone to donate "\$25 for 2025!"

Vulcan, a past major sponsor, has donated \$5,000 for 2025. Michael Spencer said he had delivered the “Thank You!” banner from Scripps Mesa Fireworks to Vulcan in February, so it could be put up at the entrance to their facility off Black Mountain Road. He contacted them recently when he realized as he drove by that it was not yet up. Apparently, it was mislaid at their office. Abby Sanderson and/or Barbara Goodrich at Vulcan will work to locate it.

Casa Mira View – Donated \$250 for 2025. (Casa Mira View had donated \$2500 for the fireworks in recent past years, so a donation of just \$250 for this year was a disappointment -but at least it’s \$250 for 2025.)

3Roots – Michael said he heard from Cindy Baker, Director of Marketing for Lennar’s San Diego Division, in response to our request for sponsorship by 3Roots. Last year’s contact at Lennar for the 3Roots sponsorship, Mike Mastro, is still with Lennar, but Cindy Baker as Director of Marketing is now our contact. Michael said she asked him about what lower levels of sponsorship are available. We anticipate 3Roots will likely be a sponsor for the 2025 fireworks display, but at a lower level. Michael and Pam will follow up on this.

Mesa Centers: No response yet for this year. Pam Stevens will reach out to Brett Feuerstein.

Mira Mesa Senior Center: No donation yet for 2025. Last year Senior Center donated \$1,000. Linda Lewis will reach out to Mitz Lee with information based on discussion at this meeting. (See below)

Mira Mesa Town Council: No donation yet for 2025. Last year, in addition to covering costs for the community picnic / “Countdown to the Fireworks” Watch Party, MMTC donated \$1700 to SMF for the fireworks show. For this year, MMTC could match whatever donation to SMF that the Senior Center makes for the 2025 Fireworks, up to \$2500. This would need to be approved by MMTC Board, but according to Jeff and Pam Stevens, that is likely.

Possible contacts for fireworks fundraising for next year and future shows, if not for this year, were brainstormed. It was suggested SMF reach out to:

Mira Mesa Women’s Club, whenever the club is doing its 2026 budget; VAYA (Vietnamese American Youth Alliance of San Diego), who organize the annual Tet Festival held for many years in Mira Mesa Community Park (held at Liberty Station this year due to MM pool construction); Miramar College (Miramar “Outreach Office”? President’s Office? Associated Student Government? Miramar College Foundation?); and Mira Mesa High School Foundation.

Michael brought a quantity of three letters/flyers we can take to businesses and public locations, as well as give to others in the community:

1. Scripps Mesa Fireworks April 2025 Update flyer, with May 15 Dine-Out and quilted centerpiece drawing info
2. Letter to businesses/groups, seeking sponsorships & describing levels of \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$7,500
3. "Win These Patriotic Quilted Centerpieces" flyer/poster with photos and QR code to donate for Fireworks

We are continuing to spread the word NOW that the 2025 Independence Day Celebration for the Mira Mesa / Scripps Ranch area will be Thursday, July 3, 2025, with the fireworks set off at 9pm from fields at the new Wangenheim / Walker Park. A "Countdown to the Fireworks" community picnic and fireworks watch party will take place from 4pm to 9:30pm at Hourglass Field Park, on the southwest corner of the Miramar College campus, across Black Mountain Road from the fireworks launch site. As a volunteer 501c3 non-profit group, Scripps Mesa Fireworks raises the funds needed for the fireworks show for Mira Mesa and Scripps Ranch, and organizes the show, working with the fireworks company, Pyro Spectaculars, that sets it off.

The Community Picnic and "Countdown to the Fireworks!" watch party is being organized by the Mira Mesa Town Council, Mira Mesa's volunteer civic group which holds monthly "town hall" meetings on community issues, helps connect people with elected officials, and does things to make Mira Mesa a better place to live.

Bari Vaz applied for and MMTC has received the City Special Event permit for the Independence Day Celebration. Jeff Stevens applied for and received MMTC's reservation of space at Hourglass Field Park. Plans include:

* The fenced ballfields at Hourglass Field Park will be open for people to bring in blankets and lawn chairs.

* MM Girls Softball will be approached to open the snack bar for food service, as was done last year. MMTC will seek some additional food trucks to be located along the road on the east side of the ballfields.

*There could be a car show in the first row of parking spaces for the park. Andy Mercado has said he'd enjoy displaying his car and could possibly organize this.

*Michael Spencer will reach out to Ed Raynor, last year's deejay for the July 3rd "Countdown to the Fireworks." Park Mobile is the parking company Miramar College uses, whom we might approach about parking on July 3. Jeff Stevens said when MMTC has held meetings at Miramar College, the college president's office was able to arrange parking for those attending. Michael will follow up about parking for the July 3 picnic and fireworks watch party.

*Pam & Jeff Stevens are MMTC's Co-chairs for the "Countdown to the Fireworks" Community Picnic and Fireworks Watch Party as MMTC volunteers. Morgan Nipper is

interested in doing “something for children” there. Pam and Jeff will discuss with Andy Mercado if he can organize a car show at the event. More volunteers are needed!

Publicity & Fundraising events - Morgan Nipper – Morgan is doing Facebook posts and has continued organizing “Dine Out” fundraisers with local restaurants. Dave’s Hot Chicken, 10728 Westview Parkway, on Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 4pm to 8pm, will be the next “Dine Out.” Use code “GIVE” for online orders.

Two red, white, & blue, double-sided, cotton quilted centerpieces, created by Jennifer Dronick, are the prizes in the latest SMF fundraiser drawing. A minimum donation of \$10 to SMF for the fireworks fund qualifies a donor for one chance. The drawing will take place May 31 and the winners will be announced at the June 2 MMTC meeting.

SMF thanks Kimi Williams for offering us booth space at her Artisans’ Market on April 27. We regret we don’t have sufficient volunteer availability that day to staff a SMF booth, but Pam will take her some recent SMF flyers so she could put them on a corner of her Aloha Scent table.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Stevens, Secretary, Scripps Mesa Fireworks