



SCRIPPS MESA
FIREWORKS
A Neighborhood Celebration!

Scripps Mesa Fireworks Minutes 2025-05-21

[With Updates as of 6/4/2025 as Noted]

Members present: Michael Spencer, President; Pam Stevens, Secretary; Karin DeJauregui; Andy Mercado; Linda Lewis; Morgan Nipper; Neil Bradon; Amy O'Connor

Members absent; Lou Labaw, Treasurer; Shane O'Garro; Jennifer Dronick (Jenn Dronick told us in April she will continue as SMF volunteer but not regularly attend meetings - can come if needed!)

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

Financial Report, Michael Spencer:

2025 Costs:

Fireworks: Scripps Mesa Fireworks previously paid Pyro Spectaculars (professional fireworks company which sets off the display) on April 1, 2025, a **\$12,202** deposit. The balance of **\$12,225** for the fireworks and Pyro Spectaculars' labor, is due to Pyro Spectaculars on **July 4, 2025** (the day after our July 3, 2025 show). Total cost for Fireworks Display is **\$24,427**.

Security: Island Roots Security will charge Scripps Mesa Fireworks approximately \$1900 for providing security when Pyro Spectaculars will be on site at Wangenheim / Walker Park on July 2 while they are setting up their equipment, and all day on July 3, the day of the event. Island Roots Security is agreeable to all or part of their invoice for this service paid in advance. Michael Spencer had announced at our April meeting that SMF received a grant from the City of San Diego which can be used for security and clean-up services but needs to be spent by June 30, 2025.

Clean-up: Gorilla Services will provide clean-up for \$1,180 and will accept early payment of all or part of their invoice to SMF. (See note above.)

That makes the total cost for security and clean-up in 2025 an estimated **\$3,080**, which would use the \$2500 grant plus require approximately \$580 additional payment by SMF

Permits: Scripps Mesa Fireworks needs two permits from the City of San Diego, one a permit from the Fire Department for the fireworks show and one a Special Event Permit, for a total cost of approximately **\$800**,

Total cost for the 2025 Fireworks Show, including the fireworks display, security, clean-up, and permits is **\$28,307**. The amount SMF has yet to pay is **\$16,105**.

Note: There may be some incidental costs SMF has incurred this year which are not included here. Michael, have there been expenses for printing of flyers, signs, or other publicity materials? I don't believe SMF currently has a storage structure, but have there been any expenses related to website or other miscellaneous expenses incurred by the group?

Current SMF bank balance as of 5/21/2025 is \$9,440.

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2025 Fireworks Show Income from Sponsorships and Donations:

Vulcan Materials - \$5,000. Received and deposited earlier. Vulcan is again a major sponsor, and their \$5,000 donation makes them our top sponsor this year.

3Roots – Pledge for **\$2500**. Michael Spencer will connect with 3Roots contact Cindy Baker, Director of Marketing for Lennar, to confirm and find out when and how they'd like to get the money to SMF – mailing a check, electronic transfer, or could she use one of us stopping by her office to pick up a check? [6/4/2025 UPDATE: **\$2500 donation received!**]

Mesa Shopping Center East - \$1,000 check received in mail to SMF (5/16/25) from Brett Feuerstein, after phone contact and follow-up call by Pam Stevens. The Mesa Centers office has moved from its old location at the back of the Villages at Mira Mesa mall near the bowling alley to an office building in Scripps Ranch, but the phone number is the same as before.

Little Sakana – Pledge for **\$1,000**, Morgan Nipper will follow up to confirm and find out when and how they'd like to get the money to SMF [6/4/2025 UPDATE: **\$1,000 Donation received!**]

Casa Mira View - \$500 received and deposited. Note this is \$250 more than was initially reported in SMF's April 2025 Minutes. The April 23 meeting Minutes now show the correct amount, \$500.

The **Mira Mesa Town Council** and the **Mira Mesa Senior Center** are both likely to donate for the 2025 fireworks, amount(s) to be determined, according to input from Pam and Jeff Stevens, who talked with the MMTC Board, and Linda Lewis, who spoke with Mitz Lee of the Senior Center. Linda Lewis will be out of town May 29 – July 6, so Pam Stevens will follow up and talk with Mitz Lee and Karen Burger, the volunteer in charge of the Senior Center's bingo program, their major fundraising activity. [6/4/2025 UPDATE: Pam Stevens spoke with Karen Burger. Karen told Pam Senior Center will donate, amount not yet specified. Pam will meet with Karen at Senior Center on Friday, 6/6/2025, after Bingo (about 12pm.) Karen told Pam she will give her a check then. After the Senior Center donation has been received, Pam will contact MMTC Board to discuss MMTC donation.

Donations from Community Small Businesses and Individuals for the 2025 Fireworks Display as of 5/21/2025: The community has raised nearly **\$650** in donations from residents and small businesses via responses to SMF's "**\$25 for 2025**" campaign. **Pet Wants Mira Mesa**, owned by Peter Gregg, an active MMTC business member, donated **\$250** at the April 7th MMTC meeting.

Michael distributed June 2025 Scripps Mesa Fireworks flyers, including opportunity drawing and "Dine Out" information. The June "Dine Out" will be at California Fish Grill on Friday,

June 13, from 11am to 8pm, 8285 Mira Mesa Boulevard, when the restaurant will donate 25% of its sales from your orders to Scripps Mesa Fireworks. For online orders use code fund2025.

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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. As a volunteer 501c3 non-profit group, Scripps Mesa Fireworks raises the funds for the local fireworks show for Mira Mesa and Scripps Ranch, and organizes the show, working with the fireworks company, Pyro Spectaculars, that sets it off.

The Independence Day Celebration from 4pm to 9:30pm on July 3, including a Community Picnic with food trucks, fun, and a “Countdown to the Fireworks!” watch party at Hourglass Park, will take place at Hourglass Park on the southwest corner of the Miramar College campus, across Black Mountain Road from the fireworks launch site. That event is being organized by the Mira Mesa Town Council (MMTC). The MMTC is 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. MMTC is getting the City Special Event permit and reservation of space at Hourglass Field Park for the Independence Day Celebration. Plans include:

- * Families can bring blankets and lawn chairs to the fenced ballfields at Hourglass Field Park.

- * MM Girls Softball will operate the snack bar at Hourglass Park for food service, as was done last year. MMTC is arranging for several food trucks along the road on the east side of the ballfields.

- *Andy Mercado is organizing an all-makes, all-models car show from 4pm to 8pm on July 3 in the first row of parking at Hourglass Park. Email Andy for details at: bluebatmobile@gmail.com

- *Michael Spencer is reaching out to Ed Raynor, last year’s deejay for the July 3rd “Countdown to the Fireworks.” [6/4/2025 UPDATE: Ed Raynor has confirmed he will deejay our 2025 Celebration!]

- *Pam & Jeff Stevens are MMTC’s Co-chairs for the Independence Day Celebration at Hourglass Park. Jeff is lining up food vendors. Morgan Nipper is working on “something for children.” The Gathering Church has volunteered to do a Fun Zone for kids.

Publicity & Fundraising events - Morgan Nipper – Morgan is doing Facebook posts seeking “\$25 for 2025” donations, and since last fall has organized monthly “Dine Out” fundraisers at local restaurants. The last one before the 2025 Fireworks Show will be June 13 at California Fish Grill. The opportunity drawing for the patriotic quilted centerpieces will be May 31 with the winners announced June 2. 6/4/2025 UPDATE: Winner of the opportunity drawing is Kristen Pettinger.

6/4/2025 UPDATE: At the MMTC meeting 6/2/2025, Michael Spencer said Scripps Mesa Fireworks has raised **\$22,000** of the **\$28,000** needed for the 2025 show. Fundraising is continuing!

The next Scripps Mesa Fireworks Team meeting will be a wrap-up for 2025 and kick-off for 2026 planning, tentatively scheduled for late July 2025. The July 3 Independence Day Celebration Committee will stay in touch via email, texting, and likely at least one meeting via Zoom prior to July 3, 2025. Contact Jeff Stevens, jeffstev@san.rr.com, 619-787-7428, for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Stevens, Secretary, Scripps Mesa Fireworks