



**SCRIPPS MESA  
FIREWORKS**  
*A Neighborhood Celebration!*

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**Scripps Mesa Fireworks Minutes 2025-08-27**

**Members present:** Michael Spencer, President; Pam Stevens, Secretary; Karin DeJauregui (aka Karin “D-J”); Andy Mercado; Linda Lewis; Amy O’Connor, SMF Newsletter; Jennifer Dronick; Tiffaney Cuthbertson [Note spelling of Tiffaney’s first name corrected to “Tiffaney,” since last month’s Minutes had a typo mis-spelling it; Lauren Kleinschmidt; Nick Yates; Jennifer Kvalvik, NEW member of SMF.

**Members absent:** Lou Labaw, Treasurer; Morgan Nipper; Neil Bradon (Michael Spencer said it was “Back to School” night at the middle school Morgan & Neil’s daughter, Zoe, attends); Shane O’Garro; “Aloha” Kimi Williams of Aloha Scents; Kim Frame-Thomas

Scripps Mesa Fireworks President Michael Spencer called the meeting to order.

Jennifer Kvalvik was welcomed as a new member of the Scripps Mesa Fireworks team. Although new to this committee, Jennifer is a longtime Mira Mesa resident and active volunteer with Mira Mesa Town Council, local schools, and other groups, as well as a just-retired Mira Mesa High School teacher. Jennifer’s personal email address to contact her is [jkvalvik25@gmail.com](mailto:jkvalvik25@gmail.com)

Michael called for any additions or corrections to the 7/23/2025 SMF Minutes. There were two:

- (1) Tiffaney Cuthbertson, who joined the SMF team last month, corrected the spelling of her first name and also her email address. Her correct email address is [tiffaneyc@hotmail.com](mailto:tiffaneyc@hotmail.com)
- (2) Pam noticed a typo toward the end of the Minutes, on Page 6 in the paragraph which begins with “Morgan Nipper said she and her husband, Neil Bradon, brainstormed a fundraising schedule for the next year. The last sentence, which begins “Both Morgan and Pam Stevens mentioned that Mitz Lee of the Mira Mesa Senior Center has proposed bringing back a Parade ...” should continue with “...on July 4<sup>th</sup>...” As a result of the typo there was a stray 5 after the 4 instead of the “t” which should have been there.

The July 2025 Minutes were approved as corrected.

**Main Topics** covered at the 8/27/2025 SMF Meeting were:

**#BackToTheFourth Campaign Update** - Michael Spencer

Scripps Mesa Fireworks, a 501(c)(3) non-profit group made up entirely of volunteers, has launched its **#BackToTheFourth** Fundraising Campaign, seeking sponsorships at various levels as well as donations in any amount, large or small, from businesses and residents to

make the July 2026 local Fireworks Show a success. Scripps Mesa Fireworks volunteers hope to raise enough funds so our local Fireworks Show in July 2026, the year of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States, could take place on Saturday, July 4, 2026. A goal of raising \$75,000 was set to do that.

Michael Spencer said Pyro Spectaculars, the professional fireworks company Scripps Mesa Fireworks has worked with for past shows, does not yet know how much a fireworks show will cost in July 2026, either on July 4<sup>th</sup> or the night before on July 3<sup>rd</sup> (as the shows have been the past two years). However, both will likely be much more expensive than this year's show on July 3, 2025, and doing the show on July 4<sup>th</sup> will likely cost significantly more than a show on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Nick Yates and Michael Spencer** were interviewed on ABC Channel 10 (KGTV) News about the **#BackToTheFourth Campaign**. The interview aired on August 17, 2025.

At the August 27<sup>th</sup> SMF meeting, Michael Spencer handed out copies of a 5 1/2 " x 3 1/4 " mini-flyer, which has a QR Code that takes people directly to Scripps Mesa Firework's donations page on the website, Spotfund, which Scripps Mesa Fireworks is now using as a platform for donations. The mini-flyer also includes this spelled-out link to SMF's donations web page:

<https://miramesafireworks.org/donate>

People can also get to that donations page via this link: [give.scrippsmesafireworks.org](https://give.scrippsmesafireworks.org)

Michael said he has been working on the Scripps Mesa Fireworks website overall, making it easier to find information. Get to it at either [scrippsmesafireworks.org](https://scrippsmesafireworks.org) or [miramesafireworks.org](https://miramesafireworks.org)

In addition to the "Fundraising for 2026 starts now!" SMF mini-flyers, Michael also provided copies at the 8/27 meeting of an 8 1/2 x 11-inch hand-out with a "Dear Neighbor" fundraising request letter, with sponsorship levels from \$250 to \$5,000, and encouraged us to take some.

For a link to that sponsor letter on the Scripps Mesa Fireworks website, as well as the current list of 2026 sponsors, see <https://miramesafireworks.org/sponsors/>

For anyone who can't do a sponsorship but would like to donate, see <https://miramesafireworks.org/donate> for a description of suggested levels for donations.

Michael Spencer said that to date, \$1,900 has been collected since the launch of the **#BackToTheFourth Campaign** in early August. Michael said he felt the campaign began strong, then the pace of donations seemed to stall. However, as many at the meeting commented, the past few weeks coincided with the start of the San Diego Unified School District's 2025-26 school year, a busy time for many families. Michael encouraged the team to reach out to any potential sponsors they know, as well as seek donations in general.

**Mira Mesa Street Fair October 4<sup>th</sup>** (organized by Mira Mesa Town Council) - Scripps Mesa Fireworks will have a booth. Jennifer Kvalvik will be a MMTC volunteer at the Command Center and said she can make sure Scripps Mesa Fireworks info is at the Command Center for vendors to see (and possibly flyers to pick up?) when they check in and check out. I (Pam) will be staffing the MMTC information table at the Community Info/MMTC tent. I can make sure other volunteers at that table and I have SMF info there and/or can direct people to the SMF booth.

**Sponsorship Outreach / Community Partnerships & Outreach** – Lauren Kleinschmidt said she got contact info for Balfour Beatty, the contractor who is building the Community Park Phase 2 improvements, and she will ask them about becoming a Fireworks sponsor.

Regarding the cost of printing flyers, Karin D-J said she has a good discount at FedEx, and Lauren mentioned Mira Mesa Copy as a place for a good price.

Lauren said that Mitz Lee told her that Scripps Mesa Fireworks could have a booth at no charge at the D6 Fall Festival, which will take place on Saturday, October 18, in Mira Mesa Community Park next to the Senior Center. Michael will follow up to find out if SMF needs to bring a tent & table & chairs, or if any of that is provided.

There was a discussion about upcoming Back to School nights and which ones Scripps Mesa Fireworks might be able to provide volunteers to staff information tables about SMF, if it's allowed. (Schools are being stricter now about allowing people on campus, even community volunteers.) I did not get all the details. I believe Karin D-J, Amy O'Connor, and Andy Mercado may have been taking notes about this. What I wrote was: Ericson, 9/4, 5pm – 7pm(?); Mason, 9/11 – Andy could do it? Walker, 9/18 – Andy & Amy could do it?

There was interest in re-starting the elementary school student art competition for T-shirt designs, with the difference that the selected design(s) would be made available for purchase at a T-Shirt Shop that does "Print on Demand."

Karin D-J and Jennifer Kvalvik both mentioned they knew of T-shirt shops which could do Print on Demand. Karin texted me this contact info:

SD T-Shirt Shop; [sdshirtshop@gmail.com](mailto:sdshirtshop@gmail.com); 858-578-5158; 9331 Mira Mesa Blvd. 92126

**Financial Snapshot** -Scripps Mesa Fireworks, an all-volunteer non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, spent approximately \$28,000 for this year's fireworks show on Thursday, July 3, 2025.

Scripps Mesa Fireworks has about \$3800 in the bank as of August 27, 2025 (as reported by Michael Spencer, since treasurer Lou Labaw could not attend tonight's meeting.) Of that total, \$1900 is from the recent donations/sponsorships in response to the **#BackToTheFourth** campaign.

Scripps Mesa Fireworks needs to have at least half of the cost of the 2026 Fireworks Show raised by April 1, 2026, when a 50% deposit is due as a first payment is due to Pyro Spectaculars.

Jennifer Dronick asked the question, “What if we don’t raise enough money for a fireworks show on July 4<sup>th</sup> in 2026? Will we do a fireworks show on July 3 instead?”

“Yes,” was the answer, assuming SMF has raised enough money for a July 3 show.

However, in Fall 2025 Scripps Mesa Fireworks volunteers are actively seeking the donations large and small that will provide the funds needed to make a Fireworks Show on the Fourth of July itself possible in 2026.

Michael Spencer has applied for a CPPS Grant, which could help pay expenses related to the fireworks show, such as security and clean-up, although not be used for the fireworks themselves. That is a City of San Diego Grant. Ana on the staff of San Diego City Councilmember Kent Lee is someone he can call to check for any information on status of grant.

### **Open Discussion & Additional Topics –**

There was a brief discussion about the proposal Mitz Lee of the Mira Mesa Senior Center has made to bring back a Parade the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, on streets in central Mira Mesa, a shorter route than the old Mira Mesa 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Nick Yates said he very much wants to bring back a parade. However, he thinks a better route could be to begin the parade at its old starting point of the Seafood City parking lot, then take it down a residential street such as Flanders. He suggested the parade could head toward the current fireworks launch site at Walker/Wangenheim Park (although not go into that park, since no access to the public is allowed when the fireworks are being set up), then end at a location to be determined. Perhaps at Wangenheim Middle School?

Pam Stevens said she thinks from a conversation with Mitz, that the “Community Champions” group could be an organizing group for a 2026 Parade in the central Mira Mesa area. Mira Mesa would be re-starting its parade on the “central Mira Mesa” shorter route as a continuation in a more condensed format of the old Mira Mesa 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, not starting a brand-new parade. Mira Mesa had a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade for many years, through 2019, but has not yet been able to re-start it after the pandemic. Is 2026 the year it can be re-started? We will see.

The next Scripps Mesa Fireworks meeting will be on Wednesday, September 24, at 6pm at Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church, 8081 Mira Mesa Boulevard. (Enter through door to “Youth Room,” facing gravel parking lot off Reagan Road.)

**Next Meeting** - Wednesday, September 24 is also the date of the Mira Mesa Panda Express “Dine Out” fundraiser for Scripps Mesa Fireworks from 8am to 11:30pm. (Flyers to use are

posted on the Scripps Mesa Fireworks Facebook page). There was some discussion about the possibility of scheduling the SMF meeting to take place at Panda Express. Panda Express has limited seating indoors. There is a patio outside. Currently the September 24<sup>th</sup> Scripps Mesa Fireworks team meeting is scheduled for our usual location at Mira Mesa Presbyterian Church. If there are any changes, Michael Spencer will email the SMF Team.

Respectfully submitted,

***Pam Stevens, Secretary, Scripps Mesa Fireworks***

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