



The voice of our community

**Board Meeting**  
**May 14, 2024 – 4:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order 4:01 PM by Chair Black- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

**Present:** Black, Denson, Duran, Gerlach, Kemp, Lundgren, Macfadyen, A. Miller, M. Miller, Pennino, Serrani, Wittman

**Absent:** Babbitt, Newquist, Roden, Trosky

**II. Approval of April 9, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes**

Kemp/Denson

Motion Approved

**III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda-None**

**IV. Community Reports**

- 1.) SBSO Sheriff Lt. Arnoldi reported on highlights of the most serious incidents in the area that included a burglary at All Saints by the Sea school, a Foothill Road residence, East Valley Road pharmacy and a residence at Butterfly Lane. There was a subject on San Leandro Drive with a mental health issue, Montecito Fire responded, and individual resisted violently. Also, a white limit line has been painted on East Mountain Drive and Riven Rock Road to show no parking zones and citations will be given.
- 2.) MFD-Chief David Neels reported that the new Engin 92 is in service and thanked over 120 residents that helped in the “push-in” ceremony. The MFD crews are getting ready for fire season and this year has more rattlesnake mikes than usual and gave warning to be cautious. If a fire on the trails is seen, call 911 immediately.
- 3.) MWD-Nick Turner gave Groundwater update relaying that there is a GSA rebate program adopted by the board and it gives up to \$3,000. Information is on the GSA website. In April, a well-registration ordinance was adopted to gather information on well locations and active status. After a water rate study, a rate adjustment is needed in 2024 to fund capital improvements. The cost of replacing pipes has warranted an increase. With the proposed rates, customers will see less than a \$20 per month increase. This is lower than other agencies. A public hearing is set for June 25. The community participation for smart meters for hourly water usage and leak detection is high.
- 4.) Amy Alzina-Cold Spring School-Invited the community to upcoming performances of Beauty and the Beast on May 29 and May 30. An art Fair is being held this week. They are hosting Westmont College track meet. The sixth-grade promotion will be held on June 6. A training for high school students on the seven habits of highly effective people will be held on June 17 and 18, students will earn thirteen volunteer hours.

**V. President’s Report- Doug Black** Regarding letters that are sent into the MA, they are read by the executive director, Houghton Hyatt and addressed. When they are addressed to the Board, they are forwarded to the board. He stated that the MA does not hand out building permits, they facilitate communication between builders and community.

**VI. Executive Director’s Report:** ED Houghton Hyatt reported that there is new white striping on East Mountain Drive. Parking is to the right side of the line or will be ticketed. The Hands Across Montecito (HAM) outreach walk is scheduled for May 23 at 8:30 a.m.

**VII. Treasurer’s Report-**Bill Macfadyen reported \$13,000 below budget and not concerned due to database conversion and getting back three hundred plus people that were taken off auto-renewal, and when they renew will be on track.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

- a. Land Use / Transportation**-Canceled this month and Chair Babbitt resigned.
- b. Events**-July 4<sup>th</sup> planning underway with beer/wine garden.
- c. History**-None
- d. Outreach**-None
- e. Groundwater Sustainability** None
- f. Hands Across Montecito** None

## **IX. Conference Agenda**

i. All Saints by the Sea Presentation given by Rev. Smith. He expressed desire to maintain a good working relationship with the Miramar, the Miramar's impact on the parish community, the parish as a historic resource and its commitment of the church and school being a center of love. He included that the proposed project is to be built to the property line which is a loss for the AS community. They formed a working-group of information gathering to gather facts and information to protect their resources. The Montecito Community Plan protects historical resources, he asserted that protecting the view of mountains is included in that. With the importance of place and history, they look forward to good conversations with the Miramar team.

ii. Neighbors of Miramar Presentation given by Cliff Gherson and Branden Aroyan. Presentation highlighted preservation of the community neighborhood. They asked that they not build a shopping center but preserve the area. They oppose the traffic it will cause and assert that the project threatens tranquility of the area. The neighborhood is experiencing traffic fatigue, and a mall is not built with Montecitans in mind.

There were questions and answers. Highlights include concern about access and emergency vehicles-there are other access points. The shop visitors are 50/50 locals and visitors. Katie Mangin, Senior Director of Development with the Miramar, said that they conducted studies and had hundreds of conversations with the community to keep the character of hotel and community and made major changes based on input of the community which made it better. She stressed the importance for them to provide affordable housing for hard working employees. A remark from the audience requested that the MA not just be a forum but make a vote one way or another regarding support of the Miramar. There were many comments from the audience in support of the Miramar project, stating that they have been polite and considerate, the renovation has been a great improvement to the hotel, they are good neighbors, brought jobs, made a beautiful environment and providing employee housing. There was a letter read to the audience that was signed by 100 residents in support of the project, listing many positives including new greenspace, parking, and employee housing.

X. Old Business

XI. New Business

Adjourned 6:05 p.m.