



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

serving the Altadena community since 1975

www.altadenatowncouncil.org

730 East Altadena Drive • Altadena, California 91001

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

7:00 p.m. Altadena Community Center

CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present:

4601: Gino Sund, Phil Barela; 4602: Okorie Ezieme, Greg Middleton; 4603.01: Alice Wessen, Doug Colliflower; 4603.02: Sandra Thomas, Ken Roberts; 4610: Tecumseh Shackelford, Gene Campbell; 4611: , 4612: Gaurav Malhotra, Allan Wasserman; 4613: Susan Goldman, Lorie Judson

Excused Absences: Jaime Bissner, Ruth Neilan

Approval of Agenda: MSP

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Recording Secretary -----Alice Wessen

Minutes of Feb 2010 MSP

Minutes of March 2010 MSP

Corresponding Secretary—Jaime Bissner No report

Bus Bench: Santa Anita & Calavares bustop- letter to RP

Bus Bench, Allan Wasserman discussion-Northwest corner of Calaveras/Santa Anita on west side of street, has no overhang, no shelter from weather.

M/S: discussion-write a letter to supervisor to use Prop 1A money to encourage getting cover on the bus.

Chair suggested an addition to the motion to write two separate letters:

1st to request bus bench cover

2nd to county consider a beautification of our entrance sign to our community

Motion amendment accepted

M/S/P

Vice Chairman Report----- Ruth Nelian NR

Treasurer-----Tecumseh Shackelford

Current balance \$1,699.04

41.00 deposit

\$1,740.04 current balance

Chairman-----Gino Sund

Chair Report:

- Mailboxes are disappearing. Ruth Edwards and Gino Sund met with Adam Schiff's office. 2 were returned at Hill and Middlebrook, and at Catalina and Washington
- Prop CC: PUSD are having a parcel tax. Ballots went out two weeks ago. You have until May 4th to get ballots back.
- Town Council election in June, Bob Meyers will be chair again.
- Metropolitan Water Parcel Tax Force with ATC: March 22 parcel tax was postponed for 1 year to get more info and come back with another plan. Southern Cal Metro water is raising their rates significantly.
- From the Santa Monica Conservancy-Court of Appeals handed down decision regarding La Vina upholding trails.
- Overnight parking for oversized vehicles-still being worked

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Altadena Sheriff's Station-----Capt. Steve McLean

Last month I talked about burglary situation. April 3rd we had a huge community turnout.

626-798-1131 for Altadena Sheriff's Station

Eight different stations came together to share info.

April 10th, first ever softball against the Altadena Sheriffs and Little Leagers. They beat us!

We have taken a very proactive approach to burglaries.

Last month we had 649 arrests, most for misdemeanors. 16 were for burglary

A stakeout at Harriet and Fair oaks watching for dope dealers hanging out resulted in several arrests. 21 were known gang members, 4 had guns.

California Highway Patrol-----Officer Hsu

Today is part of a weekly inspection for child seats.

May 7th and May 22nd Teens drivers: Drive Smart to Stay Safe:

<http://www.chp.ca.gov/community/startsmart.html>

Due to the graphic nature of some pictures and videos, a parent is required to accompany each teenager.

Stats in Feb in Altadena

24 minor accidents

86 citations in Altadena area.

SPECIAL REPORTS

County Dept of Public Works---Jalaine Madrid & Sarkis Oganessian of Traffic & Lighting division of the Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works

Restriping of Lake Ave.

The council heard an extended presentation the Traffic & Lighting division of the Los Angeles

Dept. of Public Works on a potential restriping of Lake Ave. between Altadena Dr. and Loma Alta.

According to Oganessian, while the posted speed in that stretch is 35 mph, the “average prevailing speed” is 41 mph, with vehicle traffic averaging 4,004 cars a day. The collision rate in that stretch is 2 per million vehicle miles, whereas the county average is 1.55 per million vehicle miles. Most collisions (64%) were the result of improper turning or unsafe rates of speed. Lake Ave has an 8% downhill grade which increases speed of vehicles especially going southbound. One lane in each direction would limit this because you would be unable to pass.

Relatively inexpensive way to address this issue since it is only repainting the road.

The county’s proposal was to restripe that stretch of road to one lane in each direction, with a center turn median. However, residents of Lake Ave. said that, with a single lane of traffic, it would be almost impossible to back out of their driveways onto Lake, particularly during peak traffic hours. The county officials said that they would reconsider it, and suggested that any restriping would be on a trial basis to see if it actually worked.

Q: Sund-most of traffic calming measures resulted in only 2-3 mph reduction in speed.

County: County said they had no info, restriping was a relatively inexpensive way to handle this issue.

Comments from ATC-Altadena Drive is also a single lane road and has similar speeding issues. So it appears being a single lane did not result in speed reduction?

Public Comments:

- 85% means 15% is much higher, and 41 mph on an asymmetric road is not useful info. Those coming down will be going faster than those going up against the grade. If obj is to change speed pattern then it seems you should have two lanes northbound and one lane southbound.
- Homeowner on Lake, has been coming out of the driveway for 25 years. Terrible idea. I can still back out on the second lane if a car is coming down on the other lane.
- I come down Lake Ave taking my dogs for a walk.
- Homeowner: From my driveway I am in a headlong collision. With one lane I can’t back it out without a second lane, I can’t bring my boat home twice a year to work on it. Give speeders tickets to slow them down.
- Concern for people to easily walk up and down Lake and not sure this will change it.
- There is a need to get a Metro bus up there and going to one lane will be a challenge.
- Money used for this means money not spent wisely.
- I agree with everything so far. Backing out of driveway is a big issue. Coming south on Lake and turning left on Palm, I have seen people cut onto Palm. I walk Lake a lot, and I have to look back a lot when walking my dog
- I support this restriping because this is now a freeway, not a neighborhood.
- I live on the part that has 7000 cars. I’ve lived in my house for 30 years, I am able to back out. If the restriping addresses the speed I am for it. But I haven’t heard anything besides speed bumps or other remedies that might be made to reduce speed on Lake Ave and have space for pedestrians. I am in support of restriping experiment if it slows down the speeding.

- Speed taken by radar. All speeds are at 85 percentile. Were all accidents southbound?
Ans: 2005 had 4-5 complaints. Over the year we have 4-5 complaints yearly. Against
- Ken Johnson (Traffic Committee Chair): Bike lanes not appropriate on Lake, but possibly use edge lines? Pasadena has used them. Am in favor of restriping.

Phil Barella, ATC: questioned the type of data provided for restriping. Needs to reconcile the data with what is happening on Lake.

Chair Sund: I think we all agree that reducing speed on Lake is a good thing. Does the board think that referring this to the traffic committee to study it a bit more is warranted? By unanimous consent, this was referred to Altadena Traffic Committee for more study

Land Use Committee – Brian League

Two items:

147 East Loma Alta Applicant: BDI –Derra Design for AT&T Wireless

R2010-00090 (CUP 201000014) filed 01/26/2010 – R1-7500 – ZP1 Anita Gutierrez

Installation of an unmanned telecommunications facility disguised as a 100 foot monopine. AT&T will be installing 9 panel antennas at 95 feet with a 27 foot by 12 foot lease area for related equipment. T-Mobile will be installing 12 panel antennas at 85 feet with a 25 foot by 12 foot lease area for related equipment. Lease areas will be surrounded by chain link fence with green slats.

Land Use Committee recommended that the Altadena Town Council send a letter to County Regional Planning recommending APPROVAL of project R2010-00090 (CUP 201000014) to install an unmanned telecommunications facility disguised as a 100 foot monopine located in the R1-7500 zone at 147 East Loma Alta with the condition of enhanced landscaping at the site to improve the aesthetic of the completed facility.

Alternative site now at debris basin on Loma Alta.

Altadena Town Council: MSP: Judson, Middleton: Unanimous one abstention by Goldman

501 Stonehurst drive – retroactive conversion of a garage.

Applicant: Yolanda McCausland, consultant

R2009-01628/RCUP 2009-00116/ROAK 2009-0038 filed 09/23/2009 – R1-YY

Retroactive conversion of an existing garage into 2 bedrooms (432 SF), adding tandem carport (350 SF), an oak tree encroachment, modification to side yard CSD for garage conversion and modification to front yard CSD for tandem carport.

Prior owner did work without a permit. Current owner is now trying to correct the code deficiency.

Land Use Committee recommend that the Altadena Town Council send a letter to County Regional Planning recommending APPROVAL of project R2009-01628 for the retroactive conversion of an existing garage into 2 bedrooms (432 SF), adding a tandem carport (350 SF), modification to side yard CSD for garage conversion and modification to front yard CSD for tandem carport.

Altadena Town Council: M/S/P Wessen, Thomas

Unanimous approval by ATC

Election Committee-Robert Meyer, Chair

<http://altadenatowncouncil.org/>

8 offices open for election. All rules, notices etc are posted to Town Council website and the Altadena Blog: <http://altadenatowncouncil.org/> , <http://www.altadenablog.com/new-altadena-town-council.html>
Election Committee: Ken Wilson, Jaime Bissner, Gaurav Maholtra, Greg Middleton

June 5th, Sat. 9-3

Will be 6-7 polling places, will depend on how the candidates shape up and how many vote.
Applications may be picked up. Must be in by Friday May 14th at 5PM. Important to go out to your community. Need each Town Council rep to provide three volunteers to help with elections.

New Rules-4 minor changes.

Drivers license, Cal ID card or Passport from candidates

Campaigning-no campaigning within 100 feet of polling place.

The word 'slate' was taken out.

Vote count: Vote count conducted by election committee

Will add date to election rules line.

MSP with date added and change in spelling of the word 'Challenge'

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAPAC-please let chair know when you are out of town so we can find someone else.

Ken Roberts – process is ongoing, with issues related to contractor and RP requiring contractor fix the parking issues. RP has put a damper on ability to lease any additional space until the contractor fixes the issue with parking.

Chamber of Commerce – Ben McGinty Tomorrow the chamber mixer is at 5:30 at Walt's photography

Cat Scrap studio (scrapbooking) will be opening at Mariposa and Lake on May 1st.

Friday May 7th is Chamber Golf Tournament

Altadena Library--- Pauly Dutton, principal librarian (Not present, no report)

<http://www.altadenalibrary.org/>

May 2nd, Make chocolates for your mom. Fun Free Family Entertainment!!!

L.A. County Parks Dept-----Lorraine Martinez (Not present, no report)

http://parks.lacounty.gov/Parkinfo.asp?URL=cms1_033036.asp&Title=Altadena

Sheriffs Support Group---Bill Westphall

All artists have been selected and Amy's café is going to provide box lunches for those wanting to go to concerts plus Coffee Gallery will supply coffee for concert goers. Summer Concert Series starting July 3rd.

Census Tract Report

4601- NR

4602- Ezieme Palm Street Association brought up issue regarding Bienvenidos property owned by Sahag Mesrob. Almansor looking at Sahag Mesrob site: Councilman Okorie Ezieme said that The Almansor Center was in the process of meeting with the neighborhood regarding establishing a school at the property now owned by Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian School.

4603.01 Wessen JPL Open House May 15-16, free to anyone interested in coming, no ticket, just come,

4603.02 Thomas – Graduation of Bright Futures Scholars is June 6th

4610: Tecumseh Shackelford – Pick Up your mail! Verizon at Lincoln Crossing wants a sign so is working with county. Need more folks more to come out to Bill's Chicken and Super King. BofA has parking and would like your support.

Arch. Diocese is taking applications from youth (14-21) working in the summer.

Call Rosalina Metori 213-736-5456 for more info.

4611: Allan Wasserman, questions from neighbors about Scripps land, could we use it for vegetables for community.

Gaurav Maholtra-thanks to sheriffs for helping with recycling situation. This Sunday top of Lake at Farnsworth is a pancake breakfast to support trails.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Council banner

Town Council shirts-cotton and bamboo materials. Members interested need to provide sizes and checks to pay for shirts

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comment:

- Those of us in Altadena who get a 'flatlander' take em to the top of Lake to see the amazing views.
- There is extra traffic in evening.
- Upset about a school on Palm again. The citizens on Palm just do not want a school. Bienvenidos was a great school. Smaller, well suited. But the Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian School, which was recently ejected from the site by the county for establishing a school without acquiring the proper permits, was larger and came in and out and very unruly to neighbors.

12. ADJOURNMENT MSP Adjourn 9:18PM MSP