



# ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

## September 20, 2011 Regularly Scheduled Meeting

7:00 p.m. Altadena Community Center

730 East Altadena Drive • Altadena, California 91001

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOMING by: Chairwoman Dr. Sandra Thomas

1.1: Pledge of Allegiance led by Brent Musson

1.2: Roll Call by Recording Secretary Middleton

**The following members were present** at roll call: Gino Sund, Gretchen Seager, Okorie Ezieme, Greg Middleton, Doug Colliflower, Dr. Sandra Thomas, Tecumseh Shackelford, Brent Musson, Allan Wasserman, Amy Cienfuegos, and Diane Marcussen. 11 members constitute a quorum.

Jamie Bissner came later in the meeting as excused tardiness.

**The following members absent:** Ken Roberts and Ruth Edwards. Lorie Judson had an excused absence.

1.3: A motion was made by Chair to accept the Agenda as printed. It was carried and accepted by the Council.

### 2. OFFICER'S REPORTS

2.1 Recording Secretary -----Greg Middleton

The meeting notes were emailed to the body for approval. The only changes or corrections requested were made to the notes. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was requested and granted by the body.

**Motion to approve so the August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting notes will be submitted into the minutes record. Motion was seconded by Councilman Shackelford and accepted by the membership 11-0-0.**

2.2 Corresponding Secretary Report by Jamie Bissner. Councilman Bissner requested and was granted an excused tardiness at the time of report. NO report was given.

2.3 Treasurer Report by Doug Colliflower:

Our current balance is \$1982.06. The August meeting deposit was \$82.00 with no (checks) expenses written out. Treasurer asked for a motion. Councilman Shackelford moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Councilman Musson seconded. The motion was carried 11-0-0.

2.4 Vice Chairman's Report by Okorie Ezieme:

Vice Chair stated that the EC (Executive Committee) met on September 13th and basically came up with the present agenda as our responsibility. This was his report.

2.5 The Chair's Report by Chairwoman Dr. Sandra Thomas:

A. Several Committee Positions are being created in order that we may better serve all the facets of the community. The exact title and nature of the committees will be presented to the body shortly. Council members may be asked to chair a committee and report back to the council. Once the list is out members will be able to notify the Chair if they would like to chair a specific committee.

B. Chair acknowledged the website update committee as Councilman Middleton and Musson and indicated that the project is ongoing and an official launch will come shortly. At such time the Council Members will be able to share their input about the site. Within the next couple of weeks the site should be fully updated.

C. We will be setting up another meeting of the minds very soon for us to speak as groups about how to better perform our duties to the community and the things we are willing to do to serve them better. As council members anything going on in Altadena we should be involved with, at least to the point that we have our eyes on it.

**D.** The implementation of the Citizen of the Month Special Recognition Award: This award will be given to a citizen or business each month in each of our Census Tracts. After our first award tonight the order of the presentations will coincide with the numerical list of the census tracts. This is our opportunity to show the community as a council just how much we appreciate their contributions to the Altadena Community.

**E.** Chairwoman also mentioned the possibility of an Arts Committee that will work on a number of things including the creation of a flag for Altadena. She solicited input and suggestions from the entire community regarding this project.

A Special Recognition Award was presented by Dr. Sandra Thomas to Councilman Gino Sund for his outstanding service to the community as the past Chair of this council. Sund was applauded by the audience with a standing ovation.

### **3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

**3.1:** California Highway Patrol Report by COPS Officer Kevin Denmon #13504:

Refer to website or call officer Denmon for report regarding traffic statistics. Website: [www.chp.ca.gov/](http://www.chp.ca.gov/) or Call officer Denmon @ (626) 296-8100 for specific information. One special mention about Car seat installation is being offered by the Altadena CHP office.

**3.2:** Altadena Sheriff's Station:

- a.** Captain Steve McLean: Introduced two new officers to Altadena Sheriff's office. See Captain for Community Relation's Deputy.
- b.** This Saturday will be the grand reopening of the Sheriff's station. A tour of the station will be granted. Everybody is invited.
- c.** Athens Trash Company volunteered to clean up a certain area that has been an eye sore to the community. Thank Councilwoman Diane Marcussen who organized the cleanup of the area.
- d.** Lt. Joe Dempsey gave us the crime report. Refer to website for report. He stressed more neighborhood watch groups. They are getting many calls from neighbors, which led to direct arrests. Caution not to answer the door. The MO is the burglars knock on the door and when no one answers they go to the back and break in. Suggest you answer from inside the safety of your locked door and tell them that you are not interested in their offer. If they look suspicious call the Sheriff's office and they will send out an officer. Now that neighbors are paying attention it is really helping the Sheriff's office. For additional information on Altadena Crime blotter please contact **Joseph E. Dempsey, Lieutenant, Altadena Station – Detective Bureau 626-296-2131 – Office**

**4. SPECIAL REPORTS: We had three timed special presentations for this meeting. Time to be 5 to 7 minutes unless otherwise agreed upon by the Chair.**

**4.1:** ACONA (Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations) Presentation by Holly Rundberg and Elliot Gold. Regarding an Association of Neighborhood Watch Groups. See DVD for notes if requested. See details of meeting times and dates that are listed on their website. [www.ACONA.org](http://www.ACONA.org)

**4.2: Christopher Hudson from Public Works** to make a special presentation about a Roadway Improvement Project in Altadena. (See the flier for details about the road improvement project. Public works will send out notices to the community before construction begins. There will be several notices given to the immediate area before work starts. There will be a contact number neighbors to reach if they have questions of concerns.

**Brief Break for 5 minutes to call into the chamber the parties to this agenda item.**

**4.3:** Arroyo Pacific Academy-----Philip Clarke/Proposed School on Raymond Project

**An anticipated vote to be made on this agenda item:**

**(CUP Application for Arroyo Pacific Academy, APN's 5833-019-035 & 5833-019-031, Property located at 183 East Palm Street, Altadena (Los Angeles County), CA 91001)**

**Order of presentation was spelled out by the Chairwoman as per mutual agreement by the parties to this item:**

**Mr. Clarke's presentation concentrated upon the basic issues. The major concerns were first the zoning issue which was addressed by Elizabeth (Liz) Hanks. 515 S. Flower St, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor, LA, CA. She is the attorney representing the Arroyo Pacific Academy Project.**

- a.** They are not requesting a zoning change because the property will remain R1. CUPs are subject to environmental impact study, such as noise and traffic. Once the negative declaration is published the applicant will have the opportunity to oppose.

Mr. Clarke stated that he is and always was willing to work with the community in coming to some sort of agreement. He stated that certain conditions could be imposed upon the proposed CUP. Mr. Clarke stated that he wants to work with the community. There were several speakers for Clarke's position

1. Nan Boden, 2240 Mar Vista Ave. Altadena.

2. Scott Twomey 1645 E. Mendocino St, Altadena.

Opposition organized by the immediate neighbors around the property represented by 4 speakers:

1. Coleen Sterritt. 3101 N. Raymond Ave, in the block of subject property. Great mission but wrong location.
2. Sonya Sophie Loeffler at 60 E. Palm Street.
3. Nancy Rothwell 3100 N. Raymond Ave.
4. Michael Reilly 3101 N. Raymond Ave.

**4.3a. Mark Goldschmidt Chair was not present. Diane Marcussen of the Land Use** Committee read into the minutes the recommendation of the Land Use Committee regarding this agenda item.

**A motion made that the Altadena Town Council send a letter to County Regional Planning recommending denial of the CUP (Conditional Use Permit) R2008-00985 for a school in an R1-7500 residential zone at 183 E Palm St. Motion carried 11-1-0 to deny the CUP.**

## 5. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

**5.1: CENSUS TRACT SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD** to be presented in Census Tract 4602 as the first of the Census Tracts to make the presentation. Councilman Ezieme and Councilman Middleton will make this presentation.

Recipient is Alejandro Cortes of the El Patron Mexican Food Restaurant: Located at the corner of Lake Avenue and Altadena Drive:

*Alex received the reward given by Councilmen Ezieme and Middleton but presented by Chair Dr. Thomas.*

**5.2:** Chamber of Commerce-----Doug Colliflower

The Chamber will be choosing its annual citizen of the year award. Please submit any candidate of note to the chamber for this prestigious award.

**5.3:** Altadena Library-----Barbra Pearson

They have received a grant of \$25,000 to address minor upgrades to the Library. Some construction will be required. They are seeking bids for the work to be done. This information will be shared on their website. The PDF for the bid will be posted upon their website [www.altadenalibrary.org/](http://www.altadenalibrary.org/) Polly also gave her usual arousing report on the library.

**5.4:** L.A. County Parks Dept.: The Area District manager gave her report for the parks. A phone number to contact for further information would be: 626) 398-5451 Loma Alta Park

**5.5:** Sheriff's Support Group: No report.

**5.6:** Altadena Rotary by Tony Hill: The Rotary club is very involved in the Altadena Community. Upcoming program is principal for a day program. Visitors have an opportunity to shadow a principal for a day taking place Nov 8, 2011. Go to Altadena Rotary website for more information @ [www.AltadenaRotary.com](http://www.AltadenaRotary.com)

## 8. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS:

**4601:** No report

**4602:** Councilman Ezieme reported on several areas of speeding and indicated that speeders should be more considerate of the neighbors in the area. Another report regarding North Lake Avenue where hikers are parking and being inconsiderate of the neighbors in the area. Tickets will be issued to violators.

**4603.01:** Doug Colliflower commented on an email that a constituent sent him in the La Vina neighborhood regarding a photo of a bear in the area.

**4603.02: No report**

**4610:** Thanks fellow councilmember Diane Marcussen for Lincoln and Figueroa for cleanup of that area. Councilman Shackelford reported on the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal Project important dates to remember. [Link to Save the Date](#) Public Scoping Meetings. Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Rose Bowl. Go to link.

**4611:** Amy comment on the sheriff's activities on the area near the cemetery. There have been remarkable changes made by the Sheriff's Department. Athens Trash Company and Councilmember Diane Marcussen is working with the community in cleaning up things in the neighborhood. Allan did a drive around with the Sheriff regarding this specific area.

**4612:** Jamie spoke about the possible misuse of the property located at Lake and Morada as some sort of flea market. Contacted the enforcement people about this matter.

**4613:** No report

**9. OLD BUSINESS:** (Filling vacated seat for CT-4603.01)  
Tabled to next meeting.

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**  
**None**

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**The public vacated by the end of the meeting so there were no public comments from the community.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT 9:43 p.m.**