



# ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2015

Altadena Community Center 730 East Altadena Drive • Altadena, California 91001

### 1. CALL TO ORDER 7:04

- 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance \_\_\_\_\_ Councilman Okorie Ezieme.
- 1.2. Roll Call \_\_\_\_\_ Recording Secretary, Damon L. Hobdy.
- 1.2.1. (12) Present: John White, Okorie Ezieme, Damon Hobdy, Judy Matthews, Gloria Sanyika, Michelle Martinez, Amy Cienfuegos, Patricia Sutherlen, Sylvia Vega, Diane Marcussen, Brent Musson, Billy Malone.  
(4) Excused: Gretchen Seager, Ron Adams, Jennifer Lee, Jamie Bissner.  
(0) Absent/Unexcused: None.
- 1.3. Approve March 17, 2015 Meeting Agenda\_\_\_\_Chair Diane Marcussen requests that the a Motion be made to approve the Agenda. Councilperson Michelle Martinez requests that the Agenda be amended to permit a Census Tract Report (paragraph 6) for Tract 4610. Motion by Councilman Brent Musson to approve the Meeting Agenda as amended; seconded by Councilman Okorie Ezieme-unanimous.

### 2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- 2.1 Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Diane Marcussen reports, (a) the project is underway with Pasadena Unified School District in conjunction with Altadena and Sierra Madre. The project is called Collaborate PASadena. Supervisor Antonovich was asked to appoint someone from Altadena to be the representative for the community and that project and he has appointed Councilman Damon Hobdy as his representative for that committee. Chair Marcussen, thanks Damon Hobdy for accepting the appointment, (b) Tim Rutt has decided to shut down Altadena Point. Chair Marcussen, wanted to thank Tim Rutt and indicated how much his work has done for the community of Altadena. For example, Tim Rutt was a super life-line for those in the station fire – getting information out. Tim Rutt was the closest we have had to a central location for information in Altadena. Chair Marcussen thanks Tim Rutt personally, on behalf of the Altadena Town Council and the Altadena community, (c) after the windstorm of 2011, SCE (Southern California Edison) promised to replace some of the trees that were knocked down. SCE contacted Chair Marcussen and indicated that they do have trees available for Altadena. SCE was put in touch with Public Works and it is being worked out where the trees will be donated and put in Altadena. Contact Carl Peterson at 626-337-1277 at Department of Public Works who will coordinate all requests where to place the trees. Finally, Okorie Ezieme has been appointed (and he has accepted) as the Election Chair for the up-coming election. The information packets will be available shortly. To determine whose term is expiring, please go to the ATC website.
- 2.2 Vice Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Okorie Ezieme reports that on March 10, 2015, the Executive Committee of the Altadena Town Council met. The approved Agenda was set at that meeting. If anyone of the community requests to be on the Agenda, please let the Executive Committee know by the second Tuesday of each month. Members of the public can contact the ATC at [altadenatowncouncil.org](http://altadenatowncouncil.org) or the individual councilmembers of the ATC through the e-mail addresses indicated on the website. There are public comment cards available during the ATC meetings. If someone would like to make a public comment, please fill out such a card and provide to the members of the ATC before or during the meeting. Concerning the election, Councilman Ezieme asks for volunteers from the community to assist in helping out with the election.



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2.3 Recording Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Damon L. Hobdy

2.3.1 Approve February 17, 2015, Meeting Minutes\_\_ Damon Hobdy moves to approve the Meeting Minutes as distributed to the Council, Gloria Sanyika seconded-unanimous.

2.4 Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Amy Cienfuegos reports concerning the ATC bank account balance for the months leading up to the end of February 2015. Councilperson Cienfuegos also reports that the ATC runs exclusively on donations. The donations go to help fund things such as keeping up the ATC website, donating to the Altadena Chamber dinner, helping other entities (such as the Sheriff's Department, etc.).

2.5 Corresponding Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Billy Malone reports and encourages all Councilpersons to attend the re-opening of Eliot Arts Magnet Middle School. Also, SCE is at the end of their grant cycle. If anyone in the community has a 501 ©(3) and would like to apply for a grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00 please do so by March 30, 2015. Its open to everyone in the areas of education, science and technology, public safety, disaster preparedness, environment, and civic engagement. Please contact Councilman Malone for further information.

### 3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

3.1 \_\_\_\_\_ California Highway Patrol Officer Cooper reports the stats for February 2015. There were 20 traffic collisions in Altadena for February 2015 (13 were property damage, 6 were injury, and 1 DUI related). Compared to February 2014, there were 14 traffic collisions. As to citations in February 2015, there were 97 and to date there are 147. Officer Cooper reports that the CHP is attempting to put in special enforcement units at the area schools to ensure (a) cross-walks are clear, (b) regulatory signs around the schools are followed and adhered to by drivers, and (c) drop off and pick of students run more smoothly.

3.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Altadena Sheriff's Station Captain Christopher Reed reports that on March 24, 2015, at the Coffee House in Altadena from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., there will be coffee with the Captain which will be an opportunity for the Captain and members of the community to interact on an informal basis. Captain Reid also introduces Detective Phil Marquez who will be replacing Lt. Shear.

3.2.1 \_\_\_\_\_ Lt Robert Lewis (from the Altadena Sheriff's Station) reports that there has been a great reduction in the crime rate in Altadena. We are at 43% down in the crime rate as opposed to February 2015, which was down 48%. The Sheriff's station is asking the public and the Council to encourage other members of the community to report graffiti, because there has been a rise in vandalism. There was a saturation patrol done in conjunction with the Pasadena Police Department to target vandalism. Lt Marquez will report on the progress of the saturation patrol at the ATC meeting in April 2015. The Sheriff's Station has also done probation and parole searches so that individuals getting out of jail or prison and coming back in the community will know that the Sheriff's Department is there to assist them and help them out; but, also if the individuals continue with criminal conduct then they will be taken back into custody. Lastly,



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Lt. Lewis reports that there have been residential burglaries where windows (in the back of houses) have been shattered with bricks or rocks. Lt. Lewis encourages members of the community to report any suspicious behavior or individuals. Also, Lt. Lewis encourages members of the public not to leave items of value visible through windows –which is an enticement for crime.

3.3 \_\_\_\_\_ Cert Steve Reagan reports that CERT is doing a lot of outreach and helping people get CERT training. CERT management is also supporting MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD program. In fact, ACONA has assisted and there were 42 persons who came out to the ACONA meeting where MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD was presented. MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD is a nationally recognized program that builds disaster readiness. There are four MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD meetings pending.

3.4 \_\_\_\_\_ Stephanie English (L.A. County Fire Department Public Information Officer/Liaison to Assistant Chief) no report.

#### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 \_\_\_\_\_ Land Use Committee (LUC), Diane Marcussen reports that there were no action items at the last LUC meeting so there is no report.

4.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Community Standards District (CSD) Jim Osterling (Vice Chair person for the CSD) reports that after 2 plus years a second presentation was made regarding the residential portion of the CSD.

4.2.1 Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Councilperson Sylvia Vega moves that the ATC submit a letter along with the recommendations of the CSD to Regional Planning for the residential portion of the CSD-Seconded by Damon Hobdy-unanimous with the exception that Councilpersons Brent Musson and Michelle Martinez abstain.

#### 5. ALTADENA COMMUNITY REPORTS

5.1 \_\_\_\_\_ Mindy Kattay, Library Director reports that the Library is trying to improve communications with the community. There is now a newsletter on-line regarding library events and other information. As shown in the newsletter, there is a showing of the Film Feminist Story from Women's Liberation to be held on Friday March 20, 2015. The next coffee and conversation with the Director is on March 28, 2015, at noon. Contact the Library on how to sign up to receive the newsletter.

5.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Meliza Hernandez (LA County Department of Parks & Rec.) no report.

5.3 \_\_\_\_\_ Billy Malone (Altadena Chamber of Commerce) reports that the next Chamber power breakfast will be held on April 21, 2015, at the



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Altadena Country Club at 8:00 a.m., to 9:00 a.m. Speakers have not been confirmed yet.

- 5.4 \_\_\_\_\_ Best Fest Diana Phillippi reports that the website for the up-coming Best Fest in October 2015, is now up and running. Also, Best Fest reps met with Captain Reid of the Altadena Sheriff's Department and the CHP concerning the road closures. Finally, 208 businesses have been visited concerning the up-coming Best Fest. The event has been very well received.
- 5.5 \_\_\_\_\_ Eliot Arts Magnet, Shannon Mumolo the Magnet Coordinator introduces the new interim principal Lori Touloumian who reports concerning the grand re-opening of Eliot Arts Magnet which is on April 30, 2015, at 5 p.m. Also, Ms. Touloumian reports concerning that Eliot nurtures students' academic development through music, dance, theater arts and visual arts.

### 6. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

4603.01 Damon Hobdy/Judy Matthews. Councilman D. Hobdy reports and thanks Chair Diane Marcussen for her recommendation, Supervisor Antonovich for his appointment and Mayor Bill Boggard for accepting the appointment as to Councilman Hobdy being the representative for Altadena on Collaborative PASAdena. Councilman Hobdy also thanks the members of the ATC who are his friends and colleagues for their support and well wishes. The first Collaborative PASAdena pre-meeting was held and Councilman Hobdy hopes to represent to the best of his ability the interest of Altadena and its children. Councilman Hobdy will be updating the public in the future. Councilperson Matthews thanks those of Altadena and Pasadena for their support at a conference held in Los Angeles for the youth.

4602 Okorie Ezieme/Billy Malone. Councilman Ezieme reports that he has been receiving some complaints in the area. In particular, dog lovers are encouraged to pick up after your pets. Also, all horse enthusiasts are encouraged to pick up after their horses. Please be respectful to your neighbors in this regard. Between February 18, and February 28, 2015, the Altadena community was attacked with graffiti and vandalism. Councilman Ezieme reports that the Sheriff's Department responded within minutes to this vandalism after it was reported. The Sheriff's Department is thanked for their quick response. Deputy David Perez and Sergeant Alfred are individually thanked. Councilman Malone reports concerning North Fair Oaks (Canyon) concerning complaints of noise on weekends regarding summer kids camps. The County is aware of the situation and for further update, please contact the County.

4613 Diane Marcussen/Sylvia Vega. Chair Marcussen reports regarding the issue in 4612 concerning the empty lot at the corner of Lake and Calaveras. Permits have been received to shore up a retaining wall. There has been no official announcement of the business to be put there, but it appears (from the plot plan) that it will be some type of market. The new Indian Cuisine restaurant at the corner of Washington and Altadena Drive had a soft opening on Monday, March 16, 2015. The Indian Cuisine will be open from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., excluding Tuesdays. This was their soft opening but no official opening yet.

4610 Michelle Martinez/Brent Musson. Councilperson Martinez reports that she attended a gentrification meeting which took place at Perry's Joint. It was attended by members of the Altadena and Pasadena community. This was the second meeting held on this issue at Perry's



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Joint. Issues discussed were displacement (i.e., in terms of education, communication, and helping members of the community). The gentrification meeting was highlighted in the Los Angeles Times. Please e-mail Councilperson Martinez for further information. Councilman Musson reports that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the issue of gentrification in the area of southwest Altadena. The community is discussing how to continue redevelopment in the area while being mindful of existing businesses. The gentrification issue is in the discussion phase only.

### **7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lara Arslanian speaks concerning the new mixed-use development project on Lake Avenue located at 1968 N. Lake Avenue. There will be 2 structures on this land that will consist of 12 residential units and commercial space underneath. Also, a modern single family home will be built behind the property.

Greg Middleton speaks concerning a community announcement. The Mentoring & Partnership for Youth Development (MPYD) is a program to mentor young men in high school who need guidance. They are helped with homework, school and career opportunities. There are 25 graduating seniors and 24 are going to college. There will be a fundraiser on April 11, 2015, at Brookside and the honorary host will be Supervisor Michael Antonovich.

### **8. ADJOURNMENT: 8:34 p.m.**

Brent Musson moves/Sylvia Vega seconded-unanimous.