

Altadena Town Council

Community Standards Committee

Minutes: June 10, 2014

1. Members Present: Daniel Harlow, Don Kirkland, Ed Meyers, Meredith Miller, Marge Nichols, Jonathan Potter, Mark Goldschmidt, George Jenkins. Absent: Jim Osterling Observer: Steve Zeider Regional Planning staff: David McDonald

2. Minutes: No minutes to approve: meeting of May 20 did not have a quorum.

3. Reports: Marge Nichols reported that all approved committee minutes, roster and meeting dates have been sent to be posted on the Town Council website, although several months of minutes have not been posted. Ed Meyers said he will follow up to ensure that this is done.

4. Old Business:

- Ed Meyers reported on presentation of Commercial Group's progress report to the Town Council Executive Committee. Report was generally well-received, and Committee was pleased to see progress.
- Mark Goldschmidt reported briefly on NBBA's meeting with Supervisor's Representative Sussy Nemer and two engineers from DPW. Following meeting, NBBA will be researching problem areas in Altadena where County and other stakeholders may be able to promote physical changes, including trees and other plantings, street art, enhanced crosswalks, and others.

5. New Business

- Jonathan Potter brought up issue of allowing bee-keeping in Altadena. Restrictions such as property line set-backs and public rights-of-way were discussed. Ed Meyers suggested looking at existing ordinances in other cities with restrictions. San Diego ordinance was cited.
- Discussion of occupations permitted for home-based businesses centered on issues of a permissive vs. restrictive approach in regulating Altadena's very active home based business sector.
- Jonathan Potter shared proposed changes for businesses in R-1 areas.
 1. Signs: proposed language "customary signs" was discussed. Other than temporary real estate and campaign signs, there are no customary signs in residential areas, and it was felt there is no need to change ordinance.
 2. Work trucks kept on street or driveway: this is this a breach of existing ordinances, and should overnight parking of commercial vehicles be prohibited?
 3. Trucks on commercial streets with "Hauling" signs are a blight; apparently no way to enforce without changing parking ordinance.

4. Subcommittee should look at ordinances governing yard sales; there are some “perpetual” yard sales that are probably prohibited.
5. R-1 subcommittee suggested reducing the list of businesses to only 5. Ed: We need to look at each use the County specifically prohibits and determine why. We should look at the new list side by side with the existing list and decide changes on case by case basis. Jonathan: we should just regulate based on whether use is a nuisance. Dave McDonald from County: Important to be as specific as possible, vagueness causes more disruption and problems than specific limitations and prohibitions, and puts onus on County to make difficult choices.
6. Animal Training business prohibition. For some instances, ordinance should be made less severe, but all agreed that any changes we make need to be very specific.
7. Beautician/Barber: there are chemicals and odors associated with this use. However, people use these at home now, and there are many such businesses in R-1 areas in Altadena.
8. Dentist accessory office should remain as allowed.
9. Garment manufacturing: currently prohibited, but sole proprietor tailor, dress maker or seamstress allowed under state law with required state permit.
10. Massage therapist: should be allowed if properly licensed.
11. Film & video editing: should be allowed
12. Upholstery: should be allowed.

6. Committee member reports and assignments: No additional reports or assignments

7. Public comment: None.

6. Adjournment: MSC to adjourn 8:30 pm.