

**Altadena Town Council**  
**Community Standards Committee**

**Minutes: December 8, 2014**

- 1. Members Present:** Mark Goldschmidt, Daniel Harlow, Ed Meyers, Marge Nichols, Jonathan Potter, George Jenkins, Don Kirkland, and Jim Osterling. Regional Planning: David McDonald, Emma Howard, Mark Child. 8 Altadena Town Council representatives, 13 community residents.
  
- 2. Reports:** Ed Meyers opened the meeting by welcoming Town Council representatives and community members. The purpose of this meeting was to report on the committee's recommendations for changes to Commercial regulations the Altadena Community Standards District regulations established in 1986. A report on Residential recommendations will be done at a subsequent meeting.

Mark Child, Deputy Director of Advanced Planning presented the rationale and timeline for the CSD revision, noting that some things such as zoning changes might need to be included in the Community Plan rather than the CSD.

Jim Osterling narrated a slide presentation on commercial recommendations. See attached PowerPoint file.

Diane Marcussen, ATC Chair, commented that work on these issues is complicated with various perceptions at play. She questioned the recommendation about 4-story buildings, and it was noted that this would not be right next to residential zones. Osterling noted that since we have had advisement from Planning staff, most recommendations will meet County standards.

Emma Howard pointed out that the positive approach used by the committee is valuable, rather than starting with complicated rules to deal with specific issues. Many neighborhood concerns are already addressed: residents need to complain to the County to get enforcement, such as complaints about the Eliot Middle School electronic sign, which is regulated by the state rather than the county.

Comments:

- We need to think through properties that might be affected, and not jump to conclusions about how changes would work.

- Need different guidelines for parking adjacent to residential areas, such as with the Coffee Gallery. The solution could be a parking zone for residents only with stickers for permitted cars.
- Could church parking lots be used for commercial areas during weekdays, such as being rented by a BOD? It was noted that this has been turned down in the past. A question was posed about whether paying the churches would make a difference. Availability of parking lots has been crucial for pedestrian oriented retail in areas that have been successfully redeveloped.
- As to the recommendation for use of a minor CUP for small restaurants, it was noted that state law requires a CUP for alcohol permits.
- It was noted by Planning staff that when the new County General Plan is adopted, community plans may change.
- On the whole, audience comments about recommendations were favorable toward the positive orientation of the report.

**3. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

**Insert Commercial slides below:**