

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

**Minutes: July 8, 2014**

**Members Present:** Don Kirkland, Ed Meyers, Jim Osterling, Meredith Miller, Marge Nichols and Jonathan Potter. Regional Planning Staff: David McDonald, Susie Tae, Jose Rubio. Absent: Mark Goldschmidt (on hiatus), Daniel Harlow, George Jenkins.

**Minutes:** MSC to approve minutes as corrected to indicate that the limit of cars is the number that can be parked on the site, with two abstentions due to absence.

MSC to put Mark Goldschmidt on hiatus status since he will be out of the country during July and August.

**Reports:** Marge Nichols reported that Neighbors Building a Better Altadena (NBBA) is proceeding to develop small projects based on the Walkability Survey. The initial project focuses on the corner of Lake and Calaveras, including landscaping in a small plot by a utility pole, painting a crosswalk at the north side of the intersection, and public art at Eliot Middle School.

**Old Business:** The committee had raised several questions about Regional Planning enforcement and Jose Rubio was present to answer questions. He noted that overgrown hedges are a nuisance abatement issue. Building and Safety (not Regional Planning) handles complaints of overgrown vegetation, weedy lots and such. There is a moratorium on enforcement of fence issues, awaiting action on the CSD. If a violation is discovered, the owner receives a 30 day notice to correct the problem, but if owner is making an effort to correct it could be up to 3 months before a fine is imposed. There may be problems with enforcement of conditions that existed before the new CSD goes into effect.

**Banners:** Rubio noted that the City of Whittier has a process for a 25 day banner permit for \$25.

**Yard sales:** Maywood has permitted yard sales on specified weekends. In prior discussions we have proposed allowing four yard sales at a property per year, with the requirement that signs be removed within three days. Where perpetual yard sales have been a problem, planning can arrange to make weekend visits to enforce limits.

We can include maintenance of fences in CSD, as this is handled by Regional Planning. Materials can be specified, but would only be enforceable for new construction after CSD goes into effect. Maintenance specifications can be enforced any time. There is no grandfathering to allow fences that were always illegal. Rubio noted that in some communities mirrors are used to help motorists see

around fences or hedges. A 45° angle at a corner can be used for visibility and traffic safety where there is a tall hedge.

The CSD should address building on the county right of way. Rubio noted that Regional Planning can't enforce anything on the right of way, which is controlled by Public Works. We need to ask Public Works/Road Department about enforcement issues. Pearl Munoz in Public Works would be a good person to meet with. It was noted that only Planning has a moratorium on enforcement of certain conditions.

Murals: We need to address public art in the CSD, and consider issues in both residential and commercial areas.

Graffiti: There was discussion of a possible ordinance for removal of graffiti. The county currently has a free abatement team, but that could change.

Regional Planning staff mentioned that the department is changing a number of elements in current regulations, including discretionary procedures, public hearings, plot plan and site plan review.

Home based businesses: enforcement is very difficult based on general standards for noise, fumes, and equipment. The county home occupations code can be useful. To enforce prohibition of commercial activities in residential neighborhood, Planning has to see inappropriate elements such as equipment or deliveries of materials. Storing landscaping or construction equipment or materials on site is a common complication. Most frequent complaints are about beauticians and silk screen printing, both of which have problems with odors.

Committee members commented that we should specify allowing outdoor dining – like what they do at Dutch Oven, where there is private property available adjacent to a business. Pasadena, New York and Boston are following this trend.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:30.