

Altadena Town Council
Community Standards Committee

Minutes: June 24, 2014

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

Note: needs correction, see July 8 minutes

Minutes: MSC to approve minutes of May 6 meeting. See attached notes from Jim Osterling. Discussion of June 10 minutes: delete line about moving meeting to community center.

MSC to approve minutes of June 10 meeting, with one abstention due to absence.

Reports: Ed Myers reported on the recent ATC election. Two seats on the council remain unfilled due to lack of candidates. Marge Nichols reported on the Neighbors Building a Better Community (NBBA) meeting in which teams were formed to investigate projects in response to the Walkability Survey.

Mark Goldschmidt reported that he will be away from Altadena during July and August, returning September 1.

Old Business: Residential issues

Discussed need for specification with regard to home based businesses: needs to have enough definition to permit enforcement. The consensus was that we need some loosening of current standards, but with definition. We need to look carefully at the list of prohibited occupations.

- Animal training might be OK, but probably needs specification of types of animals, number of animals, and size of animals.
- Dental auxiliary office raises question of a constant stream of patients.
- Beekeeping: Jonathan will investigate the San Diego beekeeping ordinance.
- Home based businesses: county code prohibits anything that disrupts the residential character of a neighborhood.
- Question: What type of enforcement is done about perpetual yard sales, especially since these take place on weekends when county offices are closed? Dave McDonald responded that complainants should call the county, and they will make arrangements for inspection.

Residential issues, cont.

- There was a brief discussion about businesses operating in converted garages.
- Upholstery or sewing businesses: It's important to avoid sweatshop conditions, even if only family members are involved. Agreed that this type of business would be approved with a maximum of 3 employees/staff, with parking for all cars on the property.
- Our objective is to encourage economic opportunities for home based business in a changing economy. We want to allow businesses that could start up in a home and eventually transition to commercial space if they grow in scale.
- Businesses involving classes or group sessions: Hours limited to 8:00 am to 9:00 pm on week days; 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekends. No more than three sessions per week. Maximum of 8 clients during the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, and a maximum of 4 clients from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. But if the business can provide onsite parking with paved or other appropriate surface, the limit is based on the number of cars that can be parked on site. The objective is to free street parking for residents of the neighborhood.

Public Comment: Steve Zeider commented that some people will push and go over the limit, no matter what it is.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:40.