

Altadena Town Council Community Standards Committee
Minutes: August 27, 2013

1. **Members Present:** Mark Goldschmidt, Ed Meyers, Marge Nichols, Jim Osterling, Jonathan Potter, Tecumseh Shackelford. Absent: Don Kirkland, George Jenkins, Meredith Miller, Peggy Taylor, Dan Harlow. No Regional Planning staff. No observers.
2. **Minutes:** Minutes of August 13 meeting not approved due to lack of quorum.
3. **Reports:** Chairman Meyers noted that he will ask Regional Planning for an additional zoning map to allow both working groups to have one at hand. He reported that all Town Council seats are filled.
4. **Old Business:** Chairman Meyers encouraged members to use Google Docs to identify areas of possible changes, to be edited later. We will develop consensus on changes. The committee could present a summary report with PowerPoint presentation to communicate changes in CSD, rather than trying to struggle through the detailed final document in a public meeting.

There was discussion of the recent Town Council hearing on the request for a restaurant/banquet hall with liquor license at Altadena Drive and Washington, especially with regard to the facility possibly becoming a nightclub if the intended business does not succeed. Further discussion followed about renewal of liquor licenses, and the possibility of regulating sale of small bottles, or square footage devoted to alcohol.

5. **New Business:**

Equestrian issues: It is said that there is an equestrian zone in Altadena, but it's not known exactly where it is (boundaries). We need to get clarification about this from Regional Planning. Mark Goldschmidt reported that he has talked to people in the equestrian community, and they are generally satisfied with existing regulations.

Domestic livestock: Jonathan Potter noted that rabbits and chickens are not allowed because they are not specifically mentioned and therefore fall into the category of all others which if not specified, are prohibited. Given the popularity of small scale chicken flocks in homes, this may need to be revised.

Home based businesses: We can insert a section on home based businesses at the top of page 8 of the working document. The residential working group has discussed liberalization of prohibited home based businesses at length. Notes from the last working group discussion suggested that that this section should allow most occupations to be conducted in a home, contingent on meeting requirements for sound, dust and noise as specified in current CSD. Of the long list of prohibited occupations (many of which working group members felt are in fact performed in homes now without problems) only the following should continue to be prohibited:

- Adult entertainment
- Ambulance
- Auto repair and work
- Auto washing
- Funeral home

Committee discussion indicated differences of opinion, emphasizing that we should consider liberalizing and allowing certain stated businesses to be conducted in the home but only with specific stated restrictions for that business that take into account the impact on the neighbors. The general requirements in the current CSD (dust, noise, etc.) may not be specific enough and therefore would be difficult to enforce. It was noted that business activities in a second house on a property can be regulated by a landlord. Bed and Breakfast businesses had been suggested as a means of capitalizing on Altadena's proximity to the mountains for hikers, however this could lead to complaints by neighbors about parking. An important principle in regulating home based businesses would be taking the burden off neighbors to complain, which can result in hard feelings in neighborhoods. We should ask the county why the current list of occupations was banned.

Urban agriculture: We need to add a section on this type of small scale business, given the popularity of locally grown food products.

6. **Working groups:** Due to low attendance, there were no working group meetings.

7. **Public comment:** There was no public comment.

8. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:45.