



# ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2016

Altadena Community Center 730 East Altadena Drive • Altadena,  
California 91001

### 1. CALL TO ORDER 7:06 p.m.

- 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance \_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Anne Lansing.
- 1.2. Roll Call \_\_\_\_\_ Recording Secretary Damon L. Hobdy.
- 1.2.1. (15) Present: Billy Malone, John White, Okorie Ezieme, Patricia Sutherlen, Jennifer Lee, Gloria Sanyika, Anne Chomyn, Brent Musson, Diane Marcussen, Judy Matthews, Anne Lansing, Justin Robertson, Damon L. Hobdy, Michelle Martinez, Sylvia Vega.  
(0) Excused: None  
(1) Absent/Unexcused: Dean Cooper
- 1.3. Approve March 15, 2016, Meeting Agenda \_\_Chair Marcussen requests that the agenda be amended in the following particulars: (a) Item No. 3.2 Lt. Clay will be doing the report for the Sheriff's station, (b) Steve Reagan will be providing the CERT report, and (c) Mindy Kattay will be doing a special presentation for the Altadena Library under Item No. 4.1; thus, Item No. 6.1 under Altadena Community Reports for the Library should be deleted. Motion by Councilmember Sutherlen to approve agenda as amended; Councilmember Ezieme seconded-unanimous.

### 2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- 2.1 Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Diane Marcussen reports concerning the Guerrilla Garden on Altadena Drive. Regional Planning has been contacted. They are waiting until the California poppies finish blooming before Regional Planning cleans it up. Also, there were concerns over the last couple of weeks concerning the County in Altadena trimming approximately 1700 trees. In response to those Complaints, the County has decided to remove the crew leader that was running the crews and is replacing him. Next, in the Altadena Connections newsletter there is a mistake on the first page which indicates that there is a Traffic Committee which meets on the first Monday of each month. However, there is no Traffic Committee formed by the Altadena Town Council. If any community member has traffic concerns, Chair Marcussen asks that person to contact their Councilmember. Further, regarding an Athens flyer that was sent to the community. There are instructions on what to do with a person's trash cans during the rainy season. Finally, there has been discussion about filming in Altadena. There is a company called FILM LA – which is contracted by the County and is a clearinghouse for issuing film permits for the entire County. FILM LA is the Counties agent. There are issues that have arisen; thus, the ATC is putting together a FILM Subcommittee to fix any concerns. Councilmembers Jennifer Lee and Anne Chomyn indicate their willingness and they will be on the Committee. If any community member wants to be on the committee, please contact an ATC representative.
- 2.1.1 2016 Elections \_\_\_\_\_ Chair Marcussen reports concerning the 2016 Election Update. There is an Election Committee. The members are Councilmember Brent Musson – Chair, Amy Cienfuegos – Vice Chair, and Councilmember Hobdy is on the committee as well. Early Voting is June 7, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the Saturday General Election will be June 11, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Polling locations will be selected after all applications are submitted and verified and such locations



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will be indicated at the May 16, 2016, ATC meeting. On April 22, 2016, Candidate Packets will be available to be picked up at the Altadena Library. Such packets must be submitted to the Library by May 13, 2016. Certified Public Candidates can make a statement at the May 17, 2016, ATC meeting. Volunteers are needed to work the polling locations. If anyone wants to volunteer or has any questions please contact Amy Cienfuegos at 626-379-4874 or by e-mail at [amy100fires@att.net](mailto:amy100fires@att.net), or contact Councilmember Musson or Hobdy.

- 2.2 Vice Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Okorie Ezieme reports that the Executive Committee met and the Agenda before the community was set as the order of business. If a community member wants to speak on any item on the Agenda or other matters during General Public Comment, please fill out a comment card and provide to a Councilmember. Also, if anyone desires to get on the ATC agenda, such request must be submitted to the Council no later than 5:00 p.m., on the second Monday of each month.
- 2.3 Recording Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Damon L. Hobdy reports and indicates that the approval of the February 2016 meeting minutes will be distributed and take place at the April 2016, ATC meeting.
- 2.4 Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Patricia Sutherlen reports concerning the current balance in the ATC account as of March 2016. Since, the ATC runs strictly on donations, the community is encouraged to contribute.
- 2.5 Corresponding Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Billy Malone reports and indicates that the ATC Elections are up-coming. Councilmember Malone encourages the community to ask any Councilmember questions about what the job entails in being a member of the ATC, if any community member is considering running as a candidate for the ATC. Additionally, Councilmember Malone encourages community members to volunteer to help out in the ATC Elections.

### 3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

- 3.1 \_\_\_\_\_ California Highway Patrol Mike Ulloa reports for February 2016. There were 9 traffic collisions (3 were property damage only, 6 of the 9 were with injuries and 3 of the 9 were DUI related). Year to date, there are 19 traffic collisions and 45 traffic citations were issued. Those traffic citations were primarily in the school zones for unsafe speed, illegal u-turns and the like. Last year we had 19 traffic collisions (13 were property damage, 6 were with injuries, and 1 was DUI related). The reduction in traffic collisions is due to the increase in patrol. Officer Ulloa indicates that there are issues and concerns with the possibility of bicyclist being hit by cars. Please contact the CHP at 626-296-8100 if any community member has concerns or witnesses a safety concern.
  - 3.1.1 Officer Bejar (Public Information Officer) reports that on March 22, 2016, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., there will be Coffee with a Cop at the Coffee Gallery. Also, Officer Bejar indicates that Officer Nathan Taylor was killed in the line of duty. The CHP Credit Union has started a fund for his family and if anyone wants to contribute log on to the CHP website for more details. Next, "Stand Up For Keith" was mentioned by Officer Bejar. Officer Keith needs a



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bone marrow transplant. There is a bone marrow drive on March 16, 2016, and individuals between the ages of 18 to 44 can sign up.

3.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Altadena Sheriff's Station Lt. Yolanda Clay reports and provides the crime statistics for the month of February. Altadena is 6% below last year's crime stats. 14 guns were taken off the streets in February. The robberies did increase from 2 in January to 3 in February. Lt. Clay asks residents to be aware of their surroundings. The residential burglaries decreased from 13 in January to 4 in February. Thefts have decreased; however, community members are encouraged to remove their valuables when leaving their cars.

3.3 \_\_\_\_\_ CERT reported by Steve Reagan. Mr. Reagan thanks the ATC and the Sheriff's Dept. for their on-going support of the CERT management team. Mr. Reagan thanks Councilmember Judy Matthews who is helping set up the next CERT training in Altadena. The ALERT (ALTADENA LOCAL EMERGENCY TEAM) is bigger than it has ever been. It will be a great resource in case of community emergency. MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD is doing very well. There were two facilitator trainings in November of 2015. The facilitator training teaches people about the MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD program and how they can MAP their own neighborhood. Sunday, March 20, 2016, is the next facilitator training on the corner of Altadena and New York and every other month there will be a facilitator training at the Altadena Town and Country Club. All community members are welcomed no matter where they live.

3.4 \_\_\_\_\_ County Fire Stephanie English - LA County Fire Department Public Information Officer/Liaison to Assistant Chief reports that there were a total of 344 responses in February 2016. Out of the 344 responses (281 emergency medical, 2 outside rubbish calls, 12 service calls, 24 good intent calls, 11 false alarm calls and 3 fires). The most common fire calls are from cooking and electrical. Ms. English encourages residents to change their batteries at least twice a year on their smoke detectors.

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

4.1 Altadena Public Library \_\_\_\_\_ Mindy Kattay, District Director.

4.1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Kattay provides an annual report and plans for the future as it relates to the Altadena Public Library. The March 2016, Newsletter from the Altadena Library is provided by Ms. Kattay to the community. Ms. Kattay gives the history of the Library. The Library was installed in 1916. In 1927 it was confirmed that the Altadena Library was an independent district. In 1961 the property was purchased where the Main Library is located at the corner of Mariposa and Santa Rosa. Ms. Kattay identified some ideas for celebrating the 50 years of the Library. Volunteers are needed. In April 2016, the Verdugo Swing Society will be brought back. The Library has been welcoming the Latino population into the Library by providing opportunities for Latino's to meet and collaborate Latino Historians. A Latino Cultural Arts Festival will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of May 2016. There are multiple opportunities for children at the Library. For example, programs for children with attention challenges. The Library is the place to bring the community together – to create, to collaborate, and to celebrate. The Library is also providing opportunities for teens. The Library received a grant in the amount of \$30,000 from the State Library which



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allowed the Library to purchase equipment to assist teens learn. The challenge the Library is facing is to improve the building. The plan design will cost approximately \$7,000,000. The support of the community is needed.

### 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Land Use Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Chair Diane Marcussen – the committee is expected to take action on this item. The Land Use Committee met and voted to recommend to the ATC that the Minor CUP be approved with the condition that the staging of construction and parking of construction vehicles be restricted to the property.

5.1.1 R2014-02411 In the matter of the minor CUP under Project Number R2014-02411 to permit construction of a 2 story single-family residence with an attached garage on an existing vacant lot adjacent to the south of 3589 Canyon Crest Road in the unincorporated area of Altadena. Councilmember Damon L. Hobdy indicates that Stephen and Vandama Kuhn (the applicants) will provide their presentation; public comment will then occur; discussion among the ATC will next occur and finally the ATC will vote on the matter. Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn then provided their presentation to the community and the ATC.

5.1.2 Public Comment. Those that spoke against the project are as follows: Dennis Bridwell, Kara Bjornic, Jane Szabo, Eve Kessler, John Lynch, Michael Hickman, and Randy Baer (Mr. Baer provided an e-mail to the ATC which was read in the record by Councilmember Billy Malone). The ATC also received additional e-mails opposing the project. Those that spoke in favor of the project were as follows: one in favor who was not an Altadena resident.

5.1.3 Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Hobdy indicates that his decision will be based upon the wishes of the Public, because as an ATC member – representing the overall communities concern is his primary function and goal. Therefore, notwithstanding the fact that the applicants have met all County requirements for the issuance of a Minor CUP, Councilmember Hobdy indicates that the public sentiment is 99% against the proposed project and as a representative of the community, his concern is the voice of the community. As a result, Councilmember Hobdy makes a Motion that the ATC send a letter to regional planning recommending the denial of the request for the Minor CUP in the matter of R2014-02411 to construct a 2 story single-family residence with an attached garage on an existing vacant lot adjacent to the south of 3589 Canyon Crest Road; seconded by Councilmember Okorie Ezieme; discussion occurred among the ATC members. Vote on Motion: 5 in favor of denial; 9 opposed to the denial. Motion does not carry. Councilmember Anne Chomyn then makes the following Motion: Move that the Altadena Town Council recommend approval of the application for the Minor CUP to Regional Planning with the following condition: (a) that staging of construction and parking of construction vehicles be limited to the property. Councilmember Hobdy then makes the following request for addendum to the Motion to approve the application: That the letter to Regional Planning include a statement that there was opposition by the community, that the ATC did hear from those against the project, and the ATC did consider such opposition in making its decision; the addendum is seconded by Councilmember Chomyn. Next, Councilmember Chomyn amends her Motion to recommend approval by indicating the previous mentioned condition and that the letter to Regional Planning include a statement surrounding the objections of the community and the extent of such objections. The amended Motion to send a letter to Regional Planning recommending the approval of the project is seconded by Councilmember Patricia Sutherlen; 9 in favor, 5 opposed. Motion carries.



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### 6. ALTADENA COMMUNITY REPORTS

- 6.1 Altadena Public Library \_\_\_\_\_ the report was given in Item No. 4.1.
- 6.2 LA County Department of Parks & Rec. \_\_\_\_ Meliza Hernandez (Dist. Manager – LA County Dept. of Parks and Rec) reports that the Easter Egg Hunt is coming up. On March 26, 2016, at 12:30 p.m. at Charles White Park there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for ages 13 and under and the other will be occurring on March 26, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. at Loma Alta Park. There is an After School Program at Charles White Park that is going well. It occurs from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. every week and the cost is for \$5 per week per child. On Thursday March 17, 2016, at Loma Alta there will be a teenage dance for teenagers at the Junior high and High school levels. Also, there is a teen club – about 30 teenagers meet every Thursday and Friday night at Loma Alta Park from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Teens play games and are provided food. Lastly, Loma Alta Park and Charles White Park will have its Spring Camps. The Spring Camp at Charles White Park will be from March 14 to the 25th and at Loma Alta the Spring Camp will be from March 14 through April 1. For information log onto [lacountyparks.org](http://lacountyparks.org) or call 626-398-5451.
- 6.3 Altadena Chamber of Commerce \_\_\_\_\_ Billy Malone reports that the Chamber Board has a new member and her name is Kelly Bennett. Dr. Sandra Thomas is also now on the Board of the Chamber as well. The Chamber is trying to encourage young members to get involved in the Chamber. The Chamber is also partnering up with the Altadena Public Library. The Chamber's Power Breakfast is also scheduled for April 2016, and at date, time and location will be announced.
- 6.4 Collaborate PASadena \_\_\_\_\_ Damon L. Hobdy reports that with much regret he will have to resign from Collaborate PASadena as a result of his job as a lawyer and his time commitment to his law office. On March 29, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. there will be an event entitled "Parents with a Voice" at McKinley School to hear the opinions of parents regarding their children. On March 23, 2016, there will be a Leadership Council Meeting. The qualifications to be on Collaborate PASadena are that the individual will have to devote 6-8 hours a month. The person should have a working knowledge of education and concepts of education. The person will also be required to attend approximately 2-3 meetings a month. Chair Marcussen reported that Councilmember Sanyika indicated her willingness to serve on Collaborate PASadena. Councilmember Sanyika was then appointed as the new representative from the ATC after providing the Council with her background in the area of education.
- 6.5 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly-Local Govern. Advisory Comm. Judy Matthews reports that the Joint Advisory Committee was held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, and the keynote speaker was Lisa Bates who is the Deputy Director of Housing Policy of the Cal. Dept. of Housing and Community Development ("HCD"). Ms. Bates was able to provide insight into the program and services of HCD which included Veterans Housing and Homelessness. One of the goals from this program is to award funding for the development and preservation of affordable housing and related facilities for veterans and their families to maintain housing stability. The meeting was very well attended from various representatives from other subcommittees from the Advisory Council throughout the 41<sup>st</sup> District. The Veteran of the year is upcoming award – the nomination deadline is March 24, 2016, and further information is available on Assemblymember Holden's website.
- 6.6 Altadena Heritage \_\_\_\_\_ Michelle Zack reports about the park on the



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corner of Altadena Drive and Lake Avenue which will be called Altadena Triangle. The park has been around for a very long time. The Altadena Heritage is interested in developing opening spaces. Altadena Heritage is partnering with the County to improve the park. To add certain landscaping to make the park more useable. Prop 8 funding was applied for, approved and received which is approximately \$650,000. Altadena Heritage is going to be giving approximately the same amount of money through their work efforts. Plans have been submitted to the County. The beginning of construction is planned for August 2016. Everyone in the community apprised of the park improvements have been in favor of the project. Lastly, on March 17, 2016, at the Community Center there will a program concerning Historic Preservation.

### 7. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

7.1 4603.01 Damon Hobdy/Judy Matthews. \_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Matthews reports concerning the annual Meet and Greet of 4603.01. Last year (2015) surveys were used to gather information about what the community had concerns about. Overwhelming responses were received on two areas of interest that residents wanted to get involved in. One of those areas of interest is a beautification committee of volunteer residents, businesses, and faith-houses within the Census Tract. The committee is in formation. Within the Census Tract there are neighborhood associations. Each association has 1 or 2 representatives. 3 from La Vina, 2 from the Meadows, 4 from Florecita, and 3 representatives from other areas in Northwest Altadena. These individuals will be forming their committee and determining what areas of beautification they would like to address. Also, Councilmember Matthews reports concerning the blind-spot areas in the Meadows on Holly slope. There have been concerns of the community regarding such blind spots and Public Works has informed Councilmember Matthews that the blind spot issue is a problem throughout Altadena. Public Works is working on resolving that issue throughout all of Altadena.

Councilmember Hobdy reports concerning comments from residents on Altadena Drive between the areas of Lincoln and Olive concerning abandoned cars or cars parked on the street that appear abandoned. Councilmember Hobdy contacted Public works who is looking into the matter of overnight parking in Altadena in the area of Lincoln to Olive on Altadena Drive.

7.2 4610 Councilmember Brent Musson/Michelle Martinez. Councilmember Musson reports and reminds everyone about the closure on Glenrose and Figueroa as a result of maintenance on the water main.

7.3 4603.02 Gloria Sanyika/Dean Cooper. Councilmember Sanyika reports about the fact that she is receiving concerns about abandoned shopping carts and the blight that is being caused. The problem is being caused in the area of Woodbury up to Lincoln and Altadena Drive. Councilmember Sanyika contacted Abandoned Carts and Public Works and the carts were removed. However, some of the carts have individuals belongings in them and those carts were not removed. Councilmember Sanyika indicates that a beautification committee should be considered. Chair Diane Marcussen then invited Councilmember Sanyika to the Executive Committee meeting to discuss this issue. Also, Chair Marcussen indicates that she spoke to an individual from Senior Regional Planning Code Enforcement who indicated that they would send someone out to the grocery store concerning the carts which is causing the concern.

### 8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Dorothy Wong comments on traffic safety, traffic speeds, the danger to bicyclists and commercial parking.



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Julie O'leary comments on speeding cars on Wapello and the hazard to bicyclists.

**9. ADJOURNMENT: 9:56 p.m.**

Councilmember Sutherlen moves/Councilmember Ezieme seconded-unanimous.