



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2017

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

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:03 PM

- 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance _____ Councilmember Nestor De la Torre.
- 1.2. Roll Call _____ Recording Secretary, Judy Matthews.

- (14) Present: Anne Chomyn, Nestor De La Torre, Okorie Ezieme, Anne Lansing, Jennifer Lee, Billy Malone, Diane Marcussen, Judy Matthews, Brent Musson, Justin Robertson, Gloria Sanyika, Patricia Sutherlen, Sylvia Vega, and John E. White
- (2) Excused: Dean Cooper and Damon Hobdy
- (0) Absent/Unexcused

- 1.3. Approve March 21, 2017 Meeting Agenda _____ Okorie Ezieme acknowledges Councilmember Diane Marcussen's request that "Public Comment" be removed from under Item 5.1.2. Altadena Market Place Update. Public comments may be made under General Public Comments since this matter is not an action item. Brent Musson moves, and Patricia Sutherlen seconded. A discussion is held. Brent Musson withdraws motion. Chair calls for motion to approve March 21, 2017 Meeting Agenda as presented.

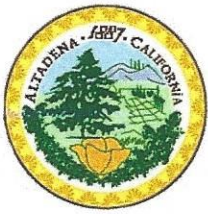
Aye: Unanimous
Motion carries.

2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- 2.1. Chairman _____ Okorie Ezieme provides a report. ALDI opens April 6, 2017. The Bunny Museum in Altadena held its grand opening on March 20, 2017.

Altadena Triangle work has commenced. Michele Zack, Altadena Heritage (AH), provides a report. Proposition A grant from the LA County Regional Park and Open Space District is covering most costs. AH donated \$5,000 to kick off the fundraising campaign. Steve of Steve's Pets has offered to hand make a bicycle rack. Public outreach is requested for donations on the project which is tax-exempt. For more information regarding the Altadena Triangle Park and to make a donation, contact Michele Zack at (626) 798-9687 or Amigos de los Rios at (626) 791-1611. Diane Marcussen recommends the Executive Committee review sponsorship opportunities and determine how ATC may donate.

- 2.2. Vice Chairman _____ Okorie Ezieme provides a report on behalf of Councilmember Damon Hobdy. Council meeting agendas are prepared and approved by Executive Committee. If there are public comments, public comment cards should be completed to allow 2 minutes to comment.



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- 2.3. Recording Secretary _____ Judy Matthews
- 2.3.1. Approve February 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes as amended with correction previously noted by Councilmember Judy Matthews for the word "Sell to Sale" under 5.1.2. as proposed by Councilmember John E. White.
- Motion: Judy Matthews
Second: Brent Musson
Aye: Unanimous
Motion carries with the exception of one abstention.
- 2.4. Treasurer _____ Patricia Sutherlen provides a report. No change in balance of \$2,195.84 as of February 2017. The public is reminded that donations are welcomed.
- 2.5. Corresponding Secretary _____ Billy Malone provides a report. The public is invited on Saturday, April 15, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM to Loma Alta Park for a Compost Giveaway from Athens. This giveaway is certified as Organic under USDA National Organic Program. Please bring sturdy 32 gallon or less containers. Giveaway is limited to 30 gallons per person for the first hour.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

- 3.1. California Highway Patrol _____ Officer Mike Ulloa provides a report. On March 25, 2017, the National Multiple Sclerosis Bicycle Ride at the Rose Bowl will be held at 8:00 AM. There will be approximately 700 bicyclists riding through Altadena, but all riders will not be released at once. Residents should expect intermittent traffic delays at the intersections of Woodbury and Arroyo traveling east to El Molino and ending at Coolidge and New York Drive. Participants will abide by the rules of the road. Officer Ulloa provides the February report for his primary areas of patrol. It is further reported that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Altadena Station was not notified of the Black History Parade road closures on Saturday, March 18, 2017. CHP was able to accommodate the event and asks council to direct any resident complaints to CHP Altadena Station.
- 3.2. Altadena Sheriff Station _____ Lt. Carmichael Octave provides an overall report on decrease in crime. During the past 5 years, there has been a 36% decrease in burglary, and over a 1-year period, there has been a 13% decrease. It is further reported that there is an ongoing investigation into the alleged bomb treat at Jackson Elementary.



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- 3.3. CERT _____ Karen Gibson provides a report and identifies the three disaster preparedness groups: ALERT (Altadena Local Emergency Radio Team), CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), and MYN (Map Your Neighborhood). The group consists of volunteer efforts to keep residents safe during a disaster in the event the professional first responders are overwhelmed. Facilitator Training is scheduled for May 21, 2017, July 16, 2017 and September 17, 2017 at 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM at Altadena Town & Country Club. The last training for this year will be in November at the Metropolitan Baptist Church, 2283 Fair Oaks Avenue in Altadena. (To make reservations for one of the training dates, send email to mynrsvp@gmail.com.)
- 3.4. County Fire _____ Robert "Bob" Haskell, Battalion Chief, provides a report. Testing of fire holes and training are conducted this time of year at the stations. As of April 1, 2017, Mark Whaling is the new Battalion 4 Chief on the A Shift. Community Service Representative Maria Grycan is the replacement for Stephanie English. Ms. Grycan works directly for Assistant Fire Chief Gregory Hisel.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- 4.1. Collaborate PASadena _____ Councilmember Gloria Sanyika introduces Lisa Cavelier, Executive Director of Collaborate PASadena. Lisa Cavelier presents an overview of Collaborative PASadena. Collaborative PASadena's current structure is based on the original initiative of Linda Machida, Grant Director, Pasadena Educational Foundation. The funding is from the district and the City of Pasadena. Based on Collective Impact Research, Collaborate PASadena convenes five work groups (Healthy Families, Student Success, Early Earning, Parent and Engagement, and Supportive Communities) and a leadership council that supports collaboration, communication and shared accountability. The leadership council is made up of city and district officials, youth representatives, non-profit organizations' representatives, the faith-based community, parents, and institutions of higher education and more. The council is working to guide the initiative and entire effort and hear from work groups in order to set the agenda, goals and strategies. Lisa Cavelier recognizes that Collaborative PASadena has brought reading help to Jackson Elementary School with support of Councilmember Gloria Sanyika and local business owner Meredith Miller. Lisa Cavelier reaches out to the community and council for input and encourages Altadenans to participate by joining workgroups and expanding support of the community's work into Altadena, i.e. neighborhood associations and watch groups. For more information and to volunteer, visit www.collaboratepasadena.org or call (626) 714-7670.
- 4.2. Measure A: Safe ("Park Funding 101") Update _____ Councilmember Anne Chomyn provides an overview of Measure A Update. Supervisor Kathryn Barger hosted a meeting with representatives from District 5 on February 22, 2017. Representatives in attendance from Altadena were Councilmembers Diane Marcussen and Anne Chomyn and Michelle Zack of AH. The purpose of the meeting was to explain funding of Measure A. A Parks' Need Assessment was conducted in 2015 and 2016 by dividing



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unincorporated and city areas of Los Angeles County into 188 study groups in which parks in each group were analyzed. The Altadena parks identified were Farnsworth Park, Charles White Park and Loma Alta Park. The parks' metric results of the unincorporated Altadena study area showed 0.9 park acres per 1,000 residents. Los Angeles County averages 3.3 park acres per 1,000. Accessibility within walking distance in Altadena is 32% of population living within 1/2 mile of a park, and Los Angeles County average is 49%. Councilmember Chomyn further reports on the amenity quantities and conditions of the Altadena parks and countywide assessment of need and Measure A Funding. Altadena was reported with a low park need rating. The Department of Parks and Recreation helps organize the community engagement events to obtain feedback from the residents as to what improvements they want in their parks.

There were over 60 Altadena residents who attended the community event held on January 21, 2016 at the Community Center hosted by AH. Councilmember Anne Chomyn served on the committee and was the liaison for Altadena Town Council (ATC). The attendees were given the opportunity to identify projects they would like to see; and from the suggestions, votes were taken, projects were selected, and a list of projects were prioritized. The top two items out of ten items selected were "Close Trail Gap" and the second highest suggestion was a "Teen Center." The list of projects was presented to the county who then provided a projected cost estimate. Under Build New Neighborhood Park, certain other costs were incorporated into this area. The grand total for the top ten prioritized projects is \$37,698,222. Measure A provides locally-controlled funding allocated directly to study areas to meet local needs for projects and their maintenance. A discussion is held. The first funds availability is July 2018. Councilmember Diane Marcussen recommends that an ATC representative is designated to keep in contact with the Supervisor's Office.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1. Land Use Committee _____ Diane Marcussen provides report.

5.1.1. Altadena Community Standards District (CSD) Update. Councilmember Diane Marcussen provides an overview of Altadena codes for fences and hedges. Kathryn Barger, Supervisor 5th District, asks that the ATC seek feedback from the community on the Fences and Hedges portion of the revised CSD. The county code for fences and hedges is 42" tall (3.5'). The recommendation for the CSD to Regional Planning has been approved to keep the code as is today due to the safety issue. The public is encouraged to attend the Land Use Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, for further discussion and feedback. The public is asked to submit any concerns prior to the meeting. A discussion is held. Councilmember Sylia Vega asks that information be placed on the ATC website for the community. Diane Marcussen encourages the community to be mindful of misinformation and that correct information will be placed



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on the website. She further states that information is needed from the County that approves and explains the CSD Update that pertains to fences and hedges.

5.1.1.1. Public Comments

Tom Reilly expresses concern with whether the issue with fences and hedges is complaint driven, and he would like more feedback on the nature of the Tweet.

- 5.1.2. Altadena Market Place Update. Diane provides a report. Council Members Anne Chomyn and John E. White are working through challenges before the matter is brought before LUC for a vote. It is further requested that the public submits any questions they may have to councilmember representatives for this project, (anne.chomyn@altadenatowncouncil.org or john.white@altadenatowncouncil.org).

5.1.2.1. Public Comments – No public comments.

- 5.2. Altadena Filming Committee _____ Councilmember, Anne Chomyn reads report into record as follows:

The Committee hosted a Town Hall on Filming in Altadena on February 28, here at the Community Center. It was well-attended, with more than 100 people in attendance, perhaps as many as 150, and it was Standing Room Only for latecomers.

The panel included Josh Mingo and Arturo Pina of FilmLA, Sgt. Wayne Waterman and Sgt. Brian Mann of the Altadena Sheriff's Station, Officer Kristi Cardoza of the California Highway Patrol, who is also the CHP liaison to the California Film Commission, Greg Graham from the Department of Public Works, Location Manager Peter Orth, and Location Host Trevor Bryant. Several people on the panel gave introductory talks, and then the floor was opened to questions. A big topic was accountability. That is, who is really responsible for seeing that permit conditions are adhered to. There seem to be no consequences for permit violations. Also who holds FilmLA accountable? Many residents felt that their complaints and concerns were not adequately dealt with by FilmLA. Josh Mingo replied that FilmLA does take complaints seriously and Arturo Piña, FilmLA's Community Outreach person, avowed that he is always ready to talk to people.

Parking was also an issue: specifically cast and crew parking on area streets, unsafe parking of filming equipment vehicles on narrow streets, parking near or



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in front of driveways, making it difficult to exit. Another topic was disturbance to residents due to bright lights, rude crew members, damage to property, and night shoots. There were several comments on overuse of a location. The discussion of overuse led to the question of transparency – that it was difficult to get data from FilmLA on how often a location had actually been used. Several residents said that law officers on film shoots were not helpful. Officer Cardoza and Sgt. Waterman responded that some law officers may need more training and if there is a problem or complaint, the resident should call them.

There was some heated discussion early on in the meeting, and, as expected, most of the comments were complaints of one sort or another. However, there were people speaking up in support of Filming in Altadena, and several people proposed solutions for some of the frequently mentioned issues.

To ensure attendance, the Committee had 350 flyers printed and we distributed them to areas that had frequent filming. Also, the Committee provided light refreshments. Our expenditures amount to \$76.68 - \$59.95 for printing, and \$16.73 for the refreshments. I would like to ask Council to approve reimbursement of these expenses to the Committee members.

Councilmember Patricia Sutherlen, spoke about how the Town Hall gave so many attendees the opportunity to speak and really feel that they were being heard. A discussion is held.

Motion: Anne Chomyn
Second: Patricia Sutherlen
Aye: Unanimous

Councilmember Diane Marcussen requests that in the future, expenses be presented to the Executive Committee in advance.

- 5.3. Election Committee _____ Councilmember Patricia Sutherlen provides a report. The Election Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 22, 2017. Committee members are Patricia Sutherlen (Chair), Jennifer Lee, Nestor De La Torre and community volunteer Alison Amegatcher. Election day is Saturday, June 10, 2017, and early voting Tuesday, June 6, 2017. The election packages will be made available online or may be picked up at the Community Center on April 21. Applications must be submitted by May 12, 2017. Volunteers are needed at the voting locations on Election Day. (For more information, contact Patricia Sutherlen at patricia.sutherlen@altadenatowncouncil.org.)



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Chair Okorie Ezieme reports that the Bylaws Committee has been appointed and members are Patricia Sutherland (Chair), Anne Chomyn, John E. White, Justin Robertson and Diane Marcussen.

6. COMMUNITY REPORTS

- 6.1. Altadena Public Library _____ Chair Okorie Ezieme provides a report on behalf of Mindy Kittay, Director. The library renovation is on schedule and will reopen on May 1, 2017. During the main library closure, the Branch Library will be open seven days a week. Additional information is available on the website, (www.altadenalibrary.org). The public is reminded that 2nd Saturday will be in April in the main library parking lot. Patrons may drop off books at the entrance of the main library Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
- 6.2. LA County Department of Parks and Recreation _____ Meliza Hernandez provides a report on the Altadena Parks' Programs. For more information, to sign up for spring programs, or to learn more about Easter Egg Hunts which will be held April 14th and 15th, visit www.parks.lacounty.gov or contact the parks: Farnsworth Park, (626) 798-6335; Charles White Park, (626) 794-3807; Loma Alta Park, (626) 398-5451.
- 6.3. Chamber of Commerce _____ Billy Malone provides a report on the success of the February Installation Dinner and acknowledges the Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year recipients. Billy announces his reelection as Chair of Altadena Chamber of Commerce. It is further reported that all proceeds from the auction went to the Marion Walshlages Scholarship Fund. Scholarships were awarded to 2 students of the Quality of Life Center and 2 students from College Access Plan. The recipients are local students of Altadena. The Meet and Greet with Kathryn Barger, Supervisor 5th District, was successful, and new members signed up at the event. The public is reminded that the next Power Breakfast theme is "Women in Business." The date is to be determined.
- 6.4. 41st Assembly-Local Government Advisory Committee _____ Judy Matthews provides a report. Assemblymember Holden is seeking nominations to honor the 41st Assembly District "2017 Small Business of the Year." The nomination form is due March 23, 2017. For more information, contact Matthew Lyons at Matthew.Lyons@asm.ca.gov or (626) 351-1917.

7. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

- 7.1. 4603.01 Councilmember Judy Matthews provides a report. The public is reminded that the Second Annual Community Service Day - Altadena is Saturday, April 29, 2017, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Councilmember Brent Musson states that he is participating and has scouted three prospective homes within his census tract.



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7.2. 4603.02 Councilmember Gloria Sanyika reports that students, grades 1 through 12, participating in the 2017 National Braille Institute Challenge Finals will compete in a series of skill contests demonstrating Braille literacy. To volunteer, contact Christina Chavez at crchavez@brailleinstitute.org. The Finals are June 17, 2017 at USC. Club Aspire will work with students at Elliott Middle School. Students at Elliott are having a fundraiser on May 18, 2017 and May 19, 2017, at 6:30 PM to cover costs for the Club Aspire Afterschool Reading Program that provides tutoring, math, science and other activities.

8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 9:18 PM

Motion: Diane Marcussen

Second: Sylvia Vega

Aye: Unanimous

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

By: _____

Judy A. Matthews

Councilmember 4603.01

Recording Secretary