



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:06 PM

- 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance _____ Melissa Connors, Altadena Foothill 4-H Club. The 4-H Club is in its first year as a community club in Los Angeles County, and projects are hosted by adults and led by Melissa Connors. Monthly meetings are held at the Altadena Library.
- 1.2. Roll Call _____ Recording Secretary, Judy Matthews
 - (14) Present: Anne Chomyn, Nestor De La Torre, Okorie Ezieme, Damon Hobdy, Jennifer Lee, Billy Malone, Diane Marcussen, Judy Matthews, Brent Musson, Justin Robertson, Gloria Sanyika, Patricia Sutherlen, Sylvia Vega, and John E. White
 - (1) Excused: Anne Lansing and Dean Cooper
 - (0) Absent/Unexcused
- 1.3. Approve April 18, 2017 Meeting Agenda ____ Councilmember, Damon Hobdy acknowledges requests by Councilmember Gloria Sanyika to add Census Tract Report for 4603.02 and Councilmember Nestor De La Torre to add Census Tract Report 4610 to the Agenda. Chair Okorie Ezieme adds under Census Tract Reports 7.2 CT 4603.02 and 7.3 CT 4610. Chair Ezieme also announces that under 3.4 Map Your Neighborhood (MYN), Eric Vander Velde will report on behalf of Karen Gibson. Damon Hobdy motions to approve April 18, 2017 Amended Meeting Agenda as submitted.

Motion: Damon Hobdy
Second: Gloria Sanyika
Aye: Unanimous
The motion carries.

2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- 2.1. Chairman _____ Okorie Ezieme provides a report. Altadena Triangle Park will have a permanent marquee plaque. Although he has not spoken with all councilmembers, a majority has expressed "yes" to supporting the project in the amount of \$500.00. An additional fundraising option was addressed in the email and is on a voluntary basis. Chair apologizes for not being timely with notification due to computer issues.

On behalf of Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the proposed parking lot project on El Molino has been approved.

ALDI's official open was April 6th, and there will be another hiring event on April 20th at the Community Center.



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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Charles W. Eliot Arts Magnet Academy invites the community to join them on Thursday, April 20, 2017, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM for a Metamorphosis evening of dance, music and visual arts followed by an open house.

Chair acknowledges Councilmember Judy Matthews for being selected as Congresswoman Judy Chu's 2017 Congressional Woman of the Year for the City of Altadena and presents a plaque on behalf of Altadena Town Council (ATC). Councilmember Matthews extends her appreciation to councilmembers.

- 2.2. Vice Chairman _____ Damon Hobdy informs the community that in order to make a public comment prior to the end of the meeting, they may complete and submit a comment card to a councilmember. The Executive Committee (EC) meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Damon Hobdy, Judy Matthews, Billy Malone, Patricia Sutherlen and Okorie Ezieme are on the Executive Committee. The EC meets for the purpose of discussing issues and setting forth the agenda. The agenda is the order of business in which council will proceed. To be placed on the agenda, community members may contact one of the EC members by 5:00 PM on the 2nd Monday of the month.

Councilmember Hobdy states that councilmembers should provide contact update information, (i.e emails and phone numbers) to Councilmember Billy Malone so that the community has accurate contact information.

- 2.3. Recording Secretary _____ Judy Matthews

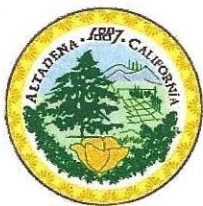
2.3.1. Approve March 21, 2017 Meeting Minutes as amended with corrections from Anne Chomyn, John White and Gloria Sanyika. In Item 4.2, Anne Chomyn corrects spelling of "Altadeans" to "Altadenans" and corrects date to read, "2015 and 2016," in lieu of given date 2014. Item 5.1.1 to include the comments which were part of the discussion led by Councilmembers Sylvia Vega and Diane Marcussen. The comments are included in the minutes to read, "*Councilmember Sylvia 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 on the website. She further states that information is needed from the County that approves and explains the CSD Update information that pertains to fences and hedges.*" Councilmember John White suggests correcting Item 4.2 from Supervisor Kathryn "Barker" to "Barger" which was previously noted and corrected. Councilmember Gloria Sanyika has made a correction in Item 7.2 to read, "May 18, 2017 and May 19, 2017, at 6:30 PM," in lieu of given date and time of April 20, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

Motion: Judy Matthews

Second: Sylvia Vega

Aye: Unanimous

Motion carries with the exception of one abstention.



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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- 2.4. Treasurer _____ Patricia Sutherlen provides a treasury report. The balance is \$2,247.84, including a \$52.00 increase due to donation at the January meeting. The public is reminded that donations are welcomed.
- 2.5. Corresponding Secretary _____ Billy Malone provides a report. Councilmember Malone asks councilmembers to provide any upcoming events in PDF format and contact information updates to him for website postings. Councilmember Malone reads "Thank You" letter from Paul Priorkowski, President of ALDI Moreno Valley Division. Councilmember Malone further reports that there is no endorsement or promotion from Town Council.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

- 3.1. California Highway Patrol _____ Officer Mike Ulloa provides a report and encourages everyone to stay off cell phones while driving. During the month, there were 93 enforcement stops (77 traffic citations and 14 verbal warnings issued) within his primary areas of patrol. Officer Ulloa introduces new Commander Captain Jesse Holguin, California Highway Patrol (CHP) Altadena Station. Captain Holguin welcomes comments from council and the community.
- 3.2. Altadena Sheriff Station _____ Lt. Carmichael Octave provides an overview report on Part One Crimes, which is a combination of violent versus property crimes. It is reported that over a 5-year period, violent crimes are down by 67% and since last year 44%. Property crimes are up countywide by 23% and down by 16% over a 5-year period. Altadena showed a slight increase since February. Lt. Octave encourages the public to report what they see to ensure there is a collaborative effort in fighting crimes. It is further reported that the month of April is Distracted Drivers' Month and asks everyone to wait before texting or making a call.

A discussion is held regarding the increase in Part One Crimes in Census Tracts 4610 vehicle burglaries and 4601 residential burglaries. No trends or patterns reported. Lt. Octave further states that the Gun Buy Back Program is being addressed.

- 3.3. CERT _____ No report
- 3.4. Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) _____ Eric Vander Velde provides a report on behalf of Karen Gibson, shares the importance of MYN teaching first 9 steps to take immediately following a disaster. To date, 231 facilitators have attended and completed training, and there are an additional 104 residents for the upcoming training sessions. Training is scheduled for Sunday afternoons on May 21, 2017, July 16, 2017 and September 17, 2017, 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM at Altadena Town & Country Club. The last training for this year will be November 12, 2017 at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 2283 Fair Oaks Avenue in Altadena. There is interest in seeking other churches and neighborhood associations for training.



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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A summary of training completion to date and an overview of locations of disaster preparedness are reported. The goal is to reach 10% of the 15,520 households in Altadena by the end of 2018. As of today, 4.2% has been met. Eric Vander Velde stresses the importance of coming together as a community to promote being prepared. (To make reservations for one of the training dates, send email to mynrsvp@gmail.com.)

- 3.5. County Fire _____ Robert "Bob" Haskell, Battalion Chief, provides a report on March activity and announces that as of April 1, 2017, Mark Whaling is the new Battalion 4 Chief on the A Shift. It is further reported that on April 16, 2017, Easter Sunday, a fire was reported on Casitas Avenue and Harriet Avenue. The fire that destroyed the house was started by a candle. The elder resident and a family member were able to exit the house and were not hurt. LA County Fire Department provided "Save Cards" to assist the residents and the Red Cross provided monetary and clothing assistance.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- 4.1. Introduction/Community Business Walk _____ Dominick Correy, District Representative for Senator Portantino presents. Dominick Correy is responsible for the communities of Altadena and Pasadena. After introducing himself, he presents the community engagement for the Office of Senator Portantino. There will be a Senior Scam Stopper (date to be determined) and a Business Walk the second week of June. Representative Correy will contact Billy Malone for a business area to walk. Councilmember Diane Marcussen asks Representative Correy to provide contact information for council and website posting. Diane also requests that not just commercial businesses are considered for the walk.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 5.1. Land Use Committee _____ Diane Marcussen provides public, the following contact information for Highway Lines and Road Right of Way questions: Department of Public Works (DPW), Land Division, Road Section, (626) 458-4921; or DPW Land Division, Public Counter, 900 Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA, Road 91803, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 AM–5:00 PM Councilmember Marcussen highlights for discussion Fences and Hedges "Driveway Zone" diagrams (with and without sidewalk) and corner lot diagram. Diagrams are made available to the public. David McDonald, Senior Regional Planner with the Community Studies North Section, Department Regional Planning, is introduced to address public comments.
- 5.1.1. Altadena Community Standards District (CSD) _____ Diane Marcussen gives an overview of the results of community feedback up to the October 2016 LUC meeting and the



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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Board of Supervisor's alternative language for the Fences and Hedges Standards in the Altadena CSD before ATC and LUC for consideration only. The feedback from tonight's meeting will be incorporated into the results.

Chair Okorie Ezeime asks councilmembers to present their comments first followed by the public with two minutes each to comment. Councilmember Damon Hobdy sets forth protocol for Public Comments. Councilmember Anne Chomyn asks for confirmation that residents can not have a see through 6 foot fence within the "Driveway Zone." Councilmember Marcussen states that it is correct to say that you can not have any height over 42" within the "Driveway Zone" as shown on the diagrams.

5.1.1.1. Public Comments

Ms. Jenne Vanacore, 17-year resident at 2644 N. Altadena Drive, expresses all exiting yard structures should be grandfathered. Two houses on one lot and hedges protect house closest to street.

Steven Tepe, resident at 844 Alberta, opposes Fence and Hedge setback proposal and expresses objection to cost associated with process.

Sandra Faulkner, resident at 51 La Venezia Court, shares opposition to Fences and Hedges proposal to change CSD. She prefers grandfathering, but if approved, help be provided to residents who can not meet the requirements or money to rebuild.

John Scrivener, resident at 2666 Lincoln Avenue, wants to see more creative options proposed to address the issues of safety and heritage in the community. Consideration to mitigate safety issues with use of mirrors on corners of lots as shown in other countries.

Michele Zack, resident at 2485 Marengo Avenue, voices in favor of project. Altadena Heritage has awarded Golden Poppy to houses with landscaping in front of the wall. She supports a compromise that gives 20 or 30 inches, and does not encourage residents to place more fencing right up to the sidewalk.

Fran Ciulla, 28 year resident at 1889 East Altadena Drive, expresses opposition to hedges proposal to change CSD stating that hedges bring sanity and help with noise on the street.

Steven Lamb expresses opposition to the CSD ordinance of Fences and Hedges. He wants the existing grandfathered.

H. Shakur, 41 year resident, is in opposition. Ordinance is complaint driven.



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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

John Haeckl, resident at 1945 Homewood Drive since 1967, expresses opposition to new CSD ordinance on hedges. It provides a privacy hardship and possibly affects property value.

Edgar & Lillian Hartwick, 30-year residents at 1661 E. Mendocino Street, express opposition to CSD ordinance on Fences and Hedges setbacks. Provides privacy hardship.

Deborah West-James, resident at 195 Ventura Street, opposes the proposed CSD regulations. Existing front yard structures are "grandfathered" in or accepted. County uncooperative.

Rivers Jacques, 24-year resident at 419 W. Altadena Drive opposes the proposed CSD ordinance for Fences and Hedges. Rivers supports all comments and asks that council inform the County that residents do not want the change.

Linda World, resident at 2767 Glenrose Avenue, is in favor of CSD proposal for Fences and Hedges. Generally, agrees to restrictions imposed with respect to safety and believes in government and supports processes.

Phillip Broussard, 59 La Venezia Court, opposes fences and hedges proposed CSD regulation.

Jesse and Paula Hoke, 31-year residents, oppose Altadena CSD height limitation proposals. Value to the serenity, privacy and seclusion.

Ian Mcfeat, resident at 2885 Windfall, has no hedges, and opposes CSD proposal citing community needs dialogue.

Charleen B. Brown, resident at 461 Crosby Street, opposes and needs explanation as to how LA County and Town Council can dictate whether fences can be kept. Questions, "Are we part of a HOA or a dictatorship?"

Ada Alvarado, resident at 45 La Venezia Court, opposes Fence and Hedge proposal. Grandfathering current fence and hedges. *(Resident chose not to speak. Comment taken from Public Comment Card.)*

Gary Bryant, resident at 304 Wapello Street, has a home built prior to 1927. Pool (20x50) in front yard, hedge in front of fence provides privacy. Oppose CSD proposal. Gary needs clarification on trees.

Terri Jones, 40-year resident at 2397 N. Altadena Drive, opposes Fence and Hedge CSD proposed ordinance. Terri needs clarification on trees in the highway zone. It is suggested that in places where speed limit is 35 miles or higher (where deemed a thoroughfare), fences and hedges are necessary.



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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Andrea Morseburg, resident at 1795 East Altadena Drive, expresses concern of abandoned house next door to her residence, and asks council to address abandoned properties in neighborhoods in lieu of Fences and Hedges. *(No Public Comment Card provided).*

Donald Alonzo and Kevin Van Vveed, resident at 567 Sacramento St., oppose the County's plan to enforce ordinance re height of Fences and Hedges. Hedges enhance the property and the neighborhood. *(Resident did not speak. Information taken from Public Comment Card)*

Discussion held. Councilmember Marcussen informs the public that the option is not to make the change to the CSD and addresses the process. The public is encouraged to submit letters to planning.lacounty.gov/Altadena or send email to ATC who will forward with the Letter of Recommendation. Further discussion held and Chair Ezieme ask that any additional questions be sent to ATC.

Councilmember Brent Musson provides an overview of the importance of public participation at the onset of decision making. Councilmember Sylvia Vega requests that Mr. David Mc Donald, Regional Planning Representative, provides input if the vote for the proposal is not approved. She questions, "What is the comparison?" He states that Regional Planning supports recommendation for approval by the Regional Planning Commission. What was put forth post hearing after October 26, 2016, was a proposal by the Board to further loosen requirements to accommodate more existing Fences and Hedges. The comments received from the ATC meeting, will be taken under consideration at the May 23, 2017 hearing. Residents' emails are part of the record. Further discussion held regarding the options and how Regional Planning (RP) may make its determination.

Councilmember Vega further questions Mr. McDonald if Fences and Hedges are taken out of the CSD revision or stands as is, what is the understanding? Mr. McDonald responds that if it is today, the requirement is 42 inches height of fences and walls in front yard setback. Mr. McDonald further indicates examples of looser CSDs (Antelope Valley, etc.) will be provided to council. Further discussion continues.

Chair Ezieme thanks the community for their attendance and addresses how to move forward with the restrictions that have been in noncompliance and complaint driven.

Based on the public comment feedback received in the meeting tonight, Councilmember Marcussen moves to recommend that ATC goes back to the Supervisor's office and ask them to re-evaluate the Fences and Hedges alternative language one more time and present their final offer.



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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Councilmember Musson asks that a request for the most loose language is included in the letter. Councilmember Hobdy asks to include the number of public comments in opposition.

Motion: Diane Marcussen
Second: Billy Malone
Aye: Unanimous
Nay: None
Abstention: None
The motion carries.

- 5.2. Altadena Filming Committee _____ Councilmember Anne Chomyn provides a report that detailed information on Town Hall Filming will be ready shortly for posting on ATC's website. The Film Committee followed up on issues and questions presented at the February 28, 2017 meeting and in communication with residents. Arturo Pina of FilmLA was contacted regarding a resident question about advance notification of film shoots by email. Arturo Pina responded that for neighborhoods that have filming activity, FilmLA will gauge the amount of filming activity, and if it is concluded that there is sufficient activity and neighborhood interest in email notification, they will create neighborhood boundaries that will define an area that could receive email notification for activities in their area. The email notification will have the same information as the door "hangers" distributed before a film shoot.

- 5.3. Election Committee _____ Councilmember Patricia Sutherlen provides information for annual election in June. Application packages will be available at the Community Center beginning on Friday, April 21, 2017, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday and may be obtained on line at the Altadena Town Council website, www.altadenatowncouncil.org. Applications must be submitted by Friday, May 12, 2017, at the Altadena Community Center.

Councilmember Marcussen provides a brief overview of the responsibilities of the Land Use Committee (LUC) and encourages the public to participate on the LUC to learn more about the County and LUC matters, i.e. fences and hedges and CSD. If residents have interest in being seated on the LUC and of possible opportunities, they are encouraged to contact Councilmember Marcussen at diane.marcussen@altadenatowncouncil.org.

6. COMMUNITY REPORTS

- 6.1. Altadena Public Library _____ Mindy Kittay, Director, provides a report. The Passports are to encourage the community to visit local businesses and use library services. If 10 Passports are completed and brought to the library on June 10, 2017, there is an opportunity to win a Kindle and gift certificates. The library's reopening is scheduled for May 1, 2017, and hours of operation will return to 5 days a week, Monday through Friday.



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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

Brian Biery, Altadena Library Community Conversations, reports on the Community Conversations Project and purpose. Councilmember Marcussen encourages representative to work closely with the County. Brian Biery states that there are no promises, but there are specific recommendations for action to present to council.

A discussion is held. Mindy Kittay informs council that there is a local initiative being addressed by the library that is one method of communication, Community Calendar, for public posting by anyone of Altadena events only. This local initiative does not involve the County processes.

- 6.2. LA County Department of Parks and Recreation _____ Jason Hauser, Supervisor Farnsworth Park, provides a report on the Altadena Parks' Programs. Loma Alta Park Adult Basketball League starts on Thursday nights and Basketball Training Clinics on Monday and Sunday afternoons. Early Bird Special for Summer Camp Registration begins April 17, 2017 at Loma Alta Park and Charles White Park. For more information and to register for Basketball and Summer Camp, visit www.parks.lacounty.gov or contact: Farnsworth Park, (626) 798-6335; Charles White Park, (626) 794-3807; and Loma Alta Park, (626) 398-5451.
- 6.3. Chamber of Commerce _____ Councilmember Billy Malone provides a report and encourages the public to attend "Community Conversation" on Monday, April 24, 2017, and states the importance of the need for one method of communication. Councilmember Malone states that 4 scholarships will be presented, 2 to students of the Quality of Life Center and 2 to students from College Access Plan. Students will be identified within the next few months. Councilmember Malone informs the public of the need for merchant public parking on Mariposa and that efforts are being made in the Business Community District. Movies in the Park will continue in the summer at Farnsworth Park. Councilmember Malone announces Rebecca Rasmussen, Director for Chamber of Commerce, and four new members.
- 6.4. Collaborate PASadena _____ Councilmember Gloria Sanyika provides a report and overview of meeting held March 22, 2017. Input has been received on various population groups being targeted, and the budget was reviewed.
- 6.5. 41st Assembly-Local Government Advisory Committee _____ Judy Matthews provides a report. Assemblymember Holden announces the bills that have passed their first committee hearings in April. The public is referred to review all bills at: <https://a41.asmdc.org/legislation>. It was further reported that Assemblymember Holden has not made a decision when the State of the District will be addressed.



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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7. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

7.1. 4603.01 Councilmember Damon Hobdy provides a report. A neighborhood meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2017, 7:00 AM at the corner of Glenrose and Pine. A representative from the Department of Public Works will be present to address the concern of cars speeding on Glenrose Avenue and the possibility for the installation of speed bumps. The public is encouraged to speak with their census tract representative to address speeding issues in their specific area.

7.2. 4603.02 Councilmember Gloria Sanyika reports that all schools in the Pasadena Unified School District are classified in three tiers: Excelling, Achieving and Focus. There are five schools in the bottom tier that need attention, of which 3 are Altadena schools. A volunteer recruitment drive was held for the reading programs at the two elementary schools, which are doing well. The focus is being directed to the Charles W. Eliot Arts Magnet Academy to adopt the Club Aspire Program. The cost of the program is \$25 per child per semester. The goal is that retesting will elevate the school to Achieving. To help, the principal and students have decided to have a fundraising play "High School Musical" on May 18th and 19th at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. The public is invited to attend and help the students establish an afterschool reading program at Charles W. Eliot Arts Magnet Academy. Businesses are being asked to sponsor students.

7.3 4610 Councilmember Nestor De La Torre reports that sidewalks are being addressed at the corner of Windsor and Mountain View and that the 1st Annual Space Race at the Hahamongna Watershed Park, 4550 Oak Grove Drive, La Canada Flintridge, benefiting "Day One" is June 10, 2017 at 8:00 AM. The event promotes health and wellness. The cost is \$40.00. Scholarships and/or sponsorships for local schools are being accepted, contact, jazmine@godayone.org. For more information visit www.azlanathletics.org or spaceracerun.com to register.

8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven Lamb expresses his concern with Altadena Town Council for the lack of public interface.

Michele Zack provides overview of project. She reports that \$15,000.00 has been raised from some of the businesses within the community and efforts are still being made to obtain more donations. Donations may be made at: www.amigosdelosrios.org/altadena-triangle-donations.

Chair Ezieme reports that ATC is donating the amount of \$500 in support of the Triangle Park.

Edgard Hartwick expresses concerns regarding the Marijuana Plan for Altadena and number of locations requested by operators. Councilmember Marcussen responds that Altadena Town Council does not take a position and the Supervisor's Office is not in support of marijuana dispensaries in unincorporated areas.



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

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A discussion is held. Each census tract must present concerns/position to Town Council or directly to the County.

9. ADJOURNMENT 10:16 PM

Motion: Diane Marcussen
Second: Sylvia Vega
Aye: Unanimous

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

By: _____

Judy A. Matthews

Councilmember 4603.01

Recording Secretary

5/16/17