



ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2017

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

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:12 PM

- 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance _____ Treasurer, Brent Musson
1.2. Roll Call _____ Recording Secretary, Judy Matthews

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

- 1.3. Approve June 20, 2017 Meeting Agenda _____ Vice Chairman, Damon Hobdy acknowledges requests by Chair Okorie Ezieme to add Item 4.4, Presentation from the Department of Public Works to be presented by Edel Vizcarra and Councilmember Sylvia Vega to add Census Tract Report 4613 to the agenda under Item 7.4. Damon Hobdy motions to accept June 20, 2017 meeting agenda as amended.

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

2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- 2.1. Chairman _____ Okorie Ezieme expresses appreciation to the community for their attendance and input, and he reminds the community that the Community Standard District (CSD) Revisions is on Board of Supervisors' Agenda for possible action on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 9:00 AM (Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Room 383 B, Los Angeles).
- 2.2. Vice Chairman _____ Damon Hobdy informs the community that the Executive Committee (EC), Damon Hobdy, Patricia Sutherlen, Billy Malone, Okorie Ezieme and Judy Matthews, meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The agenda is finalized at the EC meeting and is the order of business by 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 second Monday of the month.

In order to make a public comment prior to the end of this meeting, the public may complete and submit a comment card to a councilmember. Councilmember Hobdy requests attendees encourage other residents to attend the meetings.

- 2.3. Recording Secretary _____ Judy Matthews

- 2.3.1. Approve May 16, 2017 meeting minutes as amended with suggestions by Councilmember Anne Chomyn upon verification.



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Motion: Judy Matthews

Second: Damon Hobdy

Aye: Unanimous

Motion carries with the exception of two abstentions.

- 2.4. Treasurer _____ Patricia Sutherlen provides treasury report. The balance is \$2,330.06, including an increase due to donations received at the May meeting, candidates' fees, and Triangle Park donations. Approximately \$200 from the treasury went to the Triangle Park donation. The public is reminded that donations are welcomed and appreciated.
- 2.5. Corresponding Secretary _____ Billy Malone asks all councilmembers, including newly elected, to provide updates to their contact information for the website, including phone numbers, pictures and bios. He also requests that councilmembers verify their contact information on the website by July for any updates. Councilmember Malone encourages the community to attend the Altadena Sheriffs Department's 90th Anniversary Open House on Saturday, August 19, 2017, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

- 3.1. California Highway Patrol _____ Officer Mike Ulloa. No Report.
- 3.2. Altadena Sheriff Station _____ Lt. Yolanda Clay provides a report on crime status, sharing that in May 2017, violent crimes year to date are down 41% due to a 47% drop in robberies and a 23% drop in aggravated assault. Property crimes are up 24% due to thefts from vehicles at hiking trails and in residential areas. The community is reminded to remove all personal items from their vehicles and lock cars. In response to Chair Ezieme's inquiry regarding the concert series at the park, Lt. Clay highlights the community concerts in the park, Saturdays, July 8 – September 9, 2017, 7:00 PM, excluding Labor Day weekend. The Sheriff Support Group's annual summer concerts at Farnsworth Park, 7:00 PM, are free. National Night Out is Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 6:00 PM. In response to Councilmember Gloria Sanyika's inquiry, Lt. Clay clarifies that "other structures" refers to structures other than a home, i.e. a garage.
- 3.3. CERT _____ Deputy Dan Paige provides a report. The Community Emergency Response Team meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month at Altadena Community Center from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. Deputy Paige provides an overview of the training, agency participants, and the importance of the community being prepared to take care of themselves and their neighbors in case of an emergency. Training is open to the public.
- 3.4. Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) _____ Karen Gibson provides a report and identifies the three MYN Tent Poles: DVD, Shingles and Making a Plan. She stresses



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the importance of educating and empowering small groups of neighbors, preparing residents to be self-sufficient, and having a disaster plan for your neighborhood in case of an emergency where first responders are not available. Councilmembers Justin Robertson and Patricia Sutherlen are acknowledged for their attendance at the neighborhood watch group potluck to set MYN meetings in their census tract. The next training is scheduled for July 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM. (To make reservations for one of the training dates, send email to mynrsvp@gmail.com or call (626) 798-9919.)

- 3.5. County Fire _____ Mark Whaling, Battalion 4 Chief on A .
No report.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- 4.1. Public Outreach – Office of Marijuana Management _____ Joseph M. Nicchitta, LA County CEO, Office of Marijuana Management, introduces Max Thelander to provide an overview of Los Angeles' approach to cannabis regulations and state laws governing medical and recreational cannabis. California voters approved Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act, in 1996 legalizing the medical use of cannabis. In 2015 and 2016, the state passed the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act, which consisted of three separate bills. In November 2016, California passed Proposition 64, legalizing recreational use of marijuana, cultivation, possession, and use of cannabis for nonmedical purposes. Adults over 21 years of age can legally possess up to one ounce of marijuana or eight grams of cannabis concentrate. Personal cannabis cultivation is legal for both medical and non-medical purposes for adults. Representatives provide further overview of personal and commercial cultivation regulations, potential issues, and current challenges without regulations.

Representatives invite the community to place their names on the signup sheet to present any questions they may have. The office of Cannabis Management is coordinating with county departments and the public to formulate recommendations that will be presented to the board. Community listening sessions begin July 2017. Public feedback and comments will be accepted through the end of summer 2017. A discussion is held. Representatives respond that there is nothing specific on transport regulations. All commercial use of dispensaries in unincorporated areas are banned, and council will be provided a copy of results of listening sessions. To receive emails, signup online at cannabis.lacounty.gov, (revised per county on 7/18/17 due to website update after meeting). For more information: <http://cannabis.lacounty.gov>; general questions, concerns or request for copy of PowerPoint: cannabis@lacounty.gov or marijuana@lacounty.gov.

- 4.2. Altadena Filming Committee (AFC) Annual Update _____ Anne Chomyn reports that AFC has been in existence for over a year, and Altadena Town Council members are Jennifer Lee, Patricia Sutherlen, Anne Chomyn, and community member Kenny Meyer. Councilmember Anne Chomyn provides committee's End of Year Report, June 2017,



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Executive Summary, summarizes report of activities, and reads recommendations. Councilmember Anne Chomyn moves on behalf of the Filming Committee to send report to Supervisor Kathryn Barger and copy county chief executive officer and president of FilmL.A. At the direction of Chair Ezieme, Altadena Filming Committee End of Year Report, June 2017 will be posted on ATC website. (See Exhibit A, Executive Summary.)

Motion: Anne Chomyn

Second: Nestor Del La Torre

Aye: Unanimous

The motion carries.

- 4.3. Southern California Edison (SCE) – The Allen Substation Elimination Project (located on Bellford, north of Washington, east of Allen and west of Pepper), Dave A. Ford, Public Affairs, SCE, provides a brief presentation overview of the Altadena Allen Substation 4kV Circuit Cutover to upgrade to larger-voltage distribution systems, upgrading of 8 Circuits from 4kV to 16kV. The project began in May and is anticipated to be completed by January 2018. It is further stated that outages will continue until equipment is replaced. Outage notifications will be sent to service addresses of impacted areas. A discussion is held. Maria Gudino, Outage Communication Team, addresses the lack of consistent notification issues and states that mailers have been sent to residents. Customers may register to receive automated notifications through the duration of the outages. In addition to mailers, customers may receive email, text and landline notifications. Representative Bob Robinson, Program Director Henkels & McCoy, indicates the order of improvements is according to how the 16kV is set up, how to cutover sections and minimize impact of outage, length of time and the number of customers that will be affected.

Eric Oaks, SCE regional construction manager, directs all customers to contact the call center for any concerns at (800) 655-4555 from 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM. He also states that he will contact the project general supervisor for follow-up. To report an outage and receive updates, call (800) 611-1911 operating hours 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM or email sce.com/outage. Council will be provided a copy of the presentation and information on how to access outage center. When reporting, specific verbiage should include reference to the Dear Neighbor Letter received by residents and provide address, name, phone number, and type of damage. Chair Ezieme and Representative Ford to discuss the possibility of assigning a member of ATC to the project to trouble shot community concerns and provide updates to council.

Public Comments are taken in the lobby from residents impacted by the project.

- 4.4. Department of Public Works _____ Jim Daly, Department of Public Works, Road Maintenance Division, provides a presentation overview of reconstructing and resurfacing New York Dive from Lake Avenue to Altadena. Fifty percent of the design plans will be completed by November 2017 after which a community meeting will be scheduled. The plans are projected to be completed May 2018, and construction



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to start January 2019. A discussion is held. Mr. Daly further states that crosswalks and class 2 bike lanes are proposed in certain locations. The purpose of the road patch work is to provide a temporary solution for the worst locations until new work is proposed. It is further stated that the repair on Alta Wood meets the expectations of the department, and if the work is not sufficient, it will be redone. It is requested by Chair Ezieme and confirmed by Mr. Daly that a public forum for community input on the project is expected to be scheduled for the end of the year or January 2018.

Public comment

Monica Hubbard expressed concern regarding the interfacing of the new project with the Devil Gates Dam and other community projects affecting New York Drive. Mr. Daly reports that the pipeline is a different issue and the New York Drive project is moving forward due to the severely damaged roads.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 5.1. Land Use Committee _____ Councilmember Diane Marcussen informs the community that the LUC for June was cancelled. No Report.
- 5.2. Election Committee _____ Councilmember Patricia Sutherlen provides a report and acknowledges all volunteers: the election committee comprised of Chair Patricia Sutherlen, Jennifer Lee, Nestor De La Torre and community volunteer Alison Amegatcher, council members, and the community for their participation. Councilmember Patricia Sutherlen provides a brief overview of election day.
 - 5.2.1. Election Certification – Councilmember Patricia Sutherlen provides a report and moves that Altadena Town Council Election 2017 be accepted as certification of the election. **(See Exhibit B, Altadena Town Council Election 2017.)**

Motion – Patricia Sutherlen
Seconded: Nestor De La Torre
Aye: Unamamous
Nay: None
Motion carries.
 - 5.2.2. Open Seat – Councilmember Patricia Sutherlen reports that candidate instructions for the two open seats in Census Tracts 4601 and 4612 will be available on June 21, 2017. Applications will be accepted through July 14, 2017. New councilmembers will be installed at the Altadena Town Council meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2017. Okorie Ezieme thanks Patricia Sutherlen for her hard work as chair.

6. ALTADENA COMMUNITY REPORTS



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- 6.1. Altadena Public Library _____ Mindy Kittay, Director, No report.
- 6.2. LA County Department of Parks and Recreation _____ Meliza Hernandez provides a report on LA County Department of Parks and Recreation's After Dark activities and events and announces the Altadena Community Garden's annual picnic, Saturday, July 29, 2017, 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM, general admission. Advance purchase tickets are \$10.00. For more information, contact Loma Alta Park, (626) 398-5451 or email parks.lacounty.gov.
- 6.3. Chamber of Commerce _____ Councilmember Billy Malone reports that a business directory is being developed, and chamber members and local businesses may submit advertisements. He also states that the Chamber of Commerce is accepting names of businesses for the directory and encourages businesses to complete information online and submit name of business.
- 6.4. Collaborate PASadena _____ Councilmember Gloria Sanyika provides a report and presents an overview of the meeting held June 6, 2017. A request for funding from the County of Los Angeles to further support Collaborative PASadena initiatives was approved, and funds were awarded in the amount of \$10,000.00.
- 6.5. 41st Assembly-Local Government Advisory Committee ____ Councilmember Judy Matthews provides a report. Assemblymember Holden has announced the 2017 Juneteenth Celebration in recognition of the Freedmen's Bureau Black History event, June 26, 2017 at the historic State Capitol Building.

7. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

7.1. 4601 Councilmember Anne Chomyn provides a report on the concrete repair project within Census Tract 4601. The project involves the assessment of the repair areas and trees that will be affected by the project. Several mature trees are subject to removal in areas of repair. The residents spoke in opposition of the removal by notifying the Department of Public Works. The residents' feedback prompted the Department of Public Works to lessen the number of mature trees to be removed and agreed to an asphalt patch of the curb instead. The project has been put on hold until July pending discussions with the community to address possible impact, i.e. access, parking, tree removal and tree planting. Repair areas will be assessed throughout Altadena. Councilmember Chomyn acknowledges Jim Daly, DPW, Division of Road Maintenance, for reaching out to homeowners who contacted the DPW and for preparing a letter to residents.

7.2. 4603.01 Councilmember Judy Matthews provides a report on homeless families sleeping in vehicles due to their refusal of shelter services. The homeless may access family services through LA County; and through the Safe Parking Program for Families, there are safe areas in Los Angeles for those staying in their vehicles. For more information, contact HOPICS Access Center at (323) 948-0444. Musicfest and Food Truck Dining, a fundraiser to benefit the



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affordable housing programs in Altadena and Pasadena, will be held Friday, July 21, 2017, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. (For more information email: info.pfcdc@gmail.com.)

7.3. 4603.02 Councilmember Gloria Sanyika provides a report and shares the success of Charles W. Eliot Arts Magnet Academy's "High School Musical." Census Tract 4603.02's Spring Clean Up is Saturday, June 24, 2017, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Residents of the census tract are encouraged to participate. Volunteers may meet in the parking lot of Bob Lucas Library on Lincoln Ave. and Ventura Ave.

7.3. 4610 Councilmember Sylvia Vega reports that several residents have expressed concern of the closing of Vons Market at Allen and Washington Boulevard. Tom LaPatka, Vons Market's general manager, was contacted, and the lease was renewed to the beginning of 2018. Community members have sent emails to corporate in opposition to the closing. Negotiations are ongoing to extend the lease beyond 2018. To provide community support, send email to s2139c90@safeway.com.

Chair Ezieme announces the appointment of Anne Chomyn to chair the Slate Committee. Jennifer Lee and Gloria Sanyika also serve on the committee.

8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Ezieme states that he is aware of the concern expressed by resident Don Malloy regarding potholes on Wapello, and he will follow up accordingly.

9. ADJOURNMENT 9:40 PM

Motion: Gloria Sanyika

Second: Patricia Sutherlen

Aye: Unanimous

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

By: 

Judy A. Matthews Councilmember 4603.01

Recording Secretary