ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018
Altadena Community Center, 730 East Altadena Drive
Altadena, California  91001

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:09 PM

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance ___________________________ Marge Nicols
     Neighbors Building a Better Altadena (NBBA)
     Introduction, Okorie Ezieme

1.2. Roll Call _________________________________ Recording Secretary, Judy Matthews

          Marcussen, Judy Matthews, Justin Robertson, Gloria Sanyika, Patricia Sutherland,
          Dr. Sandra Thomas, Sylvia Vega and John E. White
     (3)    Excused: Nestor De La Torre, Dr. Reginald Wilkins and Dorothy Wong
     (0)    Absent/Unexcused

1.3. Approve April 17, 2018 Meeting Agenda Vice Chair Patricia Sutherland announces
     agenda changes: 7.4 Safe Streets Committee, Anne Chomyn reports on behalf of
     Dorothy Wong, and Census Tract Reports 4601, 4610 and 4603.02 are added.
     Councilmember Sutherland moves to accept the meeting agenda as amended.

     Motion: Patricia Sutherland
     Second: Diane Marcussen
     Aye: Unanimous
     Abstention: None
     The motion carries.

2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

2.1. Chairman ___________________________ Okorie Ezieme acknowledges Councilmember
     Veronica Jones for her well-received census tract meeting, A Day of Dialogue.

2.2. Vice Chairman ___________________________ Patricia Sutherland states that the Executive
     Committee met on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, to finalize the agenda. In order to make a public
     comment, the public may submit a fully completed comment card to council member seated at
     the end of the council table. There are three opportunities for general public comments during
     the meeting: 1) General Public Comment, 2) 5.2 Devils Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal, and
     3) 7.1.1 Action Item 2203 Garfias Drive. Individual property concerns should be addressed with
     representatives in the lobby after the meeting.

2.3. Recording Secretary _______________________ Judy Matthews

2.3.1. Councilmember Matthews moves to approve the proposed March 20, 2018 meeting minutes
        and supporting exhibits.
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Motion: Judy Matthews
Second: Dr. Sandra Thomas
Aye: Unanimous
Abstention: One
The motion carries.

2.4. Treasurer ________________ John E. White reports the balance is $2,242 and the account is in good standing. ATC is funded by contributions, and the community is asked to consider contributing to the account.

2.5. Corresponding Secretary ____________ Chair Ezieme reads the Corresponding Secretary Report (Exhibit A) on behalf of Nestor De La Torre. (For more information, contact Nestor De La Torre at nestor.delatorre@altadenatowncouncil.org.)

3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

3.1. California Highway Patrol ____________ Officer Mike Ulloa reports March 2018 statistics. There were 25 traffic collisions involving property damage with 8 reporting injuries and 2 DUls. Fifty-one traffic citations were issued, 1 DUI related arrest, and no fatalities. In March 2017, there were 29 traffic collisions involving property damage with 11 reported injuries, 1 DUI related, 79 traffic citations issued and 1 independent DUI arrest-not associated. In response to council’s inquiry, it is stated that officers periodically petition for overall safety and funding to increase patrols where needed. Altadena Highway Patrol’s new commander, Tai Vong, is introduced and shares his commitment to the community and programs offered. Applications for the Senior Volunteers Program (ages 55 and over) and the Explorer Volunteer Program (ages 15 to 21) are being accepted. Applications may be obtained at 2130 Windsor Avenue in Altadena. In response to council’s inquiry, it is stated that experience is not required for volunteer programs. Training will be conducted and duties will be assigned based on each volunteers’ ability. Commander Tai Vong may be contacted at tvong@chp.ca.gov. (For more information on volunteer programs, contact the Altadena Area CHP Office at (626) 296-8100 or visit www.chp.ca.gov.)

3.2. Altadena Sheriff’s Station _______________ Lieutenant Carmichael Octave reports an increase in overall crime from 35 to 43 for the month of March, including 6 aggravated assaults of which 1 was domestic violence related. Five investigations are ongoing, and there are no trends or patterns. Larceny vehicle burglary increased from 3 to 6, shoplifting from 0 to 5, grand theft auto from 6 to 8, and arson from 0 to 1. Robbery strong arm remained at 1. Residential burglary decreased from 5 to 4, burglary other structure from 3 to 2, overall larceny from 14 to 10, and robbery weapons from 2 to 0. In response to council’s inquiry, there was a decrease in overall arrests in Census Tract 4613. (For more information on Altadena Sheriff’s Station crime statistics, visit ATC’s website, Public Safety Reports.)

Captain Vicki Stuckey presents a certificate of appreciation to resident Andrew F. Trousdale for notifying the sheriff’s station upon noticing a gun case containing weapons.
3.3. Pasadena Police  
Interim Chief John Perez is introduced and reads a letter of appreciation (Exhibit B) acknowledging Altadena Town Council, and he expresses appreciation to Councilmember Veronica Jones for the positive impact that Days of Dialogue had on the community.

[Public Comment: On behalf of NBBA, Nicole Moore expresses appreciation and support for Pasadena’s mayor, city manager and police department for reassigning the officers involved in the Christopher Ballew incident. It is further shared that a policy change is needed.]

3.4. County Fire  
Maria Grycan, Community Services Liaison, LA County Fire, reports that brush inspections begin in May. In response to an inquiry, it is stated that downed power lines are not uncommon and may be caused by age, heavy wind, or being hit. There was not an increase in structure fires in Altadena. Safe tips on putting out fires are shared. (For LA County Fire Department’s activity report, visit ATC’s website, Public Safety Reports or contact maria.grycan@fire.lacounty.gov.)

3.5. Map Your Neighborhood  
Eric Vander Velde gives an overview of the 9 Step Program and the importance and focus of MYN. The next training is May 20, and meetings are scheduled every other month. Over 7% of homes have been mapped. Volunteers are welcome to the committee. To contact MYN, email mynrsyp@gmail.com, visit www.facebook.com/ALTMYN, or call (626) 798-9919.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Danny Clash shares information regarding a burglary at a neighbor’s home, where law enforcement was contacted but never showed up. Mr. Clash states that it is possible that youth from Sycamore Home are burglarizing. He previously shared a letter from the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS) with Dr. Thomas. The letter requested more law enforcement recruitment.

Dr. Anne Chomyn announces Altadena Heritage Work Day at Old Marengo Park, Saturday, April 21, 2018, 9:00 AM.

Felipe Carrillo expresses concerns regarding noise from bus brakes from the new transportation service for Bus Route 88 on Saturday and Sunday, 8 hours a day, on Canon Boulevard and Loma Alta Drive. He questions if studies were conducted and if residents were notified.

Channa Obeyesekere expresses concern regarding an increase in parking traffic from hikers along the new route of Bus Route 88. There should be a better location for parking in the area.

Pauline Daniels expresses her disappointment with the traffic and noise from bus traffic on Loma Alta Drive, Canon Boulevard and side streets. Ms. Daniels states that residents were not aware of the project and questions how the project decision was made, timing of the project, how does it benefit Altadena, and whether Eaton Canyon was considered. Council is informed that residents
are requesting a response.

Harold Charles expresses concern regarding buses on Canon Boulevard and Loma Alta Drive. He questions if the project is funded by Supervisor Barger’s Office. Mr. Charles is requesting a meeting with neighbors. Councilmember Marcussen states that ATC meetings are recorded and Supervisor Barger’s Office reviews videos.

McClees Stevens announces the Los Angeles River Project Program to capture and conserve water on private properties. (For more information, visit www.theriverproject.org or call (818) 980-9660.)

Granny Shakur acknowledges Councilmember Veronica Jones for her meeting and questions if there are set term limits for council. Chair Ezimene responds that there are no term limits for ATC.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

5.1. Transit to Trails ______________________ Yvette Lopez-Ledesma, Wilderness Society, provides an overview of Transit Route 88. The Los Angeles County Parks needs assessment identified a need to connect regions to open space in San Gabriel Mountains. Transit Route 88 travels between Metro Gold Line Memorial Park Station and Sam Merrill Trailhead in Altadena, Saturdays and Sundays, 7:05 AM to 4:30 PM. The 6-month pilot program began on April 7, and the route is based on community needs as identified in the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Altadena Transit Needs Study. The route services a population of 17,094 within a ¼ mile area where 16.2% of households do not have cars. In response to council’s inquiry, concern regarding noise from brakes will be presented to Pasadena Transit. For community feedback, email yvette_lopezledesma@tws.org. (For more information, call (626) 744-4055 or visit www.pasadenatransit.net.)

5.1.1. Public Comment

Dr. Anne Chomyn expresses need for visible restrooms and trash receptacles. In response, it is stated that the matter will be brought to the attention of Los Angeles County Department of Transportation.

5.2. Update Devil’s Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal __George De La O and Veronica Mardis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, provide an overview of the project. The project will take 4 years to remove 1.7 million cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir. Vegetation must be removed outside of bird nesting season, October through January. Construction is expected to occur October 2018 through January 2019, subject to permit approval, and sediment removal to occur April through November for a period of 4 years. (The overview is available on ATC website. For more information, visit www.devilsgateproject.com or email devilsgateproject@dpw.lacounty.gov.)
5.2.1. Public Comment

A resident questions if there will be mosquitoes. In response, it is stated that the
department is in contact with San Gabriel Valley Vector Control, and there is no
anticipation of mosquitoes.

Marietta Knuel inquires as to who is responsible for making sure additional
concrete poured does not cross the west side of the trail path. In response, it is
stated that the road will be paved from Oak Grove down to Perimeter Trail.
North of the area downstream will remain natural.

6. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

6.1. 152nd Anniversary of the Buffalo Soldiers Trooper Rachel Hilliard, president of
the Buffalo Soldiers 9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association's San Diego Chapter,
shares the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers and salutes those who served at the last
post of the 10th Calvary in Campo, CA. President Hilliard announces that in
commemoration of the 152nd anniversary, the San Diego Chapter is hosting a banquet on
Saturday, July 28, 2018, at 7:00 PM. Altadena resident and one of the oldest living Buffalo
Soldiers, Trooper Bruce Edwards Dennis, is recognized with certificates of recognition
from the Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu, State Senator Anthony Portantino,
Assemblymember Chris Holden, Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Altadena Town Council and
Altadena Historical Society; and Trooper Dennis shares his experience as a Buffalo
Soldier. (For more information on schedule of events July 23-28, 2018 and registration
packages, visit www.910hcav.org/nationalreunion/registration.)

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. Land Use Committee Diane Marcussen, Committee Chair,
reports that the LUC met March 6, 2018. As of this date, no one had signed up for the
extended time to meet the fences and hedges ordinance requirements. Nonconforming
residents must sign up. Information is being gathered for a public hearing regarding the
New York Drive Project. At the meeting, the La Vina II subcommittee presented
information on the final condition proposal, the Owen Brown Grave Site Project, to
preserve a historical site on private property in northwest Altadena. The presentation
will be repeated at the May 1 Land Use meeting, and the public is encouraged to attend.
To provide a public comment or submit questions, contact Diane Marcussen at
diane.marcussen@altadenatowncouncil.org.

7.1.1. Action Item 2203 Garfias Drive – Existing Construction with Setback Exception of
Approx. 9 inches Diane Marcussen
provides an overview of the project. Councilmember Sylvia Vega moves to send
the Regional Planning Commission Committee a letter recommending approval
without conditions.
7.1.2. Public Comment – None

Motion: Sylvia Vega
Second: John White
Aye: Unanimous
Abstention: None
The motion carries.

7.2. Education Committee ________________ Jennifer Lee, Committee Chair, reports on the success of the Women’s History Month celebration. Superintendent, Dr. Brian McDonald, wants next year’s event presented on a Saturday. A special thanks is extended to all elected officials, representatives, and council members for attending. Councilmember Billy Malone concurs on the success.

7.3. Election Committee ________________ Dr. Sandra Thomas, Committee Chair, reads April’s report (Exhibit C) into record. Dr. Thomas moves for approval and acceptance of report. In response to council’s inquiry, it is stated that parking at Bob Lucas library for the election is not a problem.

7.3.1. Public Comment – Nicole Moore, Neighbors Building a Better Altadena (NBBA), expresses concern that there has not been sufficient time to announce election. She recommends community members are included on the committee in the future. Ms. Moore questions when will information be placed on the website. In response, it is stated that council elections occur annually, and council members serve two-year terms. Dr. Thomas states that committee members are Dr. Thomas, chair; Victoria Knapp, vice-chair; and Billy Malone, election event coordinator. Flyers are available at Altadena Library.

Motion: Dr. Sandra Thomas
Second: Victoria Knapp
Aye: Unanimous
Abstention: None
The motion carries.

7.4. Safe Streets__________________________ Dr. Anne Chomyn reports on behalf of Dorothy Wong and shares the committee’s mission and members composing of council members, community and library. The Safe Street town hall meeting and interactive workshops/mapping project, is Saturday, April 28, 2018, 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM, at Altadena Library. The date and time for monthly regular public meetings will be announced at the Safe Streets town hall meeting and on ATC’s website.

7.5. Community Relations Committee ____________ Dr. Sandra Thomas, Committee Chair, reads April’s report (Exhibit D) into record. In response to council’s inquiry, Dr. Thomas states that
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Altadena Chamber of Commerce may present new and/or old businesses at ATC meetings when requested by chamber chair.

8. ALTADENA COMMUNITY REPORTS

8.1. Altadena Library ................................................................. Ryan Roy provides an overview of upcoming events and Community Conversations’ year-end review, which are available in Altadena Library’s monthly newsletters and on the library’s website. In response to council’s inquiries, it is stated that the Seed Program was part of the Book Talk signing, and the rules regulating chickens in the community will be looked into. A special thanks is extended to the library for providing copy work for the election committee. (For more information, visit www.altadenalibrary.org or email Ryan Roy at wroy@altadenalibrary.org.)

8.2. Chamber of Commerce .................................................... Billy Malone reports on behalf of Doug Colliflower, providing an overview of upcoming events and total number of new members. It is announced that there are 4 scholarships for 2018, 2 Quality of Life and 2 Students of Access to College. (For more information on upcoming events, visit www.altadenachamber.org.)

8.3. Collaborate PASadena .................................................... Gloria Sanyika provides an overview of the March 28, 2018 meeting and upcoming programs to address funding plans, including youth engagement projects. There is a reported loss of $75,000 for Collaborate PASadena due to Pasadena Unified School District’s budget cut. Special needs of each school are to be addressed and tiered support will be provided based on need. Mayor Torneck presents an update on the city’s budget that must be adopted by June. (For more information, visit collaboratepasadena.org or email gloria.sanyika@altadenatowncouncil.org.)

8.4. LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation .......................... No report.

8.5. 41st Assembly District ..................................................... Councilmember Judy Matthews provides an overview of legislative bills and highlights the Annual Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony in Sacramento, where Assemblymember Chris Holden recognized Holocaust survivor, Isabelle Teresa Huber of Claremont. CHP and Kidspace Children’s Museum are hosting a free car seat safety inspection event on April 28, 2018, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM. (For more information on the legislative bills and upcoming events, visit a41.asmdc.org.)

9. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

4601, Councilmember Victoria Knapp shares a reminder for Pasadena Showcase House of Design, 1369 East Altadena Drive, April 22-May 20. Shuttles are coming from Santa Anita, and there will be traffic. Parking passes will be provided to residents, their guests and workers.

4610, Councilmember Veronica Jones reports on the success of Days of Dialogue and announces a Social Hour with Assemblymember Chris Holden at her residence on May 11. New lights at
Altadena Community Center, 730 East Altadena Drive
Altadena, California  91001

Windsor Avenue/Figueroa Street and Crosby Street/Lincoln Avenue will be completed in 2020. A special thanks is extended to LA County Supervisors for the scheduled work.

4603.02, Councilmember Gloria Sanyika reports on community engagement with keeping the census tract clean. A special thanks is extended to Susie Nemer, Public Works and Athens Trash for their diligence. There is no cleanup Day scheduled with Athens Trash Service for 2018.

10. ADJOURNMENT 10:10 PM

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:

[Signature]
5/18/18

By:
Judy A. Matthews, Recording Secretary
Councilmember 4603.01
EXHIBIT A

Corresponding Secretary Report
April 17, 2017

"Correspondence from San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District. Mosquito Awareness Week, April 15-21. Please visit their website for more info on preparation to protect yourselves: www.sgvmosquito.org.

Website Committee: Ongoing discussions with Chris Miller of Pasadena Media to host a video archive of previous ATC meetings.

We are always looking for members to join the Website Committee, no computer knowledge or experience necessary.

Contact me for more info on joining the Committee, anything about the website, or anything included in this report."
EXHIBIT B

April 17, 2018

Altadena Town Council
730 East Altadena Drive
Altadena, CA 91001

Dear Chairman Okorie Ezieme:

The Pasadena Police Department is proud to acknowledge the Altadena Town Council and all its members who support the Cities of Altadena, Pasadena and the surrounding areas. Altadena is located at the heart of our great community and has a rich history of serving its constituents, business owners, residents, and visitors alike. Under your stewardship, specifically with direct invitation from Councilwoman Veronica Jones, I have personally witnessed the positive impact that Days of Dialogue have had on our community when we met for discussion in Altadena on April 11, 2018. Mrs. Jones' passion, spirit, and tireless effort to serve our community is the foundation of your longevity. It is clear to all who witnessed these shared efforts that a powerful servant-leadership creates community partnerships that are built on love, respect and trust.

On behalf of the men & women of the Pasadena Police Department, I want to extend a heart filled thank you, as we enhance our engagement, put high value on partnerships, collaborate with transparency and enrich our diverse community.

Sincerely,

JOHN E. PEREZ
Interim Chief of Police
EXHIBIT C
ATC Election Committee
April 17, 2018 Report

Good evening Mr. Chair, Council, and Community. The April, 2018 Election Committee Report is as follows: on April 10th, 2018 the Altadena Town Council Election Committee met to prepare for the upcoming election. We inventoried all signs, which the committee and volunteers will place throughout the community, confirmed early voting and Saturday regular voting locations, created the Applicant Packets for distribution at the Community Center and on-line, and discussed a marketing plan for the event within the community and on social media. This plan includes the creation of a flyer that will be available at the Main Altadena Library, at the Community Center, and on-line.

As for the polling locations, in order to insure that all census tracts are covered, we can confirm:

Early Voting – on Tuesday, June 5th, from 4-8pm at the Main Altadena Library

Regular Voting – on Saturday, June 9th, from 9am-5 pm
in West Altadena at the Bob Lucas Library
in Central Altadena at the Main Altadena Library
and, in East Altadena at Patticakes

Depending on the number of applications, additional polling locations may be added and announced at the May Altadena Town Council meeting.

Applicant packets will be made available on Friday, April 20th, for pick-up at the Community Center, and on-line at altadentatowncouncil.org.

As we move forward with election preparation, we welcome and encourage volunteers from the community including, but not limited to, community groups, neighborhood associations, churches, etc. Any and all from the community are welcome and needed, specifically in the areas of sign placement, polling location set-up, and take down, and polling location staffing.

To review, the important dates are:
April 20th, 2018 the Application Packets will be Available
May 11th, 2018 is the Deadline for Filing Applications
June 5th, 2018 is early voting
June 9th, 2018 is regular voting, and
July 17th, 2018 is New Member Swearing In

Mr. Chair, with that said, I move for acceptance of the April 17th, 2018, Election Committee Report.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, this ends our report.

Election Committee Members
Dr. Sandra Thomas – Chair
Victoria Knapp – Vice Chair
Billy Malone – Election Events Coordinator
EXHIBIT D

Altadena Town Council
Community Relations Committee Report
April 17, 2018

The Community Relations Committee Report for April is as follows:

1. **Ongoing Community Request** regarding Census Tract Representatives reporting monthly on the PUSD Schools in their Census Tracts. This item was referred to the Education Committee Chair.

   **Update:** Waiting on Education Committee action.

2. **Offer from the Altadena Historical Society** to occasionally share a moment of “Altadena At a Glance” during ATC meeting, was referred to Executive Committee.

   **Update:** Still waiting for response from ATC Executive Committee.

3. **Christopher Bellow/Pasadena Police Department Issue.**

   a. **Update:** Since the CRC vetted the issue and lead the question and answer section with Altadena Sheriff’s Station Captain, Vicki Stuckey, and community, the following has occurred and associated documents will post to the ATC’s Website:

   b. 2/10/18 - Letter of Concern and Demand sent to Pasadena Police Department and appropriate Pasadena and County Officials.

   c. 2/23/18 - Response letter received from Pasadena Mayor Tornek with following attachments:

      1. Law enforcement Authority Policy Number 100.
      3. The Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) documents.

   d. 3/07/18 – Officers Larry Esparaza and Zachary Lujan who were involved in the beating of Altadena resident Christopher Ballew were reassigned to desk duty awaiting completion of full investigation.

   e. 3/12/18 – Pasadena Police Chief Phillip Sanchez announced his retirement after amid controversy, effective 4/18/18. All associated documents will be attached to this report.

   f. **Christopher Bellow/Pasadena Police Department**

      **Update:** On April 14, 2018, demonstrators gathered in protest chanting and displaying signs and slogans while marching in solidarity around the Mobile Station on FairOaks Avenue and Woodbury Road – where the Bellow incident occurred. The associated
4. **Buffalo Soldiers**

   It has been requested that a certificate is presented to Bruce Edwards Dennis who is a resident of Altadena and one of the oldest living original Buffalo Soldiers. The replacement of the Buffalo Soldiers’ missing Plague will be installed at the Loma Alta Park equestrian area at a later date.

   **Update:** The certificates were presented this evening and the plague is still pending.

5. **ATC acknowledge Cinco De Mayo**

   It has been requested that during the month of May – ATC will acknowledge Cinco De Mayo – Holiday during our ATC meeting.

   **Update:** The acknowledgment plans are now in progress for the certificate recognitions which will be presented at the May 15, 2018 meeting.

6. **Neighborhood Watch Group Night**

   It has been requested that we have a Neighborhood Watch Group Night at a future ATC meeting.

   **Update:** CRC member Elliot Gold is taking the lead in this effort – plans forthcoming.

7. **Chamber of Commerce to introduce an old or new business occasionally during Altadena Town Council meetings**

   Requested that ATC collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to introduce an old or new business occasionally during Altadena Town Council meetings. Referred to chair of Altadena Chamber of Commerce.

   **Update:** Chamber Chair, Doug Colliflower, pending consideration to announce a business every six months.

8. **PUSD School Closings**

   It has been requested that the ATC get involved in the displacement of Altadena School Children who would be effected by the proposed closing of 5 PUSD schools: Wilson Middle School, Blair High School, Jefferson Elementary, Cleveland elementary and Franklin elementary.

   **Update:** 3/19/18 School Closings off the table, indefinite.

   **Current Update:** Tabled in committee, pending Education Committee Action.
Mr. Chair and Council, we submit this April 2018 Report and all attachments to be placed on the ATC Website in the Committee Reports Section.

Thank you and this ends our report.

Chair, Dr. Sandra Thomas  
Vice Chair, Judy Matthews  
Community Member, Eliot Gold