



Altadena Town Council

Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DoVMK4OxYQ>

Start time – 7:01pm – 9:10pm

1. Call to Order

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Victoria Knapp, Chair.
- B. Flag Salute – Debra Ray
- C. Roll Call, Kim Yu
 - i. The following council members were present:
Dorothy Wong, Darlene Greene, Japhena Hall, Isis Moulden, Pat Sutherlen, ViEvyette Stewart-Gordon, Reginald Wilkins, Adam Vourvoulis, Sylvia Vega, Victoria Knapp, Nic Arnzen, Connor Cipolla, Milissa Marona, Kim Yu, Diane Marcussen.
 - ii. The following councilmember(s) were not present due to excused absence: Jon Carmody
- D. Meeting Agenda, Nic Arnzen
 - i. Meeting agenda was unanimously approved with 1 abstained, with the following changes:
 - 1. Strike Section 2.5 Corresponding Secretary Report
 - 2. Maria Grycan in place of Assistant Chief Pat Sprengel
 - 3. Replacing Amy Bodek will be Mitch Glazer

2. Officer Reports

- A. Chair- Victoria Knapp
 - i. Acknowledges Women's History Month by highlighting contribution of notable Altadena women like Octavia butler and Sarah Noble Ives.
 - ii. Announcement of the appointment of Chris O'Malley as Parliamentarian
 - iii. Announcement of the formation of the By-Laws Committee and Connor Cipolla appointed as Chair.
- B. Vice Chair – Nic Arnzen
 - i. Share with Council of Chair Knapps award as Women of the Year from Assemblyman John Harabedian.
- C. Recording Secretary – Kim Yu
 - i. Approval of February 2025 meeting minutes
 - 1. Councilmembers Moulden, Wilkins and Sutherlen abstained. All other members approved minutes as submitted.

D. Treasurer – Milissa Marona

- i. 308.99 in expenses for items such as badges and business cards
- ii. Balance is at \$3, 234.18.

E. Corresponding Secretary – Connor Cipolla

- i. Shared information about tree waivers and tree waiver forms – links were placed in YouTube chat.
- ii. Form can be found on the LA County Recovers website at <https://recovery.lacounty.gov/> under Debris Removal/Hazardous Tree Removal Waiver
- iii. The ROE deadline is coming up on March 31, 2025.
- iv. Please note that since this meeting took place, the ROE submission deadline has been moved to April 15, 2025

3. Public Safety Reports

A. LA County Sheriffs – Captain Jabari Williams

- i. Home check program – altadenahomecheckasd.org
 - 1. A program for residents who may not be able to come back to their home or stay in their home or is displaced for any reason – can get the home checked on a regular basis by the sheriff's department.
 - 2. Please remember to email the home check email (altadenahomecheck@lasd.org) if you are moving back in to be removed from the list.
- ii. Increase in burglaries but significant decrease in crime due to low population.

B. California Highway Patrol – Officer Keller

- i. 9 crashes in February
- ii. Safety Message: have a first aid kit in your car and be sure to have fully charged batteries just in case.
- iii. Drive safety as there is a lot of heavy dump truck in Altadena – try not to drive too close.
- iv. 4/7-4/14/2025 – celebrate Distracted Drivers Month

C. LA County Fire – Maria Grycan

- i. Activity in Altadena is much lower due to lower population.
- ii. 162 responses: 3 fires (2-trash 1 pole fire), 107 medical calls (83 transported), 6 traffic collisions (1 – bicyclist involved)
- iii. Home's location in high fire hazard zones (medium and high) will be required to have hazardous vegetation inspections annually.
 - 1. Will see the charge next year on your property tax bill one year later – at this time, the charge is \$151.00.

4. Community Reports

A. Nina Jazmadarian, GM of Foothill Municipal Water District

- i. Do not drink orders have been lifted for Lincoln and Rubio Canyon water customers.

- ii. Lincoln will be working to help feed the Las Flores Water lines and are working on flushing and testing.
 - iii. Nina to provide clarification on La Flores Water Company's "Poppy Zone" to Councilmember Nic Arnzen
- B. Nikki Winslow – Altadena Library, Director
 - i. Main Library – reopened March 4th
 - ii. Bob Lucas -0 82% complete and on track to re-open June 2025
 - iii. Welcome Back celebration on March 28th – featuring Levar Burton held in partnership with various organizations.
- C. LA County Dept of Parks and Recreation – Samuel Estrada, Regional Director

- 1. Loma Alta Park – Re-Opening
- 2. Why? Needs for its use as a community center to support residents that are back or starting to come back into Altadena.
 - a. Will serve as temporary locations for the library and senior center.
- 3. Why Loma Alta? – it sustained the least amount of damage and is critical to provide community resources.
- 4. Soil testing will be conducted prior to re-opening the park.
- 5. Charles White Park will be next after Loma Alta

5. Special Presentations

- A. Phase 2 Debris Removal Staging - Colonel Avichal, Army Corp of Engineers & Chris Sheppard, LA County Department of Public works
 - i. Currently there are 84 crew members and in 2 weeks they expect to have up to 100 crews working in Altadena.
 - ii. The site, located at the Altadena Golf Course, will accept concrete, metal and vegetative debris but not fire ash and debris.
 - iii. They described the layout and operations and safety measures taken including air monitoring, dust control and noise abatement.
 - 1. Councilmembers asked about noise abatement plans and community outreach efforts and plans.
 - 2. The presenters said they would get back to the council with more information and provide fact sheets and graphics to help inform the public about the site operations.
- B. Altadena PUSD campus updates – Superintendent Elizabeth Blanco
 - i. discussed the impact of the fire on the community, including the number of employees and students affected, and the efforts made to reopen schools.

- ii. mentioned the challenges faced in terms of mental health support and the need for additional funding.
- iii. Council members asked questions about the safety of the schools, the timeline for reopening, and the process of debris removal around the schools.
- iv. Dr. Blanco assured the council that the schools are safe and that efforts are being made to ensure the community's well-being.
- v. PUSD Board: Review and consider the community request to delay reopening of Altadena Arts Magnet Calaveras campus until August 2026 due to safety concerns.

6. Action Items

A. Congressional Letter in Support of Governors Aid Package Request

- i. Letters will be circulated for review and vote to council members via email.
- ii.

B. Letter of Request to Congresswoman Chu

- i. Letters will be circulated for review and vote to council members via email.
- ii. Council member Moulden expressed the desire for the council to be able to review and make edits to the letters instead of just having to approve or not approve then as is.

7. Committee Reports

A. Renters Protection and Recovery – Dr. Darlene Greene

- i. The Committee has received positive feedback from the community and is currently working on updated FAQ's to better help direct renters with available resources.
- ii. RPR committee also collaborating with the Altadena Tenants Union

B. Altadena Eaton Fire Relief Fund

- i. The fund is a collaborative effort with Gofundme.org to provide a way for donations to get into the hands of Altadenans who need them.
- ii. The committee is putting together an advisory board comprised of equal representation of Altadena that will ensure funds get to Altadenans.

8. Public Comment

A. General topics discussed during public comments (for full details see B below)

- i. Several comments were shared in support of the re-opening of Loma Alta Park
- ii. Overwhelming number of comments on Altadena Arts Magnet school reopening concerns
 - 1. Many parents' express concerns about returning students to the Calaveras campus in August 2025,

- a. citing safety issues due to ongoing debris removal and potential exposure to hazardous materials from the Fire
- b. They request that the school remain at Allendale Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year, returning to the original campus in August 2026.
- c. Parents worry about both physical and psychological impacts on children if they return too soon to an area surrounded by burned structures.

B. Due to the overwhelming volume of public comment submitted for this meeting, please visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DoVMK4OxYQ> for a complete recording of this meeting.

9. Census Tract Reports

A. 4610 – Councilmember Isis Moulden

- i. Raised concerns around bylaws and proposes amendments to clarify the Executive Committees' role and ensure transparent decision making.