



Altadena Town Council

Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aV7Rcd77gCA>

Start time – 7:00 pm, End time - 9:54pm

1. CALL TO ORDER – meeting called to order at 7:00pm – Victoria Knapp, Chair

1.1 Opening – Antonio Becerra, Pledge of Allegiance, She-She Yancy reads poem titled “Altadena – My Brave and Bright Beginning

1.2 Roll Call - Kim Yu, Recording Secretary

1.2.1 Following Councilmembers were present: Connor Cipolla, Victoria Knapp, Nic Arnzen, Milissa Marona, Dorothy Wong, Darlene Greene, Isis Moulden, Vi-Eyvette Stewart Gordon, Pat Sutherlen, Sylvia Vega, Reggie Wilkins, Kim Yu

1.2.2 There was 1 unexcused absence: Jon Carmody

1.2.3 There were 2 excused absences: Diane Marcussen and Japhena Musson

1.3 Approve June 17, 2025, Meeting Agenda - Nic Arnzen, Vice Chair

1.3.1 Agenda was approved with some minor changes as reflected in these minutes

2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

2.1 Chair - Victoria Knapp

2.1.1 The Chair acknowledged Altadena’s ongoing recovery following recent challenges, including the displacement of residents and loss of local businesses. She encouraged continued support for reopened businesses and emphasized community unity. The upcoming Juneteenth holiday was recognized as a time of reflection and celebration. The Chair concluded with words of encouragement for all residents in the process of rebuilding.

2.2 Vice Chair - Nic Arnzen

2.2.1 The Vice Chair announced the upcoming ACONA meeting next week – SCE deep dive. He also recognized Pride Month and expressed support for the LGBTQ+ community, especially during displacement and amid broader political and social pressures. The report affirmed

solidarity with all marginalized communities and emphasized Altadena's strength in diversity and unity.

2.2.2 Recording Secretary, Approve May 20, 2025, Minutes - Kim Yu

2.2.2.1 Minutes approved with minor corrections. Councilmember Yu motion to approve, Councilmember Arnzen seconds

2.2.2.2 Councilmember Moulden abstains

2.3 Treasurer - Milissa Marona

2.3.1 No change so balance stays at \$3,084.00

2.4 Corresponding Secretary - Connor Cipolla

2.4.1 Councilmember Cipolla clarified that some council letters sent since the fire were voted on via email due to time-sensitive deadlines. While efforts are made to present such actions publicly, time constraints occasionally prevent it. He acknowledged that a recent letter to Sheriff Luna was revised based on feedback but not revoted, which may have impacted some members' support. The council is learning through new challenges and committed to transparency and improvement.

3 PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

3.1 Altadena Sheriff's Station - Acting-Captain Marquez

3.1.1 Video shown on Trespassing and Letter of Agency

3.1.2 Crime rates continue to go in a downward trend

3.1.3 Sheriffs do not perform search warrants with ICE and do not work with ICE

3.2 California Highway Patrol - Officer Keller

3.2.1 22 traffic crashes in the month of March – 4 hit and runs, 2-property damage only, 8-resulted in injuries 2-DUI.

3.2.1.1 Increase in May and most of them involve commercial vehicles

3.2.2 Safety Message of the month - Unlawful to leave a child 6 year of age or younger alone in a vehicle – Kaitlins Law

3.3 L.A. County Fire - Maria Grycan, Asst. Fire Chief Pat Sprengel

3.3.1 222 responses in the month of May: 8 truck collisions, 177 medical calls (143 patients transported), 40 hazardous condition calls

3.3.2 Safety tip: Leave fireworks to the professionals. All fireworks are illegal in unincorporated LA County.

3.3.2.1 Visit [Fire.LACounty.gov](https://www.fire.lacounty.gov) for a list of fireworks shows

- 3.3.3 Eaton Fire after action report – actively being worked on. Multiple after-action reports.

4 COMMUNITY REPORTS

4.1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Colonel Sonny Avichal

- 4.1.1 Currently have 5,768 Opted into program and 516 opted out. 93% complete (at 98% complete by the time these minutes are written). ROEs returned – 5158 (90%)
- 4.1.2 Reduced to 33 debris crews
- 4.1.3 Commercial properties – 26 approved from FEMS most of them on Lake and Fair Oaks
- 4.1.4 Footprint of operation at the golf course has already shrunk

4.2 Altadena Public Library – Nikki Winslow, Director

- 4.2.1 Board of trustee update: Next board meeting is Monday, June 23 at 5pm (in person and on YouTube) – FY25-26 budget will be presented
- 4.2.2 Loma Alta Library opened May 17 at Loma Alta Park (Social Hall).
 - 4.2.2.1 Hours: M–F 10am–6pm, Sat 10am–4pm.
 - 4.2.2.2 Main Library remains open; hours: M–T 10am–8pm, W–F 10am–6pm, Sat 10am–4pm.
 - 4.2.2.2.1 Closed on: June 19 (Juneteenth), July 4 (Independence Day).
- 4.2.3 Bob Lucas Memorial Library
 - 4.2.3.1 Tentative grand reopening: mid-August 2025.
- 4.2.4 Summer Reading Program: June 2 – August 16
 - 4.2.4.1 Kickoff event: Saturday, June 7 at 10:00 AM (Main Library parking lot).
- 4.2.5 Book Sale rescheduled to June 28–29

4.3 Southern California Edison – Karla Sayles

- 4.3.1 Planning 63 circuit miles of undergrounding: 40 miles in HFRA zones including 2 under construction, 23 circuit miles of damaged infrastructure in non HFRA zones and additional 19 circuit miles
- 4.3.2 Increase 4kV to 16kV for the town
- 4.3.3 Increase reliability and support clean energy
- 4.3.4 Easement process can take about 6 months, and a project cannot be cleared for construction without rights of entry from property owners in the form of an easement
 - 4.3.4.1 Average width of an easement is 6 feet wide
- 4.3.5 SCE available at the Altadena Community Center to answer questions in person.

4.4 UWS – Matt Blackburn

- 4.4.1 Annual rates increase due on July 1st
- 4.4.2 If you are still getting bills but your home has been destroyed, please reach out so UWS can cancel your service and issue any refunds for payments.

4.5 LA County Public Works – Giancarlo Sergei, Lincoln Ave Bridge Project Manager

- 4.5.1 Project Overview: temporary steel truss bridge to restore access while permanent bridge is designed
- 4.5.2 Start in July 2025, Construction: August 1-5, 2025; Target reopening: October 15, 2025
- 4.5.3 Flyers will be distributed to nearby residents and updates posted on social media. Council requests wider communication due to increased park activity
- 4.5.4 It was noted that considerations should be made for pedestrians and horses

5 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONAS

5.1 LA County Regional Planning – Mitch Glaser and Ciara Barnett

- 5.1.1 Deferring fees for single family home rebuild projects in fire effected areas
 - 5.1.1.1 Refunding fees retroactively
- 5.1.2 Planning has expedited reviews – 10 days initial, 5 days for re-reviews
- 5.1.3 Preapproved plans available through the foothill catalog
- 5.1.4 Self-certification program – allows for licensed architects and engineers to self-certify their projects
- 5.1.5 Rebuilding workshop on Zoom offered on June 28th 10am-12pm. Will be recorded on posted on the workshop page on LA County Recovers website
- 5.1.6 After Planning, plans go to Building and Safety to look at structural and how you want to build it – plans are more detailed
- 5.1.7 AI Precheck method – partnership with Archistar – allows people to know up front what the corrections are before officially submitting.

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Education Committee – Isis Moulden

- 6.1.1 Summer Internship Program with PUSD and ATC
 - 6.1.1.1 Introduction to three of our summer interns: Jaime Kitani, April Gonzalez-Chavez, Peipei Alexander
- 6.1.2 Election Committee – Isis Moulden, Chair

- 6.1.2.1 Flyers created by summer interns presented
- 6.1.2.2 Special election held for census tract 4612
- 6.1.2.3 Asking for neighbors to apply – information on the ATC website at altadenatowncouncil.org
- 6.1.2.4 Deliver applications Altadena Community Center
- 6.1.2.5 Special election will be held at next ATC meeting
- 6.1.2.6 Also looking for councilmembers to join the election committee
- 6.1.3 Renters Protection and Recovery – Darlene Greene, Chair
 - 6.1.3.1 Distributed just for seniors \$50 gift cards
 - 6.1.3.2 Rosetown apartments opening in October – 170 N Halstead in Pasadena – if interested there is affordable housing.
 - 6.1.3.3 Tenant resource workshop coming
 - 6.1.3.4 Next meeting August 6th
 - 6.1.3.5 Neighborhood Housing Services is at the library everyday
- 6.2 By-Laws - Connor Cipolla, Chair
 - 6.2.1 Councilmembers Sutherlen, Stewert-Gordon, Moulden and Parliamentarian Chris O'Malley are on the by-laws committee
- 6.3 Communication - Nic Arnzen, Chair
 - 6.3.1 Regular meetings: First Mondays at 7pm on Zoom – contact Nic Arnzen for more info
 - 6.3.2 Last night met and continues working on website overhaul, comprehensive email list and monthly info blast.
- 6.4 Altadena Eaton Fire Recovery Fund Advisory Committee - Milissa Marona, Co-Chair
 - 6.4.1 Applications opened. Currently there is about \$250,000 to give out to Altadenans.
 - 6.4.2 Website: eatonfirefund.org

7 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- 7.1 Bryce Butcher (Rubio Street): Expressed concern over delays in rebuilding due to lot line encroachments among neighbors. Noted that obtaining lot line adjustments could take up to 9 months, delaying recovery. Requested Council support in expediting the process.

8 CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

- 8.1 4602 – Councilmember Arnzen
 - 8.1.1 90% of tract destroyed; limited new updates.
 - 8.1.2 Farnsworth Park: No rebuild timeline established yet.

- 8.1.3 Fire Fatalities: Of 18 fatalities in Altadena, 10 were from this tract. Chair is developing a complete list for the County; one victim remains publicly unidentified.
- 8.1.4 Living Memorial Proposal: Suggestion to convert vacant lot at Concha and Marengo or Mount Curve into a native tree memorial and passive park to honor those lost and mitigate heat island effects.
- 8.2 4610 – Councilmember Moulden
 - 8.2.1 Flags Installed: Flags placed along Lincoln Avenue again in partnership with Supervisor Barger.
 - 8.2.2 ICE Activity: Reports of immigration enforcement have caused concern; Council reaffirmed support for all residents regardless of immigration status.
- 8.3 4611 – Councilmember Stewart-Gordon:
 - 8.3.1 Post Office Update: USPS plans to rebuild on original Lake Ave. site; discussions underway for a temporary postal unit. USPS was invited to attend the meeting.
 - 8.3.2 Funding Exclusion Concerns: Residents denied aid from Red Cross and Preservation Fund due to not being in burn zone. DINS report use criticized; it was not intended for eligibility determinations and has been misapplied by external agencies. Residents advised to report misuse to the Insurance Commissioner.
- 8.4 4603.02 – Councilmember Greene
 - 8.4.1 Red Cross Aid Advocacy: Council Member Green successfully helped two residents overturn funding denials by contacting Diana Pina Ramirez at Red Cross.
 - 8.4.2 Sycamores Youth Facility: Nearby residents expressed concern over safety, law enforcement response, and lack of community engagement. Council encouraged further dialogue with Acting Captain Marquez and continued monitoring of the situation.
- 8.5 4612 – Councilmember Reggie Wilkins
 - 8.5.1 Special Election Encouragement: Council encouraged civic participation and candidate applications for the open council seat. Noted that special elections provide a path to leadership without the need for immediate campaigning.