



Altadena Town Council

Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rwwue4y5yXM>

Start time – 7:04 pm, End time - 9:23pm

1. CALL TO ORDER – meeting called to order at 7:04pm – Victoria Knapp, Chair

1.1 Opening – Doug Cauliflower introduced Colonel Sonny Avichal to lead the Pledge of Allegiance

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, Diane Marcussen

1.2.2 There was 1 excused absence: 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 Thanked the Elliott community for attending the farewell to the Elliott Auditorium, now mostly demolished along with the 6th grade wing.

2.1.2 Held a six-month Eaton Fire commemoration on July 7 at 6:18 p.m. with tributes, song, poetry, and chalk art at Grocery Outlet.

2.1.2.1 Expressed gratitude to Jose and Sandra for hosting the commemoration.

2.1.3 Thanked Councilmember Vega for leading the Education Committee

2.1.4 Appointed Councilmember Molden as the new Education Committee Chair.

2.2 Vice Chair - Nic Arnzen

2.2.1 Announced successful advocacy efforts, led by Chair Knapp, Councilmember Gordon, and Arnzen, in collaboration with Rep. Judy Chu's office and County staffer Anders Corey, resulting in a temporary postal counter opening at Webster's (2333 N. Lake).

- 2.2.1.1 Grand opening scheduled for Wednesday, July 16 at 10:30 AM.
 - 2.2.2 Praised strong turnout of qualified applicants for the special election, despite ongoing recovery challenges.
 - 2.2.3 Encouraged community involvement in Council committees (e.g., Education, Communication, Legislation), with sign-up info available at altadenatowncouncil.org.
- 2.3 Recording Secretary, Approve June 17, 2025, Minutes - Kim Yu
 - 2.3.1.1 Minutes approved with minor corrections.
 - 2.3.1.2 Councilmember Carmody abstains
- 2.4 Treasurer - Milissa Marona
 - 2.4.1 Opening balance: \$3,084.00
 - 2.4.2 Paid \$280 for Google Office, and received \$35 from donations
 - 2.4.3 Closing balance is: \$2839.00
- 3 SUPERVISOR'S ADDRESS
 - 3.1.1 Led post-fire recovery efforts, including motions and coordination with agencies.
 - 3.1.2 Helped launch the Altadena Community Coalition for Recovery (CCAR) and the Altadena Recovery and Rebuild Corporation (ARC).
 - 3.1.3 Established the Altadena One-Stop Permit Center for rebuilding assistance.
 - 3.1.4 Introduced pre-approved building plans in partnership with Foothill Catalog.
 - 3.1.5 Championed permit deferrals and reduced financial burdens on homeowners.
 - 3.1.6 Announced launch of ArchiStar, an AI tool for automated code compliance plan checks.
 - 3.1.7 Introduced LA County Forward: a six-pillar recovery plan:
 - 3.1.7.1 Waiving permit fees.
 - 3.1.7.2 Accelerating permitting/inspections using AI tools.
 - 3.1.7.3 Expanding builder access and stabilizing material supply chains.
 - 3.1.7.4 Investing in infrastructure (e.g., undergrounding 150+ miles of utility lines).
 - 3.1.7.5 Mobilizing workforce partnerships for construction.
 - 3.1.7.6 Restoring community services like schools, parks, and childcare.

- 3.1.8 Clarified distinction between her proposal and Supervisor Horvath's Blue-Ribbon Commission:
- 3.1.9 Barger's focus is Altadena-specific, bottom-up, and does not include new taxes.
- 3.1.10 Supports legislation (e.g., SB 549 and SB 782) enabling creation of reconstruction entities and EIFDs (Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts), which redirect future property tax growth to fund local infrastructure without raising taxes.
- 3.1.11 Emphasized the need for:
 - 3.1.11.1 A dedicated reconstruction authority solely for Altadena.
 - 3.1.11.2 More plan checkers, inspection capacity, and real-time utility coordination.
 - 3.1.11.3 Centralized large-scale material and contractor staging.
- 3.1.12 Highlighted ARC's role in:
 - 3.1.12.1 Leveraging private, philanthropic, and government partnerships.
 - 3.1.12.2 Driving efficient, community-centered rebuilding.
- 3.1.13 Bridging gaps like securing the temporary postal counter at Webster's.
- 3.1.14 Reiterated commitment to Altadena's recovery as her top priority, grounded in transparency, urgency, and collaboration.

4 PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

4.1 Altadena Sheriff's Station - Acting-Captain Marquez

- 4.1.1.1 Crime Stats Update:
 - 4.1.1.1.1 Crime rates are down across all categories.
 - 4.1.1.1.2 Residential burglaries decreased to 10 in June (from a spike following the Eaton Fire).
 - 4.1.1.1.3 Continued proactive enforcement by deputies.
- 4.1.1.2 Regional Collaboration with neighboring law enforcement agencies – creating opportunities to get to know them better which will improve how the agencies and work together.
- 4.1.1.3 Upcoming Community Events:
 - 4.1.1.3.1 Town Hall: July 23 at Altadena Library (6 PM).
 - 4.1.1.3.2 National Night Out: August 2 at Loma Alta Park, held on a Saturday to include displaced residents.
 - 4.1.1.3.3 Deputies Read to Kids: New monthly program launched with Altadena Libraries to engage deputies with children and families.

- 4.1.1.3.4 Guac with a Cop: Held at El Patron restaurant; well-attended community engagement event.
- 4.1.1.3.5 Bus Pull Fundraiser: Rescheduled to August 23 — raising funds for the community.
- 4.1.1.3.6 "Mug Run": Planned for January 4, 2026 (just before fire anniversary) as a community fundraiser and wellness event.
- 4.1.1.4 Parking & Street Storage Enforcement:
 - 4.1.1.4.1 Residents reminded that storage containers on streets require permits from LA County; unpermitted containers will be removed.
 - 4.1.1.4.2 Abandoned vehicle enforcement: Vehicles left unmoved over 72 hours can be tagged and towed after warning.
- 4.1.1.5 Increased CHP Presence:
 - 4.1.1.5.1 CHP assisting with traffic enforcement, particularly targeting commercial truck safety (e.g., DOT inspections).
 - 4.1.1.5.2 Initiative arose from prior incidents during wildfire debris removal involving speeding and traffic violations by large trucks.
 - 4.1.1.5.3 CHP patrols also serve as a crime deterrent through visible traffic enforcement.

4.2 California Highway Patrol - Officer Keller

- 4.2.1 Traffic report unavailable due to dashboard system outage.
 - 4.2.1.1 CHP will provide statistics once system is restored.
- 4.2.2 Ongoing Enforcement in Altadena:
 - 4.2.2.1 Continued deployment of CHP officers and sergeant for traffic and commercial vehicle enforcement.
 - 4.2.2.2 MRE (Mobile Road Enforcement) trucks used for big rig inspections and traffic control.
 - 4.2.2.3 Focus on safety violations: speeding, seat belt use, and distracted driving.
- 4.2.3 One radar trailer currently deployed: Previously on Lincoln Ave, now on Ventura St (west of Lincoln) due to observed speeding.
 - 4.2.3.1 Second radar trailer planned for deployment on Altadena Drive.

- 4.2.4 Appreciation from the community (Census Tract 4610) for increased patrols on Figueroa.
- 4.2.5 Council extended condolences for fallen CHP officer.
- 4.2.6 Enforcement Concerns with Incoming Independent Contractors:
 - 4.2.6.1 Concern expressed over safety and traffic violations as Army Corps operations wind down.
 - 4.2.6.2 CHP reassured continued commercial enforcement presence during rebuild.
 - 4.2.6.3 Community urged to report issues or unsafe companies for targeted response.
- 4.3 L.A. County Fire - Maria Grycan, Asst. Fire Chief Pat Sprengel
 - 4.3.1 184 responses in the month of May: 8 truck collisions, 136 medical calls (113 patients transported), 1 vehicle fire on June 14 on Washington and Altadena Dr, 2 hazardous condition calls
 - 4.3.2 Safety tip of the month – Heat Safety:
 - 4.3.2.1 Stay hydrated and wear light, loose, light-colored clothing.
 - 4.3.2.2 Avoid outdoor strenuous activity during peak heat.
 - 4.3.2.3 Use sunscreen and rest in shaded areas.
 - 4.3.2.4 Exercise before noon or after dusk to prevent heat-related illnesses.

5 COMMUNITY REPORTS

- 5.1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Colonel Sonny Avichal
 - 5.1.1 Certificates of Recognition Presented:
 - 5.1.1.1 Prashant Khanna (ECC): For leadership and coordination in debris removal after the Eaton Fire.
 - 5.1.1.2 Colonel Sunny Avatar (Army Corps): For compassionate leadership and overseeing cleanup operations with professionalism and care.
 - 5.1.2 Debris Removal Program Updates:
 - 5.1.2.1 5,069 properties opted in; 530 opted out.
 - 5.1.2.2 98% of fire ash/debris removed (5,512 properties).
 - 5.1.2.3 97% of completed properties returned to the County (5,437).
 - 5.1.2.4 12 debris removal crews currently active in the Eaton fire footprint.
 - 5.1.3 Altadena Golf Course: All debris deliveries to site have stopped, equipment being demobilized; restoration phase beginning.
 - 5.1.4 Elliott Middle School Project:

- 5.1.5 More technical debris removal. Estimated timeline: ~3 months, completion expected mid-to-late September. Auditorium mostly taken down; work progressing on 6th grade wing.
- 5.1.6 Leadership Transition: Lt. Colonel David Weart (from Portland) introduced as Colonel Avatar's replacement.
 - 5.1.6.1 Col. Avatar to depart around August 8 for reassignment in Hawaii.
 - 5.1.6.2 Colonel Avatar's Closing Remarks: Expressed gratitude for partnerships with local, state, and federal entities, especially the Town Council.
 - 5.1.6.2.1 Praised the resilience and generosity of the Altadena community.
 - 5.1.6.2.2 Emphasized importance of continuing the mission with care until all properties are addressed.
- 5.1.7 ECC Representative Prashant Khanna:
 - 5.1.7.1 Echoed thanks to the community for their resilience and hospitality.
 - 5.1.7.2 Expressed pride in supporting the recovery and rebuilding process.
- 5.2 CCAR – Community Coalition for Altadena Recovery – Anish Suraiya
 - 5.2.1.1 Purpose of CCAR:
 - 5.2.1.1.1 Formed to coordinate feedback and communication across community organizations post-Eaton Fire.
 - 5.2.1.1.2 Serves as a unified platform for surfacing emerging recovery/rebuilding issues and disseminating accurate information.
 - 5.2.1.1.3 Helps shape and inform Supervisor Barger's decisions through broad community representation.
 - 5.2.1.2 Land Use Issues:
 - 5.2.1.2.1 Challenges with setback codes and garage placements during rebuilding.
 - 5.2.1.2.2 Ongoing triage of complicated code-related rebuild obstacles before escalating to Land Use Committee.
 - 5.2.1.2.3 Balancing urgency for recovery with due process.
 - 5.2.1.3 Community Standards District (CSD):
 - 5.2.1.3.1 Acknowledgement of historical preservation efforts.

5.2.1.3.2 CCAR helps ensure recovery aligns with CSD principles where possible.

5.2.1.4 Public Engagement & Feedback:

5.2.1.4.1 Emphasis on nontraditional channels like block captains to collect and relay input.

5.2.1.4.2 Need for rapid, transparent feedback loops to solve new issues in real time.

5.2.1.5 Permitting & Rebuild Hurdles:

5.2.1.5.1 Actively addressing complications in permitting and the ARC (Architectural Review Committee) process.

5.2.1.6 Continued goal: ensure Supervisor Barger's decisions reflect diverse, authentic community input.

5.3 Altadena Public Library – Nikki Winslow, Director

5.3.1 Bob Lucas Library reopens Sat, Aug 16 with a celebration (10 AM–1 PM); will be open 7 days/week.

5.3.1.1 Main Library: Reduced hours begin Aug 18; full renovation expected to start early 2026.

5.3.1.2 Loma Alta Park Library: Open Mon–Sat; closed for Bob Lucas reopening.

5.3.2 Budget & Tax:

5.3.2.1 FY25–26 budget approved.

5.3.2.2 Received \$3.6M in state funding (ABSB 102).

5.3.2.3 CFD Committee meets July 31 @ 5 PM to set new special tax rate.

5.3.3 Programs & Events:

5.3.3.1 Summer Reading ends Aug 16 (goal: 250K minutes).

5.3.3.2 Finale event: Aug 15 – Jumanji movie night, games, snacks.

5.3.3.3 Lunch at the Library: Through Aug 1, M–F.

5.3.3.4 Food giveaway: Aug 23.

5.3.3.5 Shred Day: This Friday, 8 AM–12 PM.

5.3.3.6 Children's Film Festival: Aug 30.

5.3.3.7 Storytimes + free book backpacks through Aug 23.

5.3.3.8 Ongoing yoga classes for all ages.

5.4 Friends of the Altadena Senior Center – Dale Lacasella

5.4.1 Senior programming is back! Activities are running across multiple sites:

5.4.1.1 Loma Alta Park (3 hrs/day), Jackie Robinson Center, Pasadena & Sierra Madre Senior Centers

- 5.4.2 Field trips resumed (e.g., Hollywood Bowl trip, courtesy of LA County).
- 5.4.3 Urgent need for space:
 - 5.4.3.1 Have funding & volunteers for renovations.
 - 5.4.3.2 Seeking an available building (warehouse, storefront, etc.) with parking.
 - 5.4.3.3 Contact Dale with leads.
- 5.4.4 Highlights:
 - 5.4.4.1 Lost lunch program & full-day activities due to space constraints.
 - 5.4.4.2 Morro Bay senior center raised \$6,500 for Altadena seniors!
 - 5.4.4.3 More upcoming trips: Grammy Museum, Aquarium, Griffith Observatory.

6 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONAS

6.1 Cal Fire – Chief Daniel Berlant, State Fire Marshal

- 6.1.1 Provided a short lecture on defensible space and home hardening
- 6.1.2 Chair Knapp expressed that this could be a useful separate presentation on its own

6.2 SGV Mosquito and Vector Control - Anais Medina Diaz, Dir. of Communications

- 6.2.1 1,400+ pools monitored after Eaton Fire; most now restored or emptied.
- 6.2.2 Treated all accessible pools with 90-day larvicide; second round in progress.
- 6.2.3 **No disease detected**; mosquito levels slightly above 4-year average.
- 6.2.4 Use repellent with **DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535.**

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Education Committee – Isis Moulden

7.1.1 Election Committee – Isis Moulden, Chair

- 7.1.1.1 Special election held for census tract 4612
- 7.1.1.2 Candidate were given the opportunity to read their candidate statements
- 7.1.1.3 Councilmembers voted through anonymous Google form
- 7.1.1.4 Candidate that won special election was Justin Marahmas who was sworn in by then Acting Captain Marquez

7.1.2 Land Use Committee – Diane Marcussen, Chair

- 7.1.2.1 Rebuild of McDonald's at Washington & Altadena Dr.
 - 7.1.2.1.1 Project includes expansion of the drive-thru and added square footage.

7.1.2.1.2 Final presentation scheduled for August 5th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Public is welcome to attend.

7.1.3 Legislative Committee – Milissa Marona

7.1.3.1 SB 256 – Wildfire Mitigation & Emergency Operations:

7.1.3.1.1 Strengthens coordination between utilities and emergency services (OES).

7.1.3.1.2 Enhances wildfire mitigation planning and prioritizes infrastructure improvements.

7.1.3.1.3 Focuses on removal of abandoned transmission lines that pose fire risk.

7.1.3.1.4 Has been amended several times—details available via CA Legislature website.

7.1.3.2 AB 797 – Community Stabilization Act:

7.1.3.2.1 Prevents predatory investors from acquiring fire-damaged homes.

7.1.3.2.2 Protects homeowner equity and helps stabilize local property values.

7.1.3.2.3 Creates a new investment tool through the Governor’s Office of Business & Economic Development.

7.1.3.3 SB 782 – Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs):

7.1.3.3.1 Supports local economic development through infrastructure financing mechanisms.

7.1.3.3.2 Highlighted by Supervisor Barger as important to Altadena’s recovery.

7.2 By-Laws - Connor Cipolla, Chair

7.2.1 First meeting scheduled for August 4 at 6pm.

7.2.2 Nic Arnzen asked to join the committee

7.3 Communication - Nic Arnzen, Chair

7.3.1 Exploring improved outreach strategies.

7.3.2 A local PR/social impact firm has offered pro bono communication support. The firm will help launch The DENA Report to deliver weekly/monthly updates to the community.

7.3.2.1 Proposal will be reviewed by the full council next month.

7.4 Altadena Eaton Fire Recovery Fund Advisory Committee - Milissa Marona, Co-Chair

7.4.1 Application window: June 26 – July 6.

- 7.4.2 Over 3,000 applications received, showing significant ongoing need.
- 7.4.3 First phase of grants is being processed; GoFundMe conducting due diligence before disbursement. Notifications for those not selected in Round 1 will go out soon.
- 7.4.4 Additional donations needed to continue distribution — visit eatonfirefund.com.
- 7.4.5 Emphasis that this fund directly supports individual fire survivors, unlike broader nonprofit recovery grants.
- 7.4.6 A donation campaign is planned to raise further support.
- 7.5 Renters Protection and Recovery committee – Darlene Greene, Chair
 - 7.5.1 Affordable Housing: 25 applicants from the community were accepted into the 48-unit complex at 170 N. Halstead in Pasadena.
 - 7.5.2 Applicants should respond to emails from: processing@cpaffordable.com to stay in the application pool.
 - 7.5.3 First in-person renter resource clinic planned for August — date to be posted on the website.
 - 7.5.4 Recognition of community advocacy for renters, particularly letters from a resident named Ellie.
 - 7.5.5 At a recent Eaton Fire Collaborative meeting, funders expressed interest in specifically supporting renters, acknowledging they have been underserved in recovery efforts.

8 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- 8.1 Mark Mariscal – rotary club inviting 7/26 summer concert wearing different Altadena shirts and hats – starts at 6:40pm before the start of the concert
- 8.2 Patricia B – issues with lack of property line markers – have a survey but worried about the property lines – is the county going to replace the ground markers?
- 8.3 Leann Oh at 3184 Olive Ave – questions over property lines over rebuilds encroachments on lines – are markers going to be installed to help alleviate issues with property lines
- 8.4 Shawnetta Gomez – Maxwell, 13-year-old resident – a big soccer player and plays soccer at Charles white park – loved the park and was so excited when it was finished – could permanent soccer goals be installed at Charles white park. When will it be open again?
- 8.5 Erica Warnock – status of repair of the bridge.

9 CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

- 9.1 4610 – Councilmember Moulden
 - 9.1.1 Charles White Park - Meet the Artist Event: Monday, July 28
Loma Alta Park, 5:00–7:00 PM
 - 9.1.2 Hosted by LA County Parks & Rec and Arts & Culture departments.

9.1.3 Residents can:

9.1.3.1 Meet artist Wesley Clark

9.1.3.2 Learn about upcoming sculptures at Charles White Park

9.1.3.3 Participate in a hands-on clay sculpting workshop

9.1.3.4 Free event — RSVP to: civicart@arts.lacounty.gov

9.2 4611

9.2.1 Will talk to Cal Fire separately regarding DINS report

10 ADJOURN – 9:23pm