



Altadena Town Council

Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2025

Start time – 7:00 pm, End time - 9:23pm

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

1.1 Opening – Jennifer Hall Lee introduced Scouting America Troop 1 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Roll Call - Kim Yu, Recording Secretary

1.2.1 The following Councilmembers were present: Connor Cipolla, Victoria Knapp, Nic Arnzen, Milissa Marona, Dorothy Wong, Darlene Greene, Isis Moulden, Pat Sutherlen, Reggie Wilkins, Kim Yu, Diane Marcussen, Japhena Musson, Jon Carmody

1.2.2 There were three excused absences: Sylvia Vega, Justin Marahmas, Vi-Yvette Stewart Gordon

1.3 Approve August 19, 2025, Meeting Agenda - Nic Arnzen, Vice Chair

1.3.1 Meeting agenda was approved with the following changes: 3.3 – to include Chief Sprengel, 3.2 – Officer Bay instead of Keller and item 5 – to also include Gail Morrison and Cindy Chen from Public. Health, strike item 6.1.1 – motion – Arnzen, second – Cippola, all approved

2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

2.1 Chair - Victoria Knapp

2.1.1 Reflection on resiliency

2.2 Vice Chair - Nic Arnzen

2.2.1 Gratitude to FEMA/USACE/LACoDPW for their work on clearing the town and encouraged the community to do this together.

2.3 Recording Secretary, Approve July 2025 meeting minutes - Kim Yu

2.3.1.1 Minutes approved with no corrections.

2.4 Treasurer - Milissa Marona

2.4.1 Opening balance: \$2,839.00

2.4.2 Deposits: fire aid relief money - \$5000, Election Fee Donation - \$35.
Expenses: Google Office - \$140, Flyers for builder's fair - \$124.64.

2.4.3 Closing balance is: \$7609.51.

2.5 Corresponding Secretary – Connor Cippola

- 2.5.1 Council will draft and seek public input on letters regarding the Governor's proposed redistricting and Senator Perez's SB782 bill on land sale notifications in fire-impacted areas, with results to be shared at the next meeting.

3 PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

3.1 Altadena Sheriff's Station - Captain Ethan Marquez

- 3.1.1.1 Crime Stats Update:
- 3.1.1.2 Crime is on a downward trend, last month residential burglaries were at 10, this report is at 8 for month of July, increase in vehicle break ins.
 - 3.1.1.2.1 Do not leave things in your car.
- 3.1.1.3 Talked about fencing opportunities and letter of agency. Team Rubicon's Noel Middleton also joined the captain to talk about the fencing work. 135 homes fenced, 147 remaining, 170 requests currently being reviewed Parking & Street Storage Enforcement:
- 3.1.1.4 Residents are reminded that storage containers on streets require permits from LA County; unpermitted containers will be removed.
- 3.1.1.5 Abandoned vehicle enforcement: Vehicles left unmoved over 72 hours can be tagged and towed after warning.

3.2 California Highway Patrol - Officer Bay

- 3.2.1 .8 crashes in July.
- 3.2.2 I gave out one hundred helmets at the Rose Bowl event.
- 3.2.3 Law is under eighteen, and must wear a helmet while on a bike, scooter etc.
- 3.2.4 Ongoing Enforcement in Altadena:

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

- 3.3.1 189 incidents – no fires. Safety tip of the month regarding Lithium-Ion batteries/rechargeable devices – use the cords that the device came with for charging, do not leave charging overnight, do not put it under your pillow while charging, unplug the device when the charge is complete.
- 3.3.2 AC Sprengel – upcoming red flag event. Intense heat waves coming so practice heat safety. Also, get to know your Ready.Set.Go stages for safe monitoring and evacuation.

- 3.3.3 DC Duvally - streamlines process for flow test approval process. Fire has been working with local water companies to take the applicant completely out of the process. Waiting for all five to complete but currently Lincoln Ave water has an agreement with Fire. Those who have already paid the fee to the water companies unfortunately will not get reimbursed as they are not the Fire Departments fees to waive. Installing your own extra hydrant is highly desirable by Fire but also an expensive process for the homeowner.

4 COMMUNITY REPORTS

4.1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Lt. Colonel Weart

- 4.1.1 Took over the mission in mid-June. More than 5600 homes cleared, commercial property debris removal is underway.
- 4.1.2 Three remaining major projects: Eliot, Forest Service cabins, Altadena Golf Course

4.2 CCAR – Community Coalition for Altadena Recovery – Anish Suraiya, Chief of Altadena Recovery

- 4.2.1 Coalition for Altadena Recovery (CCAR) was formed, bringing together long-established local groups to provide rapid feedback to the supervisor on land use, zoning, and rebuilding challenges.
 - 4.2.1.1 Urgency Ordinance in progress: County Counsel and Regional Planning are preparing measures to allow greater flexibility for “like-for-like” rebuilds, addressing zoning and setback issues that could delay reconstruction.
 - 4.2.1.2 Business Support: CCAR held a small business roundtable to hear directly from owners about pre- and post-fire challenges. The goal is to ensure small businesses get resources, outreach, and ongoing support alongside residential recovery.
 - 4.2.1.3 Urgency Ordinance in progress: County Counsel and Regional Planning are preparing measures to allow greater flexibility for “like-for-like” rebuilds, addressing zoning and setback issues that could delay reconstruction.
 - 4.2.1.4 Community Infrastructure: Efforts also include restoring parks (Loma Alta, Charles White, Farnsworth) and ensuring commercial services return so the community feels whole again.
 - 4.2.1.5 Vacant Business Space: The Department of Economic Opportunity has a new platform to connect available

commercial spaces with businesses seeking locations,
which will be shared with local business groups.

4.3 Altadena Rotary Club – Mark Mariscal

- 4.3.1 Encouraged folks to read the Sparks newsletter to keep abreast of what Rotary is doing. \$300K in grants to the community so far.
October 4 – next pancake breakfast, January 4, 2026, will collaborate with sheriffs to put together 5k/10K run, January 7 – 1 year mark – will have a big gathering – stay tuned.

4.4 Altadena Public Library – Nikki Winslow, Director

- 4.4.1 Update on library hours reflected on the Bob Lucas library re-opening and announced the Bob Lucas mural project.
- 4.4.2 Main library construction – CUP permit for project in progress, hoping for a January CUP hearing.
- 4.4.3 Both poets Laureate of the library honored as 2025 fellows by American Academy of Poets
- 4.4.4 LA International Children’s Film Festival

4.5 LA County Parks and Rec – Guillermo Portillo

- 4.5.1 8/28 – Concert at 7-9pm
- 4.5.2 Community meeting on 9/18 at 7-8pm for community members to voice their wants for the parks.
- 4.5.3 LA Opera watch party 9/27 from 5:30-10pm – West Side Story

5 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Sidewalk vending – Analu Fernandini from DEO along with Gail and Cindy from Public Health

- 5.1.1 Talked about the ordinance and some basic requirements and how their process works.
- 5.1.2 Shared that in August of 2024 – they received a total of 18 complaints. Of those, 11 are closed and 7 are still active.
- 5.1.3 Chair Knapp made it clear that the major ones in town that we are all aware of are illegal – no doubt. In which case they need to be gone – however it needs to be done they need to be gone.
- 5.1.4 Public health admitted their enforcement is tied and they do not have enough authority to make an impact on this and agreed that confiscation of equipment would really help enforcement efforts.
- 5.1.5 888-700-9995 is the complaint hotline. The more complaints the better

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1.1 Land Use Committee – Diane Marcussen, Chair

- 6.1.1.1 No update.
- 6.1.2 Election – Isis Moulden, Chair
 - 6.1.2.1 Election rules will be presented at the September meeting. Applications due 10/17, 10/21 presentation by candidates at ATC meeting, voting will happen on 11/1 and 11/4 to be sworn in on November mtg.
 - 6.1.2.2 A vote was taken and next steps were discussed.
- 6.1.3 Legislative – Milissa Marona
 - 6.1.3.1 Please attend the next ACONAS meeting on 8/26 for full brief
- 6.1.4 Renters Protection – Darlene Greene, Chair
 - 6.1.4.1 Urged folks to apply for housing at Rose Town apartment setting extremely low rent for fire survivors starting at \$700 a month.
- 6.1.5 Communication – Nic Arnzen
 - 6.1.5.1 Working with Altagether.org as the most effective way to get information out currently
- 6.1.6 50th anniversary – Victoria Knapp, Chair
 - 6.1.6.1 Save the date for 10/11/2025.
- 6.1.7 Education – Isis Moulden
 - 6.1.7.1 School is back for PUSD. Chair Moulden encouraged neighbors to join the local PTA.
- 6.1.8 AEFRR – Milissa Marona
 - 6.1.8.1 Dispersed 350 grants – total of \$290K. grants were in the range of \$500-\$1000.
 - 6.1.8.2 Applicants who did not receive them should have gotten an email. Hoping to get a second round of grants out depending on if more donations are coming for the fund.

7 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- 7.1 Peggy Taylor – with Friends of Altadena Senior Center asking the community for any recommendations for a space that they can use for extra programming, hard to find because the facility needs to be ADA compliant. Also asking the County to clear the lot – the center used to have a gardener who took care of the property and now it needs to be maintained badly – the roof of the remaining structure is rotting.
- 7.2 Ron Carter – expressed the need for a Chief Recovery Officer for Altadena's rebuild.

7.3 Heidi Adams – promoting “Regrow Altadena” event held at Eagle’s Lodge on 9/13 and 9/14

7.4 Benji – Inviting Community members to “Altadena Dreams” on 8/31 between 12-2pm to meet and create art together. Free food, drinks, dessert

7.5 Dr. Diane Lewis – expressed need for Chief Recovery Officer

8 CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

8.1 4602 – Nic Arnzen

8.1.1 Mariposa Junction area – McGintees Gallery is selling some art on 8/22, 8/23, 8/24. Also, Bernee is back but under a new name Betsy.

8.2 CT4603.01 – Marona and Wong

8.2.1 Lincoln bridge – utilities are moving lines under the bridge work will begin next week on the bridge. LA County updating Oak Tree ordinance – will have more meetings to give input. Lincoln Ave meeting on Friday at 10am

8.3 CT4610 – Moulden

8.3.1 Charles White Park – people are entering the park after hours which is supposed to be fenced off and secured. Opening was found on the south side of the park. If you see anyone in there after hours, please call Parks and Recs or Councilmember Isis Moulden.

8.4 CT4622 – Sutherlen

8.4.1 Grand Reopening of Altadena Pet Hospital on 9/6 between 10-1pm.

9 Additional Comment

9.1 Chair Knapp provided additional clarification to two of the public comments stating that there is a “Chief Recovery Officer” and that person is Anish Suraiya -

10 ADJOURN – 9:23pm