



# Altadena Town Council

## ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL Meeting Minutes February 16, 2021

7:00 p.m.  
(Virtual)

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM

1.1 Introduction \_\_\_\_\_ Billy Malone

1.2 Roll Call \_\_\_\_\_ Nick Santangelo

Council member Santangelo called roll. The following council members were present: Dorothy Wong, Billy Malone, Victoria Knapp, Diane Marcussen, Veronica Jones, Dr. Sandra Thomas, Sylvia Vega, Reginald Wilkins, Nick Santangelo, Doug Colliflower, Alan Peck, Darrell Aranda, Chris O'Malley, Hannah Petrie, Nic Arnzen, Amy Lyford. There were 16 members present.

1.3 Approve February 16, 2021 Agenda \_\_\_\_\_ Veronica Jones

The motion to correct the dates in Sections 1.3 and 2.3.1 of the Agenda were made by Council member Jones, and seconded by Council member Aranda. The agenda for the February 16, 2021 meeting was then voted on and was approved unanimously.

2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

2.1 Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Billy Malone

Council member Malone announced that public comments would be timed by Council member O'Malley, as the Agenda is full.

2.2 Vice Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Veronica Jones

Council member Jones mentioned Black History Month. She brought attention to Council member Dr. Sandra Thomas, who was instrumental in the communications industry. In particular, she was involved in the creation of the toll-free, 800# telephone system. Member Jones, along with the entire Council praised Dr. Thomas for her efforts.

2.3 Recording Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Nick Santangelo

2.3.1. Approve January 19, 2021 meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by member Aranda, and seconded by member Jones to approve the minutes of January 19, 2021. The minutes were approved unanimously, and will be available on the web-site.

2.4 Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Diane Marcussen

Council member Marcussen stated that we have \$2,256.99 in the account. No checks were written this month.

2.5 Corresponding Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Dorothy Wong

Corresponding Secretary Wong updated us on Covid-related decisions. March 23 ACONA meeting will deal with group homes in Altadena, and trail access and crowding, as well as wildlife barriers in Altadena (California Fish and Wildlife). There is also a 'Walking For Peace' event, sponsored by the Rodney King Foundation and My Tribe Rise, February 20. Upcoming events to be included on the website may be addressed to Council member Wong. Altadena Community events can be view on the web-site: [altadenatowncouncil.org](http://altadenatowncouncil.org)

### 3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

#### 3.1 California Highway Patrol \_\_\_\_\_ Ofc. Cooper

Sheriff's Office is now open from 8-5 for walk-ins. Masks and social distancing rules still apply. Two County trailers are operational to track speed issues, and help with enforcement. Council member Wong asked about collision stats, but those figures were not available at that time.

#### 3.2 Altadena Sheriff's Station \_\_\_\_\_ Cpt. Jacobs

Current gang issues were discussed at a January 26 ACONA meeting, attended by Cpt. Jacobs. A representative from State Senator Portantino's office was also in attendance. Cpt. Jacobs said the meeting went well, and may be viewed on the ACONA website. She also reported on Loma Alta Park, and how its use as a shelter has come to an end. General crime is down for January (20% drop). However, there was a homicide on January 10 (2400 block of Lincoln Avenue). There were three strong-armed robberies. Cpt. Jacobs reiterated meeting at the Sheriff Station when conducting a transaction, especially where high-value items such as cell phones are involved. Gang violence has increased in Pasadena and Monrovia, particularly over the last weekend where there where six shootings in three days. Of note was the Pasadena shooting of a ten-year old, who was shot with a rifle. He will possibly lose an arm. There were two shootings in Monrovia. incidents have since tapered off. The catalytic converter thefts continue. She met with Pasadena PD and said that the gangs are very active right now.

Member Marcussen confirmed that Loma Alta has been taken off the 211 system. Member Wilkins asked about the primary source of income for gang members. Cpt. Jacobs replied that was anyone's guess, but that Covid was a definite factor in gangs increased activity. Member Wong mentioned gunshots near Loma Alta Drive, addressing resident concerns. She asked about motion-sensing lighting at the park. Cpt. Jacobs noted increased graffiti activity and property damage in the area, as well as gang shootings. She recommended the lights at the park shut off sooner than 10pm.

Member Marcussen asked Savannah Moore to look into the issue. Member Thomas clarified that the Peace Walk mentioned by Member Wong is leaving from Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Chairman Malone introduced Council member Knapp, who spoke of a screening of the documentary "Pasadena Exploring Solutions for Gang Violence", February 21.

#### 3.3 Altadena Fire \_\_\_\_\_ Maria Grycan

In January there was a total of 361 responses in Altadena, 286 of which were medical calls, with 208 patients transported. There were 6 fires, 9 traffic collisions. Member Wong inquired about how the Chaney Trail Fire started. The cause, as far as can be determined at this time, was fireworks. Any updates will be forwarded to the Council.

### 4.1 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

#### 4.1 Stone Yard Landscaping \_\_\_\_\_ Moogega Cooper, Ph. D

(resident)

Dr. Cooper talked of various issues involving the business at 525 West Woodbury, and the effect on the adjacent school and neighborhood.

Chairman Malone clarified that comments and concerns can be addressed to Savannah Moore with the County. Council member Jones lauded Savannah Moore for her attention to the matter, and called for zoning issues to be addressed for her census tract. Member Arnzen voiced solidarity with CT 4610 by proposing a letter that calls the County to act. Council member Peck clarified that County has failed to address these longstanding issues. He also asked if a resolution from the Town Council to the County was possible.

- 4.2 NASA/JPL Groundwater Cleanup “Year in Review” \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Slaten  
NASA Environmental Manager

Member Wong asked about the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project and the taking of water into spreading basins. The reply that the two projects are not related. Member Lyford asked about health impacts. Steve Slaten replied that the community is not exposed to any of these chemicals, being that they are hundreds of feet below ground.

- 4.3 Eaton Canyon Update/Parks \_\_\_\_\_ Sean Woods/Sam Estrada  
LA County Parks

Chairman Malone mentioned that public comments received relating to this topic have been forwarded in advance to the presenters, and will not be read tonight. They may be read at a later meeting.

Sam Estrada updated the Council on pickle ball courts and classes at Farnsworth Park. There will be a March 3 Zoom meeting, dealing with proposed operational changes at Eaton Canyon. Questions regarding Henninger Flats, Pinecrest Trail, Eaton Canyon, and related issues will be discussed at that time.

## 5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 5.1 Recording Secretary Santangelo read into the record public comments from the following:

Vickie Thompson re: Leaf Blowers  
Adrian Rabbani re: Leaf Blowers  
Rosa Hernandez re: Water LA Retrofit Program  
Elizabeth Merfeld re: LA River Project  
John Lynch re: Wild Rose Canyon  
Tracey Alsobrook re: La Vina East Trail  
Shari Asplund re: La Vina Trails  
Michiko Lynch re: ‘Welcome Letter to Our New & Old Neighbors’  
Mario Leal re: Stone Yard Landscaping  
Angelita Martinez re: Stone Yard Landscaping

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1 Altadena Library \_\_\_\_\_ Nikki Winslow, Director

Curbside service returns to the library on March 1, with the ability to place holds on library materials will beginning next week. Black History Month at the library included an interview with Author Lynell George, and her work on local author Octavia Butler. The interview took place on February 8 and is available to view. A mobile library vehicle has

been purchased, and will be the third library on wheels. The proceeds from the 'Taste of Dena' event contributed the purchase. Community Conversations are scheduled to discuss upcoming renovations to the libraries, Covid concerns, and other community issues. More information may be found at [www.altadenalibrary.org/community-conversations](http://www.altadenalibrary.org/community-conversations). Friends of the Altadena Library are donating books and materials to the 'Little Free Libraries' throughout the community. Board of Trustees meetings are on the fourth Monday of the month at 5pm.

Chairman Malone asked about Friends of the Altadena Library and the next book sale. Member Knapp asked if new books are still being acquired during the closure. The answer was yes, there are new items. Member Peck asked about book donations.

6.2 Altadena Chamber of Commerce \_\_\_\_\_ Doug Colliflower

The Chamber is hosting a virtual mixer for Women's History month (March). The event is entitled 'Women Making a Difference', and honors Altadena Women-owned businesses. March 13 is the date.

7. Land Use Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Diane Marcussen

7.1.1 82 West Palm Street - Project number 2017-005913-(5). Request to divide a single-family lot into two lots.

Project presented by members Wong and Petrie. There were two written comments: one from Elizabeth and Josh Sepple, another from Eliot Gold. Both comments were supportive of the project, as were others approached by the Council members.

A motion to approve was made by member Marcussen, seconded by member Alan Peck to forward the project to planning without conditions. There were no additional public comments in addition to the two read by the Council members.

A vote was taken by Chairman Malone and passed unanimously.

7.1.2 2757 Winrock - minor CUP RPPL 202000564. Request for variance.

Project presented by members Knapp and Lyford. Letters of support were received from all immediately adjacent neighbors, including Peter Doms (2760 Winrock), Leland and Teressa Sheppard (2773 Winrock), Doug Philbin and Glen Kochanski (2753 Winrock). No negative comments were received.

A motion was made by member Knapp to approve this CUP without conditions. Motion seconded by member Aranda. A vote was taken by Chairman Malone and passed unanimously.

7.1.3 408 W. Calaveras Street - minor CUPPJF2020-001673(-5). Side yard setback.

Project presented by member O'Malley. Neighbors Florentino, Gloria and Pat Correa voiced their support for the project. A motion was made by member O'Malley to approve this CUP without conditions. Motion seconded by member Aranda. A vote was taken by Chairman Malone and passed unanimously.

7.2 Election Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Veronica Jones

A motion was made by member Jones to move the Altadena Town Council election from June to November to coincide with Local and National elections. This will take place on

the first Tuesday of November, and the following Saturday. The Bylaws and the election rules will be amended to reflect the change. Motion to approve was seconded by member Thomas. A vote was taken by Chairman Malone and passed unanimously.

7.3 Safe Streets \_\_\_\_\_ Dorothy Wong

On January 28, Vision Zero hosted a virtual community meeting. Altadena has received two hundred (200) 'Slow Street' signs, the most of any unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The signs have been moved to reduce damage to the signs. Loma Alta public sidewalk continues to move toward implementation. The idea is to provide safer space during Covid. A new stop sign was installed at Mariposa and Santa Anita. On February 25, a 'Safe Streets' Zoom meeting will be convened at 7pm.

8. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

8.1 Census Tract 4602:

Farnsworth Playground Replacement project meets again on March 4 and 6. Contact members Malone or Arnzen for more information. Chairman Malone mentioned new trees planted along Altadena Drive, near Santa Anita were a direct result of County response to community concerns regarding that stretch of road.

Census Tract 4603.01

Member Wong referenced Chaney Trail Road stop signs approved by the LA County Board of Supervisors. Installation will commence within weeks. La Vina Connector Trail work is being done in phases, with the first starting in January. Completion is expected in two months. Member Wong detailed the 'Pop-up Sidewalk' demonstration project.

Census Tract 4610

Member Aranda spoke of the cooperation with the Altadena Library regarding a virtual Census Tract 4610 Meeting for February 28 at 3pm. CT 4610 has contacted The Arts Council has been engaged in an effort to honor Charles White at the park that bears his name. Covid testing will commence at the Seven Day Adventist Church. Jackson Elementary has opted to change its name of its school, with further information following.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Chairman Malone, seconded by Council member Aranda to adjourn meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m. The entire meeting is available for viewing on YouTube.

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Nick Santangelo, Recording Secretary