



Altadena Town Council

ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 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 January 19, 2021 Agenda _____ Veronica Jones

The agenda for the January 19, 2021 meeting was voted on and was approved unanimously.

2. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- 2.1 Chairman _____ Billy Malone
 2.2 Vice Chairman _____ Veronica Jones
 2.3 Recording Secretary _____ Nick Santangelo

2.3.1. Approve December 15, 2020 meeting Minutes,

A motion was made by Veronica Jones, and seconded by Chris O'Malley to approve the minutes of December 15, 2020. The minutes will be available on the web-site.

- 2.4 Treasurer _____ Diane Marcussen

Council member Marcussen did not have the Treasurer's Report, but noted that a check was paid Council member Jones for expanding Zoom. Otherwise, the amount from December 15, 2020 report remains unchanged. The account is balanced and in good standing. He report will be sent out to Council and be available at the February 16th meeting.

2.5 Corresponding Secretary _____ Dorothy Wong

Corresponding Secretary Wong referred those wishing to be informed on Covid-related matters to the ATC website. She also made mention of tree-trimming activity, the upcoming ACONA meeting (January 26), the Altadena/Pasadena Community Meeting on Racial Justice. 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

3. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

3.1 California Highway Patrol

There was no report from the CHP as they were busy with pre-Inauguration activities.

3.2 Altadena Sheriff's Station _____ Lt. Mark Skaggs

General crime down for December (20% drop). However, aggravated assaults have risen, shootings in particular. These incidents have since tapered off. The catalytic converter thefts from Toyota Prius's continue unabated. An arrest in early December found a thief with nine (9) converters in his possession. Council member O'Malley asked about gunshots in his area, and Lt. Skaggs said there were spent casings found near Calaveras and Live Oak. Council member Peck asked about an officer-related shooting, which Lt. Skaggs described as taking place at All-Star Liquor. There, a deputy was responding to a stabbing, then found himself involved in a shooting on site. The investigation is ongoing. Council member Wong asked about how the Sheriff's Station responds to issues on trails where partying or illegal activity takes place. Lt. Skaggs responded that 'targeted patrols' are difficult due to funding issues, but that 'drive-by' checks may be possible.

3.3 Altadena Fire _____ Maria Grycan

In November there was a total of 318 responses in Altadena, 230 of which were medical, with 184 patients transported. There were 5 fires, 13 traffic collisions. In December there 417 responses, 324 medical, with 227 patients transported. There were 7 fires. Council member Wong inquired about how to prepare for high winds. It was recommended that specially treated vents be installed so that embers cannot enter your home. A 'Go Bag' at the ready, change of clothes, etc were also suggested for emergency preparedness. Council member Jones asked about what triggers help from the Red Cross. She was told that residents first need to

request aid in order to receive it. Fire provides a \$250 certificate to help displaced families with hotels, groceries, or whatever meet their immediate needs. Deb Halberstadt commented that the community contributed approximately \$10,000 to a 'Go Fund Me' that benefitted a family after their home caught on fire.

3.4 CERT _____ Deb Halberstadt

She recommended visiting the Los Angeles County website in order to sign up for COVID-19 vaccinations. Ham radios were discussed as being ideal for emergency uses, such as communicating during an emergency. For those living close to the foothills, air horns were mentioned as well. As a courtesy to new members, Council member Jones confirmed that **CERT** stands for: Community, Emergency, Response, Team. Council member Malone requested upcoming CERT events be passed along to Council member Wong for website inclusion.

4.1 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Leaf Blowers _____ Joy Walters

Joy Walters spoke on behalf of a moratorium on gas leaf blowers.

Council member Lyford asked if gas-powered lawn mowers were part of the moratorium request, and stated concerns about the impact to those landscapers who use gas leaf blowers. Ms. Walters replied that non-profits can help in offering grants to local landscapers to minimize impacts and lower costs. She also discussed lawn-sweepers as an alternative to raking and sweeping. Council member Malone mentioned how a two-stroke engine ban may be in the offing. Council member Peck stated his support for a fund that would enable gas to electric usage. He cited valid points for both points of view. He mentioned decibel and pollution level limits, two or four stroke engines notwithstanding. Ms. Walters responded that ordinances are being looked at to address the issue.

4.1.1 Public Comment _____ Nick Santangelo

Comments regarding the issue of Leaf Blowers were received and read from the following:

Warren Skidmore, Michele Zack, Harold (Jamie) Bissner, Mark Goldenschmidt, Steven S. Lamb, Catherine and Tim Cadogan, Leigh Adams, Steven M. Durham, Anne Chomyn, Ed Meyers, Joy Walters.

NOTE: Two letters received were not read at the meeting. One, from Vickie Thompson was overlooked, and a second, from Adrian

Rabbani arrived the day after the meeting. These comments will be read at the February 16, 2021 meeting. Council member Malone thanked Joy Walters for her presentation, and encouraged the community to contact their Council member if they wish to add to discussion.

4.2 Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project Update _Fahim Rahimi/Mark Gim of PW

4.2.1 Council member Aranda introduced the presenters. To date, a total of 980,000 cubic yards of sediment material have been removed from the Reservoir. Completion of contract work is scheduled for the Fall of 2022. Habitat restoration continues year-round. This includes new planting, as well as weed abatement. The emphasis is on native plants. Johnson Field work included vegetation removal, grading, and site preparation for renovation. A slideshow detailed the work done so far. Recreation trails are open to the public. There are concerns about trash being dumped on site, as well as trespassers on site. Mark Gim suggested contacting Pasadena Police if any illicit active occurs, or Park Maintenance at (626) 744-4321.

For more information: devilsgateproject.com

Council member Wong thanked them for their efforts, and asked where more information may be found. She asked for specific plants used for Johnson Field, and was directed to the website above where all plants used at the Devil's Gate project may be viewed.

5. ALTADENA COMMUNITY REPORTS

5.1 Altadena Library _____ Nikki Winslow, Director

Ms. Winslow asked the community not to hesitate engaging with the Library, even though curbside and facility access is closed. There are many virtual programs available via AltadenaLibrary.org/programs. Capital Improvement projects and being developed, and community involvement is welcomed. Staff continues to be available for reference and live chat, Monday through Saturday, from 10am to 6pm.

5.2 Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation _____ Sam Estrada

Sam Estrada said 247 toys were given out to the community. Farnsworth Park work continue at the Davies Building, upper and lower parking lots, pathways, batting cages. Work is targeted to be complete in March, 2021.

Council member Jones mentioned that Charles White park was filled with soccer players last Sunday. The Sheriff was informed as there may be alcohol, as well as those not wearing masks at the park

5.3 Altadena Chamber of Commerce _____ Doug Colliflower

The Board has postponed the awards dinner for February 5. There were four (4) new Board Members who were to be installed. They are:

Melanie Caldwell-Holden (Blue Print Real Estate)
Barbara Richardson King (Hyte Realty)
Maricela Viramontes (Farmer's Insurance)
Vincent Barrios (Code Ninjas)

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Land Use Committee _____ Diane Marcussen

As a result of community concerns regarding LED lighting, the Council produced a letter addressed to Supervisor Barger, requesting a pause to the LED Streetlight Lighting project. Council member Marcussen read the letter, requesting new amber-coated LED lamps with diffused diodes be considered as a replacement.

A motion was made to send the letter to Supervisor Barger, requesting confirmation that a pause in this project be approved, and that meaningful input from the community be submitted in future. The motion was made by Council member Marcussen, seconded by Council member Knapp. Motion passed, with Council members Aranda and Arnzen abstaining.

6.1.2 Review of McDonald's addition _____ Veronica Jones

Project CUP RPPL2020007102, adding a third pick-up window to McDonalds drive thru at 2157 Lincoln. The project was presented at November and December Land Use Committee (LUC) Meetings. LUC voted to move the project forward to the Altadena Town Council with recommendations (which have been added to the project). Council member Peck asked for clarification on traffic flow within the McDonalds parking lot. Council member Marcussen pointed out that directional signs are included in the new recommendations made at the last LUC meeting.

Carlos Madrigal (construction contractor) said that 'one-way' circulation around the building will impact delivery trucks. The only portion that can be considered a 'two-way' route is the parking on

the drive-thru side, where cars can leave and turn onto Lincoln. Cars that park on the Lincoln side go around the building in a counter-clockwise motion to exit. Council member Lyford requested the motion to approve be shown to all members before voting, and Council member Jones said she would message a copy to all members. Council member Wong noted that the intersection of Woodbury and Lincoln is one of the highest 'collision corridors' for vehicles, motorcycles and pedestrians.

Council member Jones moved that:

"The Altadena Town Council write a letter to regional planning to recommend approval of CUP#RPPL202007102 with all the added recommendations set forth by the Land Use Committee. The recommendations are a more defined crosswalk at the entrance/exit of the business, direction arrows in parking lot, making sure no U-turns are allowed while entering or exiting the drive-through, also the mention of the continuance of the 24-hour drive-up window and to ask public works to paint the entrance/exit curb on Woodbury red to eliminate the blocking of driver's view when entering or exiting the business from Woodbury".

Motion was seconded by Council member Aranda.

Council member Vega noted that County Traffic and Safety have done studies of the intersection. She wants to encourage businesses and growth. Council member Marcussen stated that traffic and safety studies are not within the purview of Regional Planning. The Council can certainly request a safety study, but this need not be included in this action.

Council member Jones moved to amend prior motion with:

"please note that traffic safety is a concern at the corner of Woodbury and Lincoln".

The motion was seconded by Council member Aranda, and passed unanimously.

The motion to vote on the original motion, as well as the amended section above was made by Council member Malone, seconded by Council member O'Malley. Motion passed unanimously.

6.2 Safe Streets _____Dorothy Wong

On December 22 there was a meeting regarding the Loma Alta Park Pop-Up Sidewalk, sponsored by Los Angeles County Public Works. Ultimately, this will be a demonstration area where bike and equestrian activity will be

encouraged. Slow Street signs and networks are intended to calm traffic, comply with social distancing, encourage physical activity.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Linda Ciarimboli re: Millard Canyon
Kathy Kunysz re: Los Angeles County Arboretum
Susan M. Maunu re: Chaney Trail
Michele Zack re: LED lights

8. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

8.1 Census Tract 4603.01

Council members Wong and Petrie are going to have a Census Tract 'Meet and Greet', February 4. Also, a parking plan for the Chaney Trail area will be presented to the community soon. The Chaney Trail fire is still under investigation.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council member Aranda, seconded by Council member Jones to adjourn meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m. The entire meeting is available for viewing on YouTube.

Nick Santangelo, Recording Secretary