



# Altadena Town Council

## ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL Meeting Minutes March 16, 2021

7:00 p.m.  
(Virtual)

CALL TO ORDER \_\_\_\_\_ 7:03 PM  
1.1 INTRODUCTION \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Malone  
1.2 ROLL CALL \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary 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 MARCH 16, 2021 AGENDA \_\_\_\_\_ Veronica Jones

Regarding 2.5 (gas-powered leaf blowers), member Knapp moved to remove the item from consideration. Insufficient time to review the issue was the reason cited, and a motion to have the Agenda reflect that. The motion was seconded by member Thomas. The motion carried with the following vote:

Ayes: 11  
No: 2  
Abstaining:

### OFFICERS' REPORTS

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

Chairman Malone announced that the Red Cross Report will be delayed, as they are assisting at the U. S. border. Also, the Council is looking to receiving a report from the Pasadena School District, and restarting the Education Council. The Film Committee is on hiatus. Councilmember Arnzen will chair the newly formed Communication Committee. Chairman Malone also noted that March is Women's History Month, taking the opportunity to honor Felicia Lenee Williams, aka 'Fe Love' and her many accomplishments. Members Lyford and Wong also spoke of her work with the community. A 'Celebration of Life' will take place on March 27. The Council observed a moment of silence was and a Certificate of Recognition from the Town Council was presented in her honor.

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

Councilmember Jones comment on Women's History month by honoring the contributions of the women who have served on the Town Council, citing their contributions.

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

2.3.1. Approve February 16, 2021 meeting Minutes.

The minutes were approved unanimously, and will be available on the web-site.

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

Treasurer Marcussen stated that we have \$1,199.51 in the account as of January 27.

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

Corresponding Secretary Wong informed the Council of events and happenings in the community. There was a from the Cougar Conservancy, concerning a deceased cougar found on the trails. The reason for the cougar's death is unknow. Councilmember Wong reported there were organizations wishing to work with the Town Council, who had worked with Felicia Lenee Williams. Councilmember O'Malley asked that those organizations be allowed to state their missions before the Council. On March 24 PUSD will host an event recognizing Women's History month featuring Judy Chu. Anyone wishing to have community events placed on the web-site should contact Councilmember 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Officer Cooper

No report.

3.2 Altadena Sheriff's Station \_\_\_\_\_ Lt. Skaggs

Crime is still down compared to last February. No homicides, rapes or arsons. There were two robberies for the month. Thefts of catalytic converters continue to be prevalent. There were nine aggravated assaults, which is rather high though not necessary indicative of a wider problem. Some mail was stolen as well, with criminals following postmen during their rounds. A retirement party for Deputy Youngstrum, who served 32 years was mentioned. Councilmember Peck thanked Lt. Skaggs for his help in CT 4611. Council Member Wong asked about Cheney Trail parking issues and citations.

3.3. Altadena Fire \_\_\_\_\_ Maria Grycan

In February there was a total of 281 responses in Altadena, 213 of which were medical calls, with 164 patients transported. There were 5 fires, 7 traffic collisions.

3.4 California Fire Safe Council \_\_\_\_\_ Mala Arthur

Fire preparation techniques were discussed. She stressed getting to know your neighbors and fire wise' communities in your area. Member Wong asked about 'home hardening' programs that help residents prepare for fire risk.

### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Southern California Edison \_\_\_\_\_ Dave Ford, Gerry Avila

Plans for the month of April: tree assessor training starts, with crews leaving notifications to residents regarding tree trimming. Roughly 800 trees are involved. These are private and County trees that will be trimmed. SCE stressed full cooperation and partnership with the Altadena community as their goal. There will be a community meeting April 10, residents will be able to ask questions of SCE. Chairman Malone encouraged the community to attend the meeting and give input. Councilmember Lyford suggested SCE state an 'arborist philosophy' to Altadena at the April 10 meeting. Councilmember Wong asked if SCE can provide a map of where trimming is happening. Dave Ford said he would work on that. Councilmember Vega asked about how much notice is given residents. Door hangers are left prior to trimming 48 hours beforehand.

4.2. Breathe Southern California \_\_\_\_\_ Sarah Polley

BSC works toward improving lung health in the area. The organization partners with many local groups, and youth programs. Youth vaping, asthma, lung health is their focus. Chairman Malone asked about vaping and how harmful carcinogens are in the process. He was referred to a webinar for further information. Contact information will be posted on the ATC website.

4.3. MRCA-La Vina Connector Train Update \_\_\_\_\_ Sarah Kevorkian

The trails are 30+ years in the making. Phase one is underway. There are hopes to connect to Chaney Trail eventually. Member Peck asked for clarification regarding the trail beginning and end. Member Wong asked about signage regarding conservation along the trail. MRCA will definitely consider installing them.

5. COMMUNITY REPORTS

5.1 Altadena Library \_\_\_\_\_ Nikki Winslow, Director

Curbside service opened March 1. Limited browsing tentatively expected to begin in April. More information may be found at [www.altadenalibrary.org/community-conversations](http://www.altadenalibrary.org/community-conversations). National Library Week marks the many way in which libraries are relevant and useful to communities. Highly recommended is the 'This Is Altadena' podcast ([thisisaltadena.podomatic.com](http://thisisaltadena.podomatic.com)).

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

The Chamber hosted a virtual mixer for Women's History month (March). The event was well-attended. The speaker was Ruth Hopkins, publishing of the Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Journal. Many Altadena Women-owned businesses (16 total) were represented.

5.3. Los Angeles County Parks and Rec \_\_\_\_\_ Sam Estrada

Construction at Farnsworth Park continues, with progress on the Davies Building. ADA pathways have been installed. The parking lot has been refurbished as well. Covid restrictions are still in effect as staff has dwindled. Re-hiring of staff is underway. A visit to [parks.lacounty.gov](http://parks.lacounty.gov) will display available classes. Easter 'Grab and Go' will be on April 3 at Loma Alta Park. The registration link will be posted. Member Wong asked about the Loma Alta pool and was told that the pool would be cleaned up before reopening. No upgrades are planned at this time.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Land Use Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Diane Marcussen

Land Use Chair Diane Marcussen reported three land use projects would be presented and voted on tonight. All required a vote and recommendation.

6.1.1 Project No: 2019-003653-(5) / CUP RPPL2019006453 - conversion of a single family residential located at 2637 Meguiar Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107 into a mediation and learning center for Buddhism. Vega/Marcussen.

Project No: 2019-003653-(5) / CUP RPPL2019006453 was presented and describe to the town council. Comments were made by Councilmembers Arnzen and Peck. Councilmember Arnzen visited the neighborhood and talked to residents. The residents had concerns about the project. Councilmember Peck reported that off street parking was available and there was room for 3 cars in the drive-way. Councilmember Vega read public comment that included a petition signed by all residents of the neighborhood. The petition included traffic safety and excessive noise. The petition stated Megular Drive is a private street that includes 13 homes and no monies from Los Angeles County is used for the upkeep of the street.

A motion was brought forth by Councilmember Marcussen recommending a letter be sent to L.A. Regional Planning stating that the proposed project follows the current Community Standards District Ordinance (CSD) Code for home-based businesses and bed and breakfast businesses.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Knapp.

Discussion included comments from Joseph Wu. The ATC is only reviewing the use of the property not reasons for the request.

The motion carried with the final vote:

Ayes: 13  
Opposed: 0  
Abstention: 2

- 6.1.2 PRJ2021-000727 - 1702 Coolidge Minor CUP requesting a change to rear the setback from 25 feet to 20 feet for the construction of a single-story master bedroom. Harlow/Colliflower

No public comment.

Councilmember Colliflower made a motion that PRJ2021-000727 - 1702 Coolidge Minor CUP be approved and a letter be sent to L.A. Regional Planning allowing the request without conditions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Vega.

Final Vote: Ayes: 15  
No: 0  
Abstention: 0

A letter will be sent to a letter be sent to L.A. Regional Planning allowing the request without conditions.

- 6.1.3 RPPL2020009772, at 972 Parkman Street to legalize modifications to a house and property at 972 Parkman Street.

Councilmember Lyford presented project RPPL2020009772. The councilmember did outreach to the surround neighbors and did not find any negative responses to the project.

Councilmember Lyford brought forth a motion recommending a letter be sent to L. A. Regional Planning allowing the project be approved without restrictions. Motion was seconded.

No public comment. No discussion.

Final vote: Ayes 14  
No: 0  
Abstention: 0

A letter will be sent to L.A. Regional Planning recommending the project be approved without restrictions.

6.2 Safe Streets \_\_\_\_\_Dorothy Wong

Councilmember Wong reported on the L.A. County Slow Streets program. Two new

networks have been added increasing the slow street signs in Altadena. Safe Streets are working on a survey for the community. The next Safe Streets meeting will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be coordinated with Berkeley Safe Trex .

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lilia Tambreere – removal of trees  
Joy – Cha Cha – Gas Leaf Blowers  
Ed Meyers – Gas leaf blowers  
Seth Harvey – Stoneyard business  
Ed Meyers – Leaf blowers

8. CENSUS TRACT REPORTS

4601 Amy Lyford reported a positive experience with L.A. Public Works regarding the placement of a Vision Zero sign. After a complaint from a resident the LA Dept of Public Works civil engineering staff was very responsive, and thoughtful about their approach to the issue.

4603.021/4610 A motion was brought forth by Darrell Aranda regarding a community letter to local liquors stores. The letter had been reviewed in advance. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion. There was discussion on which stores should receive the letter. After discussion the vote was called. Final vote:

Ayes: 14  
No: 0  
Abstention: 1

Motion was approved.

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 10:09 p.m. The entire meeting is available for viewing on YouTube.

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Veronica Jones for Nick Santangelo, Recording Secretary