

## **ACONA Meeting Notes**

May 23, 2017

After introductions, the following topics were covered:

### **Drones in Altadena; Concerts in the Park**

Deputy Dan Paige, Altadena Sheriff's Station

Drones: There are flight restriction zones where drones are not allowed to fly.

Commercially operated drones are more strictly regulated. Have to be operated by licensed pilots.

- AB1680 adds drones to the law that says that interfering with first responders or emergency personnel at the scene of an emergency is a crime.
- SB807 protects emergency first responders from liability for damage to a drone that is interfering with their work.
- Sheriff's department has three drones, two for training and one for deployment. Used for search & rescue, bomb detection, hostage situations, other critical incidents.
- Should property owners be allowed to exclude drones from flying over their property? Federal law authorizes flight within 400 feet. No legal clarity at the moment. It's illegal for a person to record private property.
- If you have a problem with a drone, call the Sheriff's Station.

Links:

List of temporary flight restrictions (TFRs): <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>

Drone operation and certification (14 C.F.R. Part 107): <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/06/28/2016-15079/operation-and-certification-of-small-unmanned-aircraft-systems>

S.B. 142: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160SB142](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB142)

Legal blog on commercial drone use: <https://www.hoverlaw.com>

### **Open Studios Summertime in Altadena**

Mary Gothard, Open Studios Chairperson

Go to <http://openstudios.gallery> for history and a list of events

### **Neighborhood Associations/Neighborhood Watches**

Panel:

- Carlotta Martin, SENCH (Started by her father in the 1970s)
- Nina Ehlig, SENCH
- Holly Rundberg, McNally
- John Pomroy, E. Calaveras
- Elliot Gold, Upside-Down T (<http://upside-down-t.blogspot.com>)

Topics:

#### ***What do you do in your neighborhood to promote a sense of community?***

Holly: have get-togethers; at least one potluck a year at one of the neighbor's houses

John: Work mostly through email. John forwards the crime blotter

Nina: Sends out a monthly flyer, more frequently if there's an event (holiday party, Christmas party, picnic). Neighbors visit and call each other. We do have food at our monthly meetings (meet all but three months a year). About ten people come to the meetings on average.

Elliot: We have four neighborhood events a year. We send out occasional newsletters. We have a neighborhood blog where we post event videos and photos.

***What is your leadership structure and do you have a plan for passing the baton?***

SENCH has street captains and a president.

***Have you done Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)?***

Holly: Have had the first meeting. Even if you don't have a neighborhood association, this is a good way to make a first step.

Nina: Haven't done it yet.

Carlotta: Has done MYN on her own, so she knows what the neighborhood's resources are. (She is a street captain, responsible for a subsection of the association).

Elliot: Yes, with about 75% participation.

***What do you do to welcome a new neighbor in your neighborhood?***

John: Have greeters when new neighbors arrive. His wife makes banana bread.

Elliot: When a new neighbor arrives, we ask them what kind of pie they like, and give them a pie and ice cream.

***What do you do when a neighbor becomes "unruly"?***

Nina: We call the Sheriff's Station. We take it very seriously. Sometimes we use a phone tree to inform all the neighbors.

John: We've established good relationships with all our residents, so we are usually able to talk it out.

***Challenges:***

Nina: Getting younger people involved.

Carlotta: Getting people to stock their emergency supplies.

Rocco (Sonoma Drive): We have a phone list, do emails, send out the crime blotter, just starting MYN. Some neighbors have done CERT. Hold a Fourth of July parade every year.

Tim Rutt: We've talked about starting a neighborhood association, but one of our neighbors who is very connected with the Sheriff's Department and needs to be included, but they are gone for months at a time. (Dan Paige: Neighborhood Watch is a national program. Local sheriffs stations just help with organization. If you've tried to include them, you've done your part; just go ahead and start.)

Nancy Rothwell (PSARA): We formed a neighborhood association. Like Elliot, we watch out for each other but we're not officially a Watch. We got a TIN so we could open a checking account with Comerica Bank, which doesn't charge fees. We have an email list we use to send out things to the neighborhood.

Steve Plog: Trying to get a neighborhood association over on the East side. Started a Neighborhood Watch group, want to progress from there. Replacing Neighborhood Watch signs: If you purchase the sign and give it to the Sheriff's Department, they'll give it to Public Works who will install it. (Info came from Susie Nemer.)

Natalie Salazar: Crime Stoppers has an app you can use to send tips that will keep you anonymous.

Holly: When the Station Fire happened our Watch group had been in operation for just a few months and we had just set up an email list. Our street was under an evacuation order. Some people stayed. They patrolled the street. I got so many emails to coordinate help for the people who stayed. It was great.

Closing suggestion from Dale Comfort: What about having an all-ACONA picnic in one of our parks, open to anyone who's attended an ACONA meeting?