

## **ACONA Meeting Notes, September 24, 2013**

### **Altadena Library Community Room**

After introductions, the following topics were covered:

#### **Altadena Town Council (ATC) - Diane Marcussen, Chairman**

Town council meets the third Tuesday of the month at the community center; the Land Use Committee meets the first Tuesday. Website: <http://altadenatowncouncil.org>

- Altadena Town Council & Visioning Study update:  
Sussy Nemer gave an overview of the visioning study. First task is Community Standards District (CSD) update. Diane: Town Council is completing draft of the CSD document.
- A primer on how Altadena actually works, governance-wise, that would help explain ineffectiveness of Town Council  
ATC reviews conditional use permits (CUPs) for Altadena. County sends out postcards 30 days before a CUP hearing in the neighborhood that is within a 1000-foot radius of the permit requester so that the public can provide input. Perception of ineffectiveness might be due to a misunderstanding of what the ATC's charter is.
- Making the Town Council accountable:  
Updating bylaws and website. Contact your census tract rep if you have issues or concerns. [Sussy: ATC plays a key role in land use applications. Keep in mind that because the members of the ATC are volunteers who are elected, some may be more effective than others.]
- Why do the majority of our residents never hear from their census tract rep?  
We don't know how to contact you. [Response from audience: "Walk the street."]

ATC member Damon Hobdy introduced himself and said that Diane Marcussen has instituted some measures to make the ATC more responsive to the community.

#### **Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) - Kim Kenne**

Is on the school board's policy and finance subcommittees. Represents Jackson Elementary, Altadena Elementary, Eliot Middle School, The Center for Independent Study (at PHS), and acts as a liaison to Celerity Exa Charter School. Website: [www.pusd.us](http://www.pusd.us)

Other Altadena school reps: Mikala Rahn: Franklin Elementary, Aveson 6-12 Charter; Scott Phelps: Focus Point Academy; Tyrone Hampton: Rosebud Charter (he also represents Muir)

Even though board members are elected by district, the public can call any school board member with questions or concerns.

- **Common Core Standards**  
Standards for K-12 English Language Arts and Math; have been adopted by 45 states. Aim is to make students college and career ready. Challenges: professional development for teachers, new materials and tests. (State has given one-time funds of \$3.6 million for use over the next two years to help with this.)
- **Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)**  
Consolidation of specific categorical funds into two main streams: a base amount per student, plus supplemental amounts for students with greater needs (e.g., English learners; low income students; students in foster care). LCF was only 12% funded in this school year, and future funding is unclear. Funded through Prop 98.  
  
Goals: more transparency regarding funding, more school district control of allocation of funds, more accountability (through Local Control and Accountability Plan developed by the school district, and by involving stakeholders).
- **PUSD Master Planning Process/ Master Plan Value Statements**  
Connected with Measure TT, the demographics of the district and the facilities available. (See Powerpoint agenda.)  
School population is declining, is now at about 17,500 students.
- **School/City/Community Work Plan (SCCWP)**  
Approved by PUSD and the City of Pasadena, plan to align programs and resources to achieve success for children, youth, and families.  
Follow this link to learn more about the SCCWP: [www.cityofpasadena.net](http://www.cityofpasadena.net) > Human Services and Recreation > School/City/Community  
Or contact Linda Machida ([lmachida@pasedfoundation.org](mailto:lmachida@pasedfoundation.org)).

## **Q&A**

Q: How is it decided where halfway houses are going to be? A: If there's a house for sale that meets their specs, and they have six or fewer beds, they don't have to go through any approval process. Drug rehab houses may need additional licensing/permits. Not sure about foster homes.

Q: Why is there no mention of Altadena or Sierra Madre in the SCCWP? A: the ACCWP is at the beginning of the process and meetings are open to the public.

Q: Who is going to be working on the professional development for the Common Core Standards? A: Some training/development is happening during the school day. There is outside training (LACO for example) also available. Collaborative work: observing each other's classrooms and giving feedback. Project-based learning: working with a university (CalPoly?) to provide discounts to do project-based learning. The whole concept is new for everyone.

Q: ATC minutes don't reflect the good input that occurs at the meetings. Is this going to change? A: This is one of the things the ATC is trying to do better. The website has agendas and minutes. Minutes are getting more complete. ATC meetings are on every Wednesday at 6am and 6pm on the Arroyo Channel on Charter and Uverse.  
Suggestion: Have a non-ATC member take minutes.

Q: ATC public comment was at the end of the meeting rather than interspersed. Is public comment going to be allowed before action items? A: Last meeting there were no action items, so public comment was moved to the end. Comment cards allow individuals to specify when they want to comment.