

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES
Held March 15, 2014, 6:05pm – 7:30 pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station**

Next Regular Meeting: May

Type of Meeting: Membership Meeting

I. Greetings: Douglas Hoffman, TCA President.

There was another great turnout for this meeting. Douglas welcomed the meeting attendees. Several new neighbors introduced themselves. Thanks given to Jesse's KC BBQ for the delicious brisket and chicken and to all those who brought yummy potluck dishes.

II. Treasurer Report.

Steve Tarro submitted the following information. Our balance is \$10,618.50. We appreciate everyone who mailed in or brought the membership dues with them tonight.

The by-laws were changed last year clarifying memberships expire at the first meeting of the year. For all those who wonder if they are current on their dues, knowing dues are collected at the first meeting should help clear up the confusion.

III. TCA Nominations and Elections

The first meeting of the year must have elections. Douglas introduced the current board. No one emailed an interest in running for an office on the TCA Board. Douglas asked for nominations from the floor. Instead, a resident proposed the current Board continue to serve for another year. The room unanimously agreed. The list of Board Members is at the end of this newsletter and on the TCA website.

IV. Neighborhood Q&A

New cell phone tower: Several residents shared what information they know about the new Verizon tower. Verizon has received local approval to install it on the firehouse. The firehouse was contacted for input on vegetation near the tower. Any contracts over \$25,000 must be approved by the state. It is rumored this request has stalled and is waiting to be submitted to the state.

Baylor Canyon Road: Funding was approved to pave Baylor Canyon Road. The funding will leverage federal funds, which adds 3-4 dollars to every one of the county dollars.

Soledad Canyon Road: Funding was approved for study and design of paving Soledad Canyon Road. Be aware that does not mean it will

happen anytime soon. Residents would like a walking/biking path added to Soledad Canyon. We might be able to use Federal Land Access money since improving Soledad Canyon would improve access to hiking trails.

April 8 Voting: A resident explained a little known group with a hardline anti-public lands, anti-federal government agenda is proposing to increase property taxes on Doña Ana county residents to support its work. The Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District, a sub-unit of state government run by a board of seven supervisors (five elected), is supposed to help landowners find practical solutions to soil and water conservation issues. In recent years, it has become a highly politicized body with an extreme anti-environmental agenda, passing resolutions against, among other things, the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, Mexican wolf and jaguar recovery, a free-flowing Gila River, and the concepts of smart growth, sustainability and wilderness. You can learn more at their website:

<http://www.daswcd.org/home/documents>

Now it is proposing to raise property taxes on landowners within its boundaries, which includes most of Doña Ana County except for the northwest corner (i.e. Hatch, Rincon and Salem). A referendum election is scheduled for April 8th. The only question on the ballot is whether the district shall be authorized to impose this tax increase, which will generate \$350,000 annually. There are no restrictions on how the money raised could be spent.

Registered voters with an address located within the District's boundaries are eligible to vote. **The polls will open only from 8 am to 5 pm.** There are five polling locations. The Las Cruces locations are:

Doña Ana County Government Center
845 North Motel Boulevard
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88007

Las Cruces Home Builders' Association
2825 N. Main Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011

Good Samaritan Society Village
3011 Buena Vida Circle
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011

Dripping Springs Re-Zoning: The next meeting concerning rezoning the land on the south side of Dripping Springs at Sonoma Ranch may be at the April 17 ETZ Commission meeting. The ETZ Commission offers their recommendation to the ETA meeting. For more information, contact Peter Goodman at 510-282-6690 or pgoodmanphotos@yahoo.com

Beth Bardwell: Beth Bardwell was introduced as a candidate to represent Talavera as County Commissioner. She came to the meeting to learn more about our concerns. She also participated in the morning road cleanup. Thank you, Beth!

Pat Gibson: Pat Gibson, a Talavera resident, announced she is running for Public Education Commission.

TCA Community Center: A resident asked if we could build a community center for the TCA. We could have a large meeting room with good acoustics so people could hear. It would be like a "town center". If you have ideas about this, contact Douglas at douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com

Dirt Pile across from Organ Mesa: A resident asked about the dirt pile along Dripping Springs across from Organ Mesa. The dirt will be used to build a bridge to cross the arroyo when Organ Mesa 4 and 5 are developed.

V. Neighborhood Watch Jerry Gammel and Deputy Michelle Ugalde

Deputy Ugalde is on our email list and helps alert officers when suspicious activity is reported. She was excited to finally attend the TCA meeting and meet our residents. She identified several Talavera residents who attended the Citizens Academy. She praised our Neighborhood Watch (NW) program and email notices to residents. NW can be as informal as just watching out for your neighbors and the houses you can see. For information about NW and/or if you are interested in meeting with Deputy Ugalde and Jerry for a special NW meeting, contact Jerry Gammel at GGamm43345@aol.com

Residents' Questions and Concerns:

Residents shared these questions and concerns with Deputy Ugalde. She will follow up on them with the department.

Patrolman presence: Patrolman Doug frequently drives through Organ Mesa and Talavera. There is more patrolling happening.

For Help: For an immediate emergency, call 911. If you see something suspicious, reckless driving, speeding, etc, call the non-emergency dispatch number, **575-526-0795 x6** and stay on the line. You can provide ongoing information while the officers are dispatched. Put this number in your cell phone **575-526-0795 x6**.

Organ Mesa Turn Lanes: Residents reported drivers are using the turn lanes to speed and pass other vehicles. Officers will keep an eye on this hazard.

Sonoma Ranch Turn Lanes: Residents reported drivers are using the Sonoma Ranch "right turn lane" to speed straight through the intersection and cut in front of the drivers in the "through lane". Street markings must be changed to make it a "right turn only" lane before there is a serious accident.

Sonoma Ranch Speed Limits: The speed limits on Sonoma Ranch are different for north and south-bound traffic. That is probably city property but the county may be able to bring it to city attention.

VI. Fire Department Daren Bloomquist.

Thank you to the Organ Mesa 17 and Talavera 35 who cleaned up our roads Saturday morning. What a treat to drive down the roads and see them so clean! Everyone who helped was asked to stand and the meeting attendees gave them an enthusiastic round of applause.

EMT and/or 1st Responder: Our volunteer fire department needs EMTs and First Responders. Without them on call, the fire department must wait for NMSU or South Valley to respond to medical emergency calls. This can cause dangerous delays in receiving life-saving treatments. You would not be required to respond to calls from other areas. If you have an interest in helping, you can be trained. Email Daren at dareninnm@aol.com

VII. Propane Co-op Perry Ashby.

The Propane Co-op with Griffin Propane continues to grow. With the rising cost of propane, Perry heard ServiGas and Ikard & Newsome will no longer meet the \$0.29 per gallon discount offered by Griffin Propane. One resident

gave a testimonial on how easy Perry made the process and the improved service from Griffin. To join, please contact Perry at perry.ashby@q.com for the forms.

VIII. Legislative Update

Senator Bill Soules is a resident of Talavera. He serves on many committees. He discussed several items, answered questions and offered suggestions. Some of the discussion points are:

TCA Community Center: The Capital Outlay List is for new projects. They must be fully designed and shovel ready. The TCA is a big powerful group and might be able to use Capital Outlay funds to build a center. TCA would be required to maintain it.

Santa Teresa will be one of the focus areas for Capital Outlay projects this year. With the increased development around Union Pacific, the state will be looking at supporting the growth and new truck traffic.

Schools: Several good programs were put in place to help teachers and schools. One is returning to smaller class sizes. A resident suggested some expenses be shifted from excess testing to programs that work.

Talavera Water Coop: A resident explained the limitations of the current water storage tank. A new tank is needed to meet the needs. Senator suggested this is great project to put on the Capital Outlay List.

Doctor “No Compete” Clauses: Currently when a doctor works at local hospitals, he must sign a “No Compete” clause. If he leaves the hospital, he is unable to open a private practice so he leaves town. There was a bill to kill the clause. The bill did not pass so it will need to be reintroduced next year.

Social Media: Senator Soules is on Facebook, look for William Soules with Organ Mtns in the background. On Twitter, I think he said look for [@SenatorSoules](https://twitter.com/SenatorSoules).

Representative Doreen Gallegos is a resident of Las Alturas. She loves coming to our meetings for the warm and friendly residents and the great food! She serves on several committees that had very hard choices this year. She discussed several items, answered questions and offered suggestions. Some of the discussion points are:

Vado experiences extreme flooding whenever it rains. Funds have been designated to help correct the flooding.

Movie Back-lot: Interest has developed to create a movie back-lot in the Las Cruces area. Bringing out of town crews to Las Cruces will increase revenue for local businesses.

IX. Neighborhood Announcements

New County Pet Ordinance: The County passed a new ordinance requiring pets to be licensed. Pets must be current on rabies vaccination. The fees are reduced if your pet is spayed/neutered, and/or if you are over 65. Licenses are obtained from Animal Services Center of Mesilla Valley at 3551 Baatan Memorial West.

Walking Trails: BLM officials were visiting the walking/bike trails on BLM land near the water tank at Apex Mine Road. Wayne Suggs and several residents are lobbying to get this trail recognized. Oswaldo Gomez, BLM, wants to eliminate many of these trails. To save the trails, contact Oswaldo Gomez at ogomez@blm.gov, or his boss, Tom Phillips tphillip@blm.gov

Organ Mountains Discussion: Congressman Pearce will participate in a community discussion on the Organ Mountains to be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 19 at the Farm & Ranch Museum. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

XI. TCA Extras

Your feedback is appreciated to help make future newsletters useful to you and inclusive of the latest community events. If you have suggestions on how to improve the newsletter format, content, or community news items, or you would like to write an article, please contact Douglas. Any corrections are also appreciated. New issues are mailed every three months, prior to our TCA meeting schedule.

If you would like to suggest meeting topics or speakers, send your requests to Douglas Hoffman at Douglas.Hoffman1@gmail.com.

If you did not receive these minutes from Janet@SunspotEnergy.com, please send your email address to Janet@SunspotEnergy.com. If you would like to update your email address, click on the link at the bottom of the email.

Talavera Community Association Dues

Remember, all TCA memberships expired with the first meeting of the year. Please support your Talavera Community Association by submitting your \$25 voluntary annual membership fee to:

Talavera Community Association
P. O. Box 1057
Mesilla Park, NM 88047

TCA Officers and Board Members

President: *Douglas Hoffman*
Tel: 521-1332
Email: *Douglas.Hoffman1@gmail.com*

Vice President: *Bill Godby*
Email: *godbones@yahoo.com*

Secretary: *Janet Honek*
Email: Janet@SunspotEnergy.com

Treasurer: *Steve Tarro*
Email: *S_Tarro@hotmail.com*

Member-at-Large: *Perry Ashby*
Email: Perry.Ashby@q.com

Member-at-Large: *Jennie Meehan*
Email: Jennie88011@gmail.com