

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Held November 8, 2006, 7:00pm-8:30pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station**

Meeting called by: TCA Membership
Next Regular Meeting: February 2007
Type of Meeting: General Meeting

I. Greetings and Introduction of New Neighbors, Al Vickers, TCA President. Al welcomed the meeting attendees and asked new residents to introduce themselves. Three families introduced themselves and received a hearty welcome to the community!

II. Financial Report and Organizational Report, Larry Cottingham, TCA Secretary/ Tom Smith, Treasurer. The secretary reported that the TCA has received "Non-Profit" status from the IRS as a 501C(4) organization. Therefore, all annual dues now qualify as tax deductible charitable contributions for income tax purposes. The secretary also announced that the TCA has acquired a P O Box for official business. The new address of the TCA is:
**Talavera Community Association
P. O. Box 1057
Mesilla Park, NM 88047**

TCA Treasurer Tom Smith reported that as of 11/8/2006, the association had a balance of \$1206.28. It was also announced that all dues received in November and December of 2006 would be for 2007 membership. The association would like to purchase 6 new tables before the February Pot Luck and meeting. A request to spend association funds to purchase 6 tables was requested and the members approved the request by voice vote.

III Election of New Officers
Al Vickers, TCA President Al reported that now that the TCA is an official non-profit organization, incorporated in New Mexico, it was necessary to fill the Board of Directors as specified in the TCA by-laws. The following people have been asked to serve as the Board of Directors: Larry Cottingham, Secretary; Tom Smith, Treasurer; John Smith, Member-at-large; Jerry Gammell, Member-at-Large. Al called for a vote to approve the board by a show of hands. The board was approved. Al then reported that the position of Vice President of the TCA also needed to be filled. Al proposed Board Member John Smith to fill that position.

Again the motion was approved by a show of hands.

IV. El Paso Electric presentation, Richard H. Swartz Director - Distribution Design and Delivery

Summary of discussion: Mr. Swartz had a PowerPoint presentation on above ground (poles) vs. below ground installation of power lines. His presentation included cost comparisons and the pros and cons of both types of installations. Mr. Swartz also discussed the price of both types of installations and how the utility determines the cost to the owner of the installation. Mr. Swartz's complete PowerPoint presentation is available on our web site. Mr. Swartz also talked about moving existing power lines from above to below ground. The Utility will move them, with certain limitations. And once service has been established, the customer pays for all moves.

V. Sheriff's department Presentation.

• Lance Sekapan, Deputy Sheriff
We had asked for a presentation on a neighborhood Watch program, however the Neighborhood Watch coordinator for the Sheriff's Department was on vacation and not available. However, Deputy Sekapan gave a presentation on OHMV's. Copies of the appropriate State regulations and laws were distributed at the meeting. OHMV's are permitted on "Non-Paved" public roadways and on unpaved shoulders adjacent paved roadways as long as they yield to all cross traffic and are operated in a safe and responsible manner. OHMV's are prohibited on any "Paved" street or roadway and on private land without the permission of the landowner.

Deputy Sekapan also had a short discussion on safety and prevention of residential burglaries. While the incidence of burglaries in our neighborhood is still low, with the current growth it is becoming more common. The best prevention is to get to know your neighbors and

to keep them informed when you will be away from home for an extended period.

We will try to schedule a Neighborhood Watch presentation at our February meeting.

VI. Committee Progress Reports.

• Road Committee – Kent Foster;

The committee continues to work on the process to try to get Alma Road accepted by the County. Letters have been sent to all landowners on Alma Road to ask for agreement. Several questions were asked from the floor about the process and cost. These included questions on surveyor costs and Title Insurance. Kent reported that as yet, the process is not far enough to be able to answer the questions.

• Park Committee – John Smith;

John reported that the Park plan was completed and presented a drawing of the proposal at the meeting. Costs have been estimated, and a Capital Outlay Request has been completed and submitted to State Representative Joseph Cervantes. The request will be introduced at the 2007 legislative session that begins in January.

VII. Talavera Fire Station Report; Mike

Meehan: The Talavera fire station has a 5,000 gallon self contained water tank that they would like to place on Ladera Canyon Road. Any property owners who would be willing to allow the tank should contact the fire department. Mike also made a plea for volunteers for the Fire Department. The Talavera station is a sub-station of the Los Alturas Volunteer Fire Department. They are in need of volunteers for all aspects of the department, from administrative to fire fighters.

The station expansion is nearing completion. The truck bay has been doubled in size and will allow the trucks to “drive-thru” rather than having to be backed into the station. The expanded bay will also allow for more equipment to be housed at the substation.

VIII. County News

• Commissioner Paul Curry;

Our commissioner on the County decided not to seek re-election and his term will expire at the end of the year. Commissioner Curry has been a friend of the Talavera community and has always listened to our concerns and opinions and has represented our interests on the County Commission. We wish to thank Commissioner Curry for his efforts on the

County Commission. We also hope that as a resident of our community, Mr. Curry will continue to participate and contribute his knowledge to the Talavera Community Association.

Commissioner Elect Karen Perez.

The TCA wishes to congratulate former TCA Vice President Karen Perez on her election as the new County Commissioner for District 3. Karen is a resident of the Talavera community and served as the Vice President of the Soledad Canyon Homeowners Association, the predecessor of the TCA. We look forward to working with Karen in the future and feel confident that the Talavera community's interests and concerns will continue to be represented at the County Commission.

Support for the Dripping Springs Crossing at Farm and Ranch.

As all residents are aware, the Dripping Springs Crossing of Tortugas Arroyo at the Farm and Ranch Museum has suffered serious damage from the rain this summer. The County has designed a permanent fix to the crossing but needs State funds to construct the estimated 1.2 million dollar project. The funds were initially approved in the 2006 legislative session but were diverted to fund road improvements for the spaceport. The request for funds will be introduced again during the 2007 legislative session. It is important that we demonstrate our support for this project to all Dona Ana County legislators. We are asking all Talavera residents to call, write or Email the county's legislative delegation to request their support for these funds.

IX. Association News.

Al Vickers, President of the TCA, announced his intention to step down as President after the February 2007 meeting. According to the by-laws of the association, all officers will be elected for a 1 year term at the February meeting. Any resident of the Talavera community who would like to volunteer to be a member of the board is urged to submit their name prior to the February meeting. Please submit your name and the position you are interested in to any current board member. Board members, and contact information are at the bottom of these minutes and listed on the web site.

X. Other Issues

Your Comments and Inputs Are Always Appreciated, Larry Cottingham. Your

feedback is appreciated to help make future issues useful to you and inclusive of the latest community events. If you have suggestions on how to improve newsletter format or content, or you would like to suggest community news items to be included in the next issue (new issues expected every three months, in line with our TCA meeting schedule), please send them to larry@larryc.com. Any corrections are also appreciated.

• **TCA Officers and Committee Chairpersons**

President: Al Vickers tel: 521-1220
Email: ekvickers@msn.com

Vice President and chairman of the Parks Committee: John Smith tel:
Email: american1776@msn.com

Secretary: Larry Cottingham, tel: 521-0409,
Email: larry@larryc.com

Treasurer: Tom Smith, tel: 521-4431
Email: Tom@fastwave.biz

Member-at-Large: Jerry Gammell
Email: ggamm43345@aol.com

Road Committee Chair: Kent Foster
Tel: 522-1206,
Email: kentfoster@zianet.com

Membership Committee Chair: Helen Foster, tel: 522-1206,
Email: Helenfoster@zianet.com