

TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Held September 15, 2007, 6:05pm-8:00pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station

Meeting called by: TCA Membership
Next Regular Meeting: November, 2007
Type of Meeting: Membership Meeting

I. Greetings and Clean-up Thank you: Larry Cottingham, TCA President. Larry welcomed the meeting attendees and thanked the 31 people who clean up our roadways today. They did a great job! We will schedule another road clean-up in February.

II. Financial Report Tom Smith, Treasurer. Our bank account has \$2158.24 as of 8/27/07. Even though we are on solid ground, remember to submit your \$25 annual dues to:
Talavera Community Association
P. O. Box 1057
Mesilla Park, NM 88047

III John Smith; neighbor and board member. John introduced a petition covering the following four points:

1. Petition provides overview of current Environmental Protection Agency law including requirement for federal agencies performing major federal actions to take into account "social and economic effects" from that action.
2. Petition outlines current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps process in Dona Ana.
3. Petition outlines where FEMA has not complied with NEPA nor has FEMA performed a complete study/analysis of current and foreseeable developments in Dona Ana County.
4. Petition outlines request of signatory individuals for FEMA to comply with NEPA and do an Environmental Impact Statement on all current studies conducted as well as development land areas for the foreseeable future.

John explained that a FEMA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) does not stop, delay or prevent any development including individual building from going on. It would delay the FEMA release of flood maps to banks and mortgage companies until the EIS process was complete.

Any resident of Dona Ana may sign the petition. Contact John for more info. Email is – american1776@msn.com

IV Las Alturas Fire Department Fundraiser Smoked brisket Bar-B-Q fundraiser being held on October 6, from noon-2:00 PM. Tickets are now on sale for \$10.

V Deputy Alan Franzoy; Community Enforcement Response Team.

Deputy Franzoy asked for our help in stopping crime. He explained that while the population has grown, the Sheriff's Department has fewer deputies than it did nine years ago. He would like us to be their eyes and ears in preventing crime. He suggested we form Neighborhood Watch programs. If you know how to get in touch with your neighbor, you can confirm that the truck at your neighbor's house is supposed to be there – and not removing their valuables.

Burglaries and gangs are on the rise. Everyone is a target but with your help, the deputies can go the extra step to solve the problem and break up the rings. Crimes are more violent with the criminals more desperate and more willing to fight. Deputy Franzoy would like to send us email alerts regarding potential crime situations so we can be on the lookout and notify him if they come into our neighborhoods.

Deputy Franzoy reported a local resident was discharging firearms and endangering neighbors. He was arrested and is under evaluation in Las Vegas. The regulation for the discharge of firearms prohibits negligent use in or near buildings or vehicles, endangering another person, using while intoxicated, or within 150 yards of a building without permission of the owner. If you do shoot out here, have a backstop to stop the bullets. Some have a range of several miles. Pick up your brass and trash. Violations could result in a misdemeanor charge.

Deputy Franzoy and Tom Ferguson of the Volunteer Mounted Patrol both encouraged us to let the County Commissioner know that we want the police salaries increased. The Sheriff's Department has the best training but then the graduates leave for higher salaried positions with other law enforcement agencies. If the salaries were increased, we would be able to retain the best candidates.

Deputy Alan Franzoy can be reach at 525-1911.

VI Joseph Cervantes; State Representative

Representative Cervantes is also concerned about our safety. He pointed out that we have very stringent laws concerning gangs and DWI. The problem is that we do not have the manpower to enforce the laws we have. He repeated the need for increasing the Deputies salaries. Salaries are determined by the county budget based on gross receipts and property taxes. The state allows communities to take a larger percentage of taxes than Dona Ana is taking. He's trying to bring it to the attention of the commissioner to bring the law enforcement salaries up. We must put more money into law enforcement and fill the many vacancies with well-trained personnel.

VII Steve Meadows; ETZ Planner

Mr. Meadows brought a map illustrating the old and new ETZ zones. ETZ is the Extra Territorial zone. It was established in 1982 through state law declaring a five mile buffer area between the city zoning and the county/rural zoning. As the city grows, the ETZ zone also pushes into the county. The ETZ purpose is to help plan the urbanization growth of the area.

With the city annexation and expansion, the ETZ is being extended to include an additional 440 properties in Talavera plus some BLM and state land. The ETZ commission will be sending out notification letters to the additional Talavera properties. Mr. Meadows will help organize a steering committee. The county planning department will act as advisors and facilitators. Everyone is welcome to participate in the planning process and to provide public input at the ETZ and ETA meetings.

For Talavera residents, this means that we have the opportunity to participate in the zoning of those properties plus an "overlay" zoning of the state and BLM land. If they ever dispose or develop those lands, they will be "pre-zoned" with our zoning guidelines.

VIII Jorge Granados; Director of Public Works, Dona Ana County

Director Granados presented an update, timeline, and illustrations on the Tortugas Arroyo crossing of Dripping Springs Road. Construction started on September 2. The first phase is the relocation of utilities, dropping them 14 feet. This phase will be completed by mid-October.

The second phase is the detour. Grading will start the first week in October. It will be a dirt road to keep your driving speed down for the safety of the workers. There will be plenty of lights, barrels and barriers so you don't drive into the excavation. The detour will open the last week of October.

The Farm and Ranch Museum and First Church are building the first drop structure to lower the grade of the arroyo. The overall grade is being lowered to 1%. At the structure, the grade increases to 2% to speed the water through it.

The bridge will be cast in mid-November, then set in place on December 2. It will be constructed from three pre-cast cell arches. Each cell is 32 feet long by 9 feet tall. The heaviest cell is 24 tons. The bridge will have a concrete base. At 64 feet wide, the bridge will accommodate cars, bikes, and pedestrians. You will also be able to walk through the structure as a nature trail down the arroyo. In a 100-year storm, it will be able to withstand water coming over the top of it.

The goal to open the new bridge is December 24 – weather permitting.

IX Mike Park, Chairperson of our Talavera Flood Committee

Mike has found several "errors and omissions" on the FEMA reports. Paul Dugie, of the Flood Commission, is helping Mike sort through the documents.

Mike needs your help. He is looking for a few people to assist in perusing through documents looking for specific data. We may join together with other areas of the county that will be affected by the FEMA reports. Contact Mike at mdpark@hughes.net.

At this time, the FEMA study has been put on hold, but we still need to be proactive in studying their reports and having a rebuttal in place.

Remember, if you are not in a flood zone now, you can purchase flood insurance relatively

cheap. If the new maps change your designation to a flood zone, your mortgage company will require you to purchase flood insurance, which could cost thousands per year.

X Joe San Filippo; Talavera Volunteer Fire Department

Our Talavera Volunteer Fire Department needs you! There are many different ways you can help – and you don't even need to put out a fire!

Meeting every Thursday evening, 7:00 PM, at the main station at 4145 Cholla off Las Alturas Drive. There is also a Saturday morning training once a month. Contact Joe at 521-7574 or Assistant Chief Gary Wee at 522-5103.

XI The Talavera Village Formation Research Committee

This committee initially determined that population and commercial capital tax base conditions as determined by New Mexico statutes could not be met. Talavera could not become a village.

Additional information has subsequently become available which indicates that village creation requirements may be within reach of Talavera settlement area residents.

As there seems to be some mismatch of information regarding the feasibility of village formation, the Ad Hoc committee under the leadership of Jamey Bentley will meet again at his direction to review the new information.

XII. 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

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