TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Held November 7, 2007, 6:35pm-8:33pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station

Meeting called by: TCA Membership
Next Special Meeting: November 28, 2007
Type of Meeting: Selection of ETZ Steering Committee

I. Greetings and welcome: Larry Cottingham, TCA President. Larry welcomed the large gathering of neighbors and the new many attendees. He reminded members to check our website for information, www.talaveraca.org, and contact Janet to receive email notices.

II. Financial Report Tom Smith, Treasurer. Our bank account has $2155.24 as of 11/7/07, after paying for the potluck meats and newsletter mailings. Our sole source of income is your membership dues. We are accepting dues for 2008. Dues are $25, unless you would like to contribute more. Send to:
Talavera Community Association
P. O. Box 1057
Mesilla Park, NM 88047

III 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 also pushes into the county. The ETZ purpose is to help plan the orderly development of the area.

With the city annexation and expansion, the ETZ was extended to include an additional 440 properties in Talavera plus some BLM and state land. The ETZ commission sent out notification letters to the additional Talavera properties.

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 those lands are ever disposed of or developed, they will be "pre-zoned" with our zoning guidelines. Developers can attempt to change our zoning guidelines but TCA has been successful in the past when challenging developers and zoning changes.

Our immediate task is to select the steering committee. Time commitment would be 2-3 meetings that last about 1-2 hours, plus interviewing other Talavera property owners. Whether you are part of those 440 properties or live in another section of Talavera, if you would like to be involved with this steering committee, please contact Steve Meadows at 525-6121 or stevem@donaanacounty.org ASAP for a nomination form.

Information about the nominees will be posted on our website. Mark your calendar for our special meeting on November 28, when we will elect those who will serve on the steering committee. The committee will work with the property owners to determine zoning intentions. Some areas have abided by Covenants but since they are private agreements, they are not enforceable by the government. The zoning authority should consider the covenants but are not required to uphold them. 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 more information go to: www.donaanacounty.org, click on "Community Services", click on "Community Development, click on Zoning Ordinances, the first one is "ETZ Ordinance".

IV Armando Cordero, Dona Ana Parks, on the Talavera Community Park
Community input is needed! We have $20,000 to develop the park. Having no water or power will put some constraints the development but also lends itself to a more natural setting. Your ideas are needed so please contact John Smith at american1776@msn.com.

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

Director Granados provided a quick update on the Dripping Springs Road project. First and foremost, he thanks you for keeping your speed down and driving safe around the workers.

They have encountered two problems: a leak in the gas lines; and one curve was too tight for some of the big trucks. These problems caused a few days delay but they have almost made up the lost time. They are keeping to the proposed schedule. They have finished the rough grade and are now working on the final grade. They still plan to reopen the lanes on December 24 with the project complete in January 24 – weather permitting.

VI Joseph Cervantes and Jeff Steinborn, State Representatives, on the Health Security Act

Representative Cervantes is not on the Healthcare committee so he brought Jeff Steinborn, who is a member of the Healthcare Committee. Twenty-five percent of our New Mexico population does not have health insurance, which is twice the national average. The Governor would like everyone to have comprehensive health insurance coverage by December of 2009. During the next session, which is in session for only 30 days, the Governor would like to reform our health care system.

The NM Health Security Act will set up our own New Mexico health insurance plan that will guarantee access to comprehensive, quality health care coverage regardless of income, health or employment status.

Many at the meeting expressed concerns about losing current benefits and coverage, while experiencing rising costs. Some cautioned that our private insurance may not cover us as we expect. Representative Steinborn assured us that under this Act, we keep our private insurance and government benefits. He pointed out that many countries have dual systems of governmental and private insurance. These NM state programs are focused on those who do not have insurance coverage.

To help reduce rising medical costs in New Mexico, New Mexico is working on the following: malpractice reviews and enforcing a low cap for malpractice suits; and attracting more doctors and nurses to areas like Las Cruces with tax breaks.

Both Representatives felt the 30-days session was not enough to develop a comprehensive plan but it would lay the groundwork for good election platforms.

For more info, see www.nmhealthsecurity.org, or the Governor's plan at http://www.governor.state.nm.us/healthsolutions.php?mm=4, and keep in touch with Representatives Cervantes and Steinborn.

VII 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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