

TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
SPRING CLEAN-UP AND POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES
Held September 13, 2008, 6:10pm-7:40pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station

Meeting called by: TCA Membership
Next Regular Meeting: November 19, 2008
Type of Meeting: Membership Meeting

I. Greetings and Clean-up Thank you: Larry Cottingham, TCA President. Larry welcomed the meeting attendees and the many new faces.

II. Cleanup Report Daren Bloomquist. Daren thanked the 19 people who cleaned up our roadways today. It was a small group yet they did a great job! We will schedule another road clean up in February.

III. Las Alturas Fire Department Fundraiser
The Fire Station is again hosting smoked brisket bar-b-que dinner on October 25, from noon-2:00 PM. Tickets now on sale for \$10. Call Daren at 644-9163 for tickets or more info.

The \$100,000 Fire Station expansion completed the 2 bays in the firehouse, purchased new equipment, and a new tanker truck. Two of the new units purchased help the fire fighters use thermal imaging to locate people in heavy smoke.

The firehouse is always looking for volunteers, fire fighters, maintenance assistance, and help around the firehouse. Call Daren to find out more.

IV Political Forum

We welcomed State Senator Lee Rawson, his opponent Steve Fischmann, and State Representative Joseph Cervantes. Time was allotted for each man to introduce himself then the floor was open to questions from the audience. The three men responded to questions regarding:

1. Raising taxes,
2. State Land Office management and leases,
3. Redistribution of Wealth Position - Recent State rebate checks – all agreed it was a waste of taxpayer money which could have been used on healthcare or education,
4. Concerns about whether NM has outgrown the 60 day/30 day unpaid legislature sessions.

5. When asked what they would focus on to help our Talavera community the responses were:
 - a. Lee Rawson: flood zone plan and study redone, widen roads for bike lanes, and more equipment for the firehouse.
 - b. Steve Fischmann: create a flood control district for the county that will coordinate county flood plans.
 - c. Joe Cervantes: flood control issues, assure that water is available to preserve farming, families and accommodate growth.

For more information on the Senate candidates, visit their websites:

Lee Rawson www.senatorrawson.com

Steve Fischmann www.stevehornmsenate.com

V Noah's Ark Group Study (NAGS) Flood study Mike Park, President

NAGS sent out 768 letters to Talavera landowners asking for their support in funding the flood study group. NAGS received 147 responses that donated \$13,000. The funds were used to hire an engineering specialist to review the FEMA Flood study.

The 10-page reports states, **“it is our professional opinion that there are serious technical flaws...”**.

The findings will be presented this Wednesday, September 17, at 7:00 PM at the Farm and Ranch Museum. Contact Mike at mdpark@hughes.net for more info.

VI Achenback Rezoning attempt

Last year the ETZ Committee made recommendations to the county to maintain the 2-5 acre minimum zoning in the new ETZ areas. Before it could be acted on, a local developer requested to rezone an area off Achenbach to 1-2 acre parcels. About 40 Talavera residents

attended the ETZ meeting to protest. The ETZ agreed with us and did not rezone the area. We won this one, folks! But stay alert!

VII Request to increase the Dripping Springs speed limit from 45 to 55

A short discussion was held pointing out the pros and cons of raising the speed limit from 45 to 55 on Dripping Springs Road from the curve at A Mountain to the stop sign intersection at Soledad Canyon and Dripping Springs. The motion to ask the county to increase the speed limit from 45 to 55 was placed on the floor. A hand vote was taken. Voting for the increase were 9 hands. Voting against the increase was the rest of the full room. The motion was overwhelmingly defeated.

VIII Nominations for TCA officers - Next meeting November 19

Would you like to have more input in our Talavera community? Would you like to be more involved? Would you like to meet more people in your community? Well, this is the time! We will be accepting nominations at the November 19 meeting. No prior experience necessary! Elections will be held at our Semi-annual clean-up and potluck meeting in February. If not you then who?

IX Other Issues

Questions from the floor

Can property owners block easements from public use? Easements are usually not considered private property and are therefore open to public use. The purpose of the easement makes a difference in whether the public can be blocked from using it. A master plan of this area would help clarify this issue.

Your Comments and Input Are Always

Appreciated. 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 Helen Foster at HMF@zianet.com. Any corrections are also appreciated. New issues are mailed every three months, in line with our TCA meeting schedule.

If you would like to suggest meeting topics or speakers, send your requests to Larry at larry@larryc.com.

Talavera Community Association Dues.

Support your Talavera Community Association. Remember to submit your \$25 annual dues to:

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

Any dues collected now will be applied to next year's membership.

• TCA Officers and Committee Chairpersons

President: *Larry Cottingham*
Tel: 521-0409
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Vice President and Chairman of the Parks Committee: *John Smith*
Email: american1776@msn.com

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

Treasurer: *Tom Smith*
Tel: 521-4431
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Member-at-Large: *Helen Foster*
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Member-at-Large:
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Road Committee Chair:
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