

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
Held May 20, 2009, 6:10pm-8:15pm,  
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station**

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Next Regular Meeting: August or September

Type of Meeting: Clean-up and Potluck

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**I. Greetings: Douglas Hoffman, TCA President.**

Douglas welcomed the meeting attendees. We have a full agenda of legislative representatives to discuss issues they are working on. He apologized for the confusion about meeting times. There was great attendance with standing room only!

**II. State Senate Steve Fischmann.** Steve reported on the many bills and projects he tackled. Other significant bills passed are:

- Campaign contribution limits that take affect in 2010 after the next election;
- Open conference committee meetings so any one can attend;
- TV & internet cameras allowed so legislature proceedings can be watched for free on the web;
- Competitive bids required for land development;
- Organization for developing and raising funds for Las Cruces Veterans' Museum;
- Research Applications Act creates partnerships between labs, universities and private industry for renewable energy usage;
- 10% state tax credits for installing solar energy;
- And working on issues with the Dripping Springs high school.

**III. State Representative Jeff Steinborn.** Since Steve did extensive job discussing many legislative issues, Jeff wanted us to know our local delegation is working better than ever due to increased teamwork. They were able to make great progress especially in renewable and solar energy. Jeff was very impressed with Steve's progress during his first session and knows they will continue to help Dona Ana County.

**IV. FEMA study Mike Park and John Smith, NAGS Heroes!!** NAGS, Noah's Ark Group Study, has doggedly kept the heat on FEMA regarding the seriously flawed study. In the last few days, with help from Senator Bingaman and his office, we believe we have one major compromise. Mike passed out a sheet showing the X and AO areas. FEMA has agreed to correct the most of the AO areas and classify them as X, which are not required to obtain flood insurance. Some properties might still need flood insurance. But this was only one issue. NAGS will continue to

in his first legislative session. High on his list was balancing the state budget. According to NM state law, the budget must be balanced. They agreed to do some cuts across the board and for state and education employees. He feels they have not had a chance to address the more structural issues so some hard decisions will be coming.

work on correcting the entire study. He calculates that he has saved Talavera residents over 1.5 million dollars! Way to go Mike!

Contact Mike at [mdpark@hughes.net](mailto:mdpark@hughes.net) for more info.

**Comments added by Commissioner Karen**

**Perez:** Karen states we have submitted a request to have John Fuller's study accepted or use him to redo the study. John fuller is the flood study company NAGS hired to review the FEMA study.

**V. County Commission Karen Perez.** Karen reported on the new high school progress. The school has requested the land be annexed by the city. The city is reviewing several ways to determine the wisest proposal. Traffic during construction and operation are a major concern. They are offering disincentives and penalties to limit construction truck traffic. Sonoma Ranch Road will be the main route for construction traffic. They are looking at several options (Sonoma Ranch, Missouri, Roadrunner) for additional access roads to the high school. City Councilor Sharon Thomas, along with a group from University Golf Estates, and Karen have spearheaded protecting the open areas around the school. It is a beautiful setting which is important to preserve the natural setting. Talks continue with BLM to develop a ponding area north of the school. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

Karen alerted residents that Talavera Water is redrilling the north well located on Soledad Canyon near Heno Mine. They use big noisy equipment so you will probably notice them. And don't be concerned about the water runoff, it is normal.

**Comments added by Senator Udall's office:**

They requested earmarked appropriations for the Sonoma Ranch Road extension.

## **VI. State Representative Joseph Cervantes.**

Our state is using stimulus money to balance the budget. We have too much reliance on oil and gas revenues. This was the first session where there wasn't a lot of money so they really had to work together. He is very excited the open meetings so now he (and you) can attend meetings that were previously closed to him.

The Downtown TID (Tax Increment District) is not happening yet. It is a special tax district for downtown Las Cruces vitalization. When it comes up for a vote, they will need us to call, send letters and emails supporting it.

**VII BLM – Bureau of Land Management Tim Sanders.** Tim responded to resident questions that he has not heard any rumors about paving Baylor Canyon Road. Due to the sensitive area, it is not planned to be a major thoroughfare.

BLM owns one million acres of land comprising 40% of Dona Ana County. They are working on their resource management plan involving disposal, retention and protection of land. In the next few weeks, they are currently discussing a transfer of land in Santa Teresa in exchange for Section 16, the parcel starting at the pink water tank.

BLM is also negotiating to buy properties in Ladera Canyon area to facilitate easier access to BLM land.

BLM spent \$250,000 adding recreation areas, hiking and equestrian trails, on A Mountain. They are looking for someone to adopt those areas to keep them clean and reduce vandalism.

Tim responded to questions about flood control above the new high school. BLM is providing land for a new dam. Another resident asked about extending Sonoma Rand south of A Mountain. That extension is proposed for the distant future. Wisner Road will be extended first, but that is also in long range planning.

**VIII. Talavera-Las Alturas Fire Department Daren Bloomquist.** Emergency vehicles must be able to find your house at night. Daren passed out 20 boards and provided the reflective numbers for addresses. If you would like a set for your home, contact Daren.

For your safety, please clear away any brush from around your home.

The firehouse is always looking for volunteers, fire fighters, maintenance assistance, and help around the firehouse. If you would like to help, call Daren at 644-9163 to find out more.

**IX. Park Plans Douglas Hoffman.** Douglas invited resident to view the displayed plans for the park that will be located on the two acres near the Fire Station.

**TCA Website** Do you have any items you think should be posted on our website? Please email them to one of our board members.

Your feedback is appreciated to help make future newsletters useful to you and inclusive of the latest community events. If you have suggestions, community news items, or you would like to write an article, please contact Tom Smith. 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.

If you did not receive these minutes from Janet Honek, please send your email address to [janet@snapforward.com](mailto:janet@snapforward.com).

**Talavera Community Association Dues.** Thank you to those who have already submitted their 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**

## **TCA Officers and Committee Chairpersons**

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