

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)  
SPRING CLEAN-UP AND POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES  
Held February 20, 2010, 6:00pm – 7:26 pm,  
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station**

Next Regular Meeting: May

Type of Meeting: Membership Meeting

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

Douglas welcomed the meeting attendees and reviewed the new meeting procedures. Each speaker will have a time limit as follows:

- 5 mins – Presentations/speakers
- 3 mins – Announcements
- 2 mins – Questions/comments:

**II. Treasurer Report Tom Smith.**

Last year we had several large expenses that reduced our funds to \$2235. We appreciate everyone who mailed in or brought their membership dues with them tonight.

**III. Neighborhood Clean-up and Fire Department Daren Bloomquist**

We had a great turnout for our semi-annual clean-up! A total of 47 people participated. This time we included the Monte Vista Picnic area on the east side of A-Mountain. Daren also gave an update on the Volunteer Fire Dept (VFD). He introduced and thanked the new volunteers. Remember, they can always use more volunteers. He announced the VFD is getting two new tankers that can drive faster up the hill!

**IV. Outstanding Citizen Award Daren Bloomquist**

The TCA Board recognized Daren for his hard work and dedication in the Talavera area. Here are some interesting facts about Daren:

- 1) Resident since 1989,
- 2) Was 18th house in the neighborhood,
- 3) Served over 5 years on the Talavera Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association Board, 3 years as president,
- 4) Served over 4 years on the Soledad Canyon Homeowners Association Board, also was president,
- 5) Currently serving his 11th year with the Las Alturas Volunteer Fire Department. Current position: Captain and Secretary
- 6) Been involved in the semi-annual road clean-ups for at least 18 years, coordinating it for at least 14 of those years.

Daren was speechless but would like to say, "I accept this on behalf of my family for their continued love and support and those members of Talavera community who also dedicate so

much personal time and effort serving their neighbors. They are all an inspiration to me."



**V. Neighborhood Watch Program Gary Kology**

Gary reported the "Neighborhood Watch" signs were installed. We currently have 16 block captains. The following is a list of those who established specific areas:

- Gary Kology: North Rock House Road
- Mac Snedden: Archenbach Canyon, end of Alamo Mine Trail and Lost Padre Mine Trail.
- Alison Bills: La Cueva Mine Trail, Alamo Mine Trail, Lost Padre Mine Trail (all south of Soledad)
- John O'Connell: Organ Mesa Loop
- Gerry Gammell: part of Mother Lode, Silver King from Soledad and Homestead Court.
- Bill Godby: Modoc Trail (pending)
- David Martinez: Silk Oak Court
- E & H Monahan: Silver King to Mother Lode to Cripple Creek

If you have not been contacted by a block captain then the position is open for your neighborhood. To find out how you can be involved, contact Gary at [campcop@hotmail.com](mailto:campcop@hotmail.com).

**VI. Monte Vista Parking Area Helen Zagona**

Monthly volunteers are patrolling and cleaning this side of A Mountain. There are a few

openings for more volunteers. BLM is very appreciative and feels they could not offer this picnic site without our help. BLM will install an 'Adopt-a-Highway' sign on Dripping Springs Road in recognition of our clean-up efforts.

### **VII. Rattlesnake Vaccine Clinic Calista Animal**

**Hospital:** (No, it's not about getting a vaccine for your snake!) For the past 3 years, the largest number of rattlesnake bites were from the Talavera area. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Calista Animal Hospital will be hosting Rattlesnake Vaccine Clinics for your dog at the Talavera firehouse. Call 644-9721 and leave your name and the number of dogs to be vaccinated. Rattlesnake bites are serious so protect your dog.

### **VIII NMDOT Road Construction Update Frank Gusman, District Engineer**

Federal funding for road construction requires the project be submitted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Roadways must undergo environmental and classification evaluations. There are several large projects planned, including the University I-25 interchange and I-10 expansion. The Dripping Spring improvements for the new high school are not on the MPO list yet. To see MPO information and a calendar of their meetings, go to the City of Las Cruces website, [www.las-cruces.org](http://www.las-cruces.org) and click on the MPO link in the right column.

### **IX. New High School, Road Upgrades, and Annexation Discussion**

#### **Sharon Thomas, Las Cruces Mayor Pro-Tem.**

Sharon posted a map showing the areas the city will be annexing around the new high school. (The annexation must be requested by the property owners.) The City and County had several meetings to discuss upgrading Dripping Springs but can't get the funds. Sharon met with Congressman Teague about getting this project on the federal funds list.

**Maria Flores, School Board.** Maria reported on several issues affecting the high school. She clarified that the new high school will open with freshman and sophomore students who are not allowed to leave campus during the day. She will request closing the campus for all students. The maximum attendance will be 2100 students plus staff. If LCHS closes, those students will not come to this new school. The School Board is planning to put in a traffic light but must follow traffic light procedures. The access roads cross private property so they are negotiating with property owners. Their goal is to expand Dripping Springs to 4 lanes. The redistricting

has not occurred and the school construction has experienced delays, so the opening date will be delayed until 2012.

**Karen Perez, County Commission.** Karen clarified the City and County are trying to determine who owns the property along Dripping Springs. Until that is determined, no work can be done to upgrade Dripping Springs. There is a task force that has developed plans to handle the drainage through the arroyos leading to the school and gravel pit area. They want to create ponding and a wetlands for animals. They would have access to federal funding. The May Election will have their Soil and Water Conservation Referendum. Although it will increase property taxes slightly, it will provide great infrastructure, long-term benefits. She recommends we vote for it.

### **X. Legislative Representatives**

#### **Stephen Fischmann, State Senator**

Steve will be working with the city and Joseph Cervantes to introduce legislation requiring schools and related agencies to work together to develop school sites. When choosing a new school site, the true cost of land must include the cost for improvements to make it accessible and useable. Steve reported a lot of the solutions being proposed to solve the state budget crisis are short-term and apologizes for not being able to make more significant changes. He pointed out several accomplishments:

- Federal money was obtained for the colonias.
- TID to revitalize downtown Las Cruces passed.
- Focus to reduce non-curriculum standardized tests so teachers have more time to teach.

#### **Joseph Cervantes, State Representative**

Joseph agreed with Steve that the budget solutions are only short-term fixes. Our NM constitution requires a balanced budget. He feels there are several reasons for the financial problems: mistakes; over-dependence on oil and gas; tax cuts made on several services over a long period of time all of which are now affecting us. He suggested we look at several options: favorite tax treatments and subsidies for some corporations such as the film industry; increase personal income tax on high income earners; and restoration of gross receipts on some food items. Right now we are getting through because we are leaning heavily on federal stimulus funds. We

will be in very bad shape when that is gone so we need to get serious about finding solutions.

## **XI. Announcements**

### **Mike Park, NAGS**

Mike announced the third party review of the FEMA study stated, "The conclusion of the independent reviewer was that FEMA guidelines and specifications were not followed with regard to the determination that Fillmore Arroyo is an active alluvial fan. Second, the FLO-2D model setup appeared reasonable; however, the model results could be further refined with historical record and topographical data and resulting flood zone delineation should be revised by following FEMA Guidelines and Specifications properly."

Mike is still working to separate all the flood studies so the valid studies can be accepted and the flawed studies be redone. Thanks, Mike, for your hard work in defending our area.

### **NMSU Pre-pharmacy Students, Vial of Life**

The students handed out Vials to store medical information for emergency personnel. You fill out the form placed inside the Vial and keep the Vial in your refrigerator or in your car glove compartment. A sticker on your house or car window alerts EMT personnel to check the Vial for important medical information.

## **XII. TCA Extras**

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 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 at [Douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com](mailto:Douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com).

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

### **Talavera Community Association Dues.**

Please support your Talavera Community Association by submitting your \$25 voluntary annual membership fee to:

#### **Talavera Community Association**

**P. O. Box 1057**

**Mesilla Park, NM 88047**

### **TCA Officers and Committee Chairpersons**

**President:** *Douglas Hoffman*

**Tel:** 521-1332

**Email:** [Douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com](mailto:Douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Gary Kology

**Tel:** 522-5640

**Email:** [campcop@hotmail.com](mailto:campcop@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** *Janet Honek*

**Email:** [Janet@snapforward.com](mailto:Janet@snapforward.com)

**Treasurer:** *Tom Smith*

**Tel:** 521-4431

**Email:** [Tom@fastwave.biz](mailto:Tom@fastwave.biz)

**Member-at-Large:** *Helen Zagona*

**Email:** [hzagona@yahoo.com](mailto:hzagona@yahoo.com)

**Member-at-Large:** *Mark Isler*

**Email:** [isler@newmanbillboards.com](mailto:isler@newmanbillboards.com)

**Chair of the Parks Committee:** *Tom Packard*

**Email:** [tompack2002@yahoo.com](mailto:tompack2002@yahoo.com)

**The TCA wishes to thank everyone who brought one of the many delicious dishes to the Potluck. The quality and quantity of food was outstanding!**