

TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
SPRING CLEAN-UP AND POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES
Held February 26, 2011, 6:15pm – 7:18 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. Board members were introduced.

II. Treasurer Report Tom Smith.

Our balance is just under \$5000. We appreciate everyone who mailed in or brought the membership dues with them tonight. Dues are our source of income. Please support our neighborhood organization.

III. Special Guest Sheriff Todd Garrison

Sheriff Garrison and his wife joined our TCA potluck meeting. He wants to sit down with us and hear our concerns. There are 24 cadets in the academy, which should fill the 21 available positions. New processes help them better identify and catch lawbreakers. You might have noticed their increased presence in our area. They received calls to patrol for speeders yet when they show up, the speeders disappear. You help the sheriff when you provide detailed descriptions and license numbers of suspected vehicles.

When the new high school opens, they will be working out here more. They don't know if there will be more problems since gangs in town know they get caught more often if they come to Talavera. The Sheriff recommends we keep aware of what is going on in our neighborhood. If you see something that does not look right, it probably isn't right. Contact the sheriff with detailed information.

Gary Kology reported the "Neighborhood Watch" program has 16 block captains. The Sheriff invited Gary to meet our area officer, Michelle.

IV. Neighborhood Cleanup and Fire Department Daren Bloomquist

We had a great turnout for our semi-annual cleanup! A total of 57 people participated. This time we picked up trash down to Farm & Ranch Museum. Let's keep the participation high so we can clean all the way down to the bridge! The "Keep America Beautiful" office donated bright lime green "Toss No Mas" t-shirts so participants were clearly seen. One resident reminded us to be aware of loose trash in our trash barrels. The March winds can quickly make a mess of our

neighborhoods – especially on Fridays when the trash barrels are emptied.

Daren also gave an update on the Volunteer Fire Dept (VFD). The new vehicles are arriving. The two new tanker trucks can get up the hill in 5 minutes instead of 15-20 minutes. That should help those at the top of the hill to feel more protected. We will also have a 6x6 vehicle to access rough terrain and carry out injured persons on a gurney. A special thank you to Earl Stevens for keeping the engines running and cleaning the firehouse for our TCA meeting. New volunteers have attended the trainings on Thursdays. Remember, the Fire Dept can always use more volunteers.

V. Neighborhood Comments

TCA Sign: Comments were given on how to enhance the contrast on the TCA sign. If you have some ideas, please contact Douglas Hoffman at douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com.

High School Update: The TCA board has been meeting with the Las Alturas board, Steve Fischmann, Joseph Cervantes, Karen Perez, Sharon Thomas and school board members. The school board has formed a special committee to discuss several HS issues. The committee includes Karen Perez, Sharon Thomas, Douglas Hoffman and Bill Godby.

VI. Monte Vista Parking Area Bill Godby

Vandalism occurred at Monte Vista Parking Area, east side pavilion at A Mountain. Bill came into the parking area and found two teenagers drawing on tables, posts and signs. They quickly left but Bill was able to give the sheriff a description of the vehicle and license number. One boy was captured and confessed but would not provide any additional names. This case is going to court soon. BLM and our TCA volunteers cleaned it up.

VII. Dark Sky Initiative Bill Godby

Sometimes we forget the effect our lighting has on our ability to see the stars at night. Let's all be aware and adhere to The Night Sky Protection Act that states:

- No lights source can extend more than 10 feet in height

- No light can be perpendicular to building. (Be careful of your flood lights)
- All direct rays of light source shall not extend past an owner's property.

VIII Ft. Bliss artillery noise study Bill Godby

Many residents have noticed the sonic booms, multiple booms and ground shaking coming from Ft Bliss. Sonic booms are a single boom caused by aircraft. The artillery noise is probably coming from Range 20, a new range behind Soledad Canyon.

Ft. Bliss is conducting a study on the noise. They believe the cloud ceiling may be causing the sound to come over the mountains. They need your help and want to hear from you when you hear noises on this side. Please call them to report the time, date and area. Reporting this information is NOT complaining. They want to study the correlation between the noises and the cloud conditions. To help the Ft. Bliss study, contact:

Jean Offutt
Public Affairs Office
568-4505

IX. Announcements

Karen Perez, County Commission. The expansion of the ETZ, the overlap buffer zone between the city and county, that occurred a few years ago might affect home-based businesses. There are conflicts in the city and county descriptions that could affect your home-based business. If you have a home-based business, it may or may not be in accordance with the current zoning. If you have a license, you're probably grandfathered in. If you want to start a home-based business, you might have trouble until this is revised. If you want input on the Ordinance revision, you must attend the next ETZ meeting in April or submit comments in writing. The proposed ordinance changes will be placed on the TCA website and added as attachments to the TCA minutes. Karen will send upcoming April meeting information through the TCA email and encourages you to attend the meeting. If you cannot attend, please notify Karen of your comments.

One resident asked Karen about getting the weeds cut down on Soledad Canyon. The county has one mowing machine so we can only get it out here once a year. She recommends homeowners who have machines might help cut the weeds.

Mike Park. The FEMA battle continues. When the FEMA study was released a few years ago, the FEMA maps were in error. NAGS fought it and financed a new study. The maps that came back are a little better but still don't match our area. Senator Bingaman has been fighting it with us. FEMA is trying to push the maps through. The Talavera maps are being submitted and we're trying to get them accepted.

This issue should come before the county in December 2011. If the county does not accept the FEMA maps, then the county might lose flood funding. Please watch the county website. Karen Perez will try to get a new set of maps at the firehouse so residents can view them.

X. 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*.

If you did not receive these minutes from *janet@sunspotenergy.com*, please send your email address to *janet@sunspotenergy.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 Board Members

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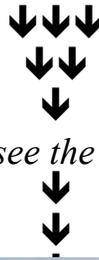
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Member-at-Large: Jennie Meehan
Email: jennie88011@gmail.com

Member-at-Large: Bill Godby
Email: billgodby@gmail.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!



Keep scrolling to see the Organ Mesa photo

