

TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
SPRING CLEAN-UP AND POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES
Held February 11, 2012, 6:10pm – 7:20 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. New neighbors introduced themselves. Thanks given to Jesse's KC BBQ for the delicious brisket and chicken and to all those who brought potluck dishes. It was announced this was the best potluck food ever!

II. Neighborhood Comments

Celebrity Waiter fundraiser: Janet Honek (your TCA secretary) has been selected to be a "Celebrity Waiter" at the March of Dimes fundraiser on March 23, 2012 at the LC Convention Center. Event will include a great dinner, "money" booth, photo booth, special surprise performance, silent auction, and crazy waiters doing just about anything for tips. Tickets sell out quickly, contact Janet at Janet@SunspotEnergy.com.

Mardi Gras fundraiser: The NMSU American Southwest Theater Company presents the annual Mardi Gras Gala dinner with a special performance by the classic burlesque company, The Desert Dolls. Tickets for the February 18 event at Farm & Ranch Museum are available from Carolyn Williams, cjoyce6570@hotmail.com.

III. Treasurer Report Tom Smith.

Our balance is just over \$6000. 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.

IV. Neighborhood Cleanup and Fire Department Daren Bloomquist

We had the biggest turnout for our semi-annual cleanup! A total of 65 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 yellow t-shirts, which were available at the cleanup and the potluck meeting.

Fire Department: Captain Daren also gave an update on the Volunteer Fire Dept (VFD). They received close to 460 calls during the past year. They are unable to respond to all of them so NMSU helps. New volunteers are always

welcome at the trainings on Thursdays. Remember, the Fire Dept can always use more volunteers

V. Neighborhood Watch Gary Kology reported there is no "news" in our Neighborhood Watch program. So "no news is good news!" Remember, if you are interested in learning more about Neighborhood Watch or organizing your block, please contact Gary at campcop@hotmail.com.

VI. Monte Vista Volunteer Recognition Helen Zagona

Over two years, Talavera adopted the Monte Vista Parking Area, east side pavilion at A Mountain. The Talavera volunteers sign up for one month a year to periodically stop by the parking area. Not only do the volunteers keep the area clean, their presence has reduced vandalism and gang activity. Kudos to Dave Fonder, Nancy Schultz, Jim Williams, Jim Hammelev, Mel and Sherry Goodner, Vivien and Earl Stevens, Bill and Velma Noland, Larry and Irene Cottingham, John Lazaruk, Helen Foster, John Spalding and Gillian Nielson. There are openings for two more volunteers. Please contact Helen at hzagona@q.com.

Anna Echter, BLM Park Ranger, thanked the TCA for our help. They recently added critter-proof trashcans and pet cleanup dispensers. BLM will be working on the A Mountain Trails. Thanks also to the Talavera Fire Department for their help with the opening of the new Sierra Vista trail and parking lots.

VII. Range Expansion and Artillery Noise 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 40/50, a new range behind Soledad Canyon.

The Dona Ana North Ranges have been expanding during the past couple years. There are now 13 active ranges with 8 more planned to open by 2014. We were told 6 battalions are moving into this area for training.

Environmental Impact Studies were performed in 2007 and 2010. They produced sound

contours identifying areas above and below 62 decibels acceptable noise level. The Talavera community was omitted from all sound studies, both 2007 and 2010.

Mr. Godby suggested Fort Bliss be asked to account for why Talavera was omitted in the noise analysis and ask what can be done about it. In addition, questions remain regarding whether Talavera remains clear of all Safety Danger Zones (SDZs) for present and future weapons being fired. Last is the concern about increased fires from the Dona Ana North Range activities. Mr. Godby suggested Fort Bliss provide more substantial analysis of their activities to substantiate their claim that “there is no increased risk of fire from expansion of ranges and activities in the area.”

He passed around a signup list for residents interested in more information. If you want to be informed on this, and/or want to work with Mr. Godby to get questions answered, please contact him at godbones@yahoo.com.

VIII Sonic Booms and F-22 Flyovers John Smith. Sonic Booms are the loudest and most powerful noises. In addition, we are getting increased reverberations from the mountains, which is unusual. The barrier for their operations extends west to the firehouse, south to Chaparral then north beyond Dona Ana. He’s contacted Senators Bingaman and Udall who are very concerned.

John recommends you inspect the stucco on the east and north sides of your house. Look for new cracks in your stucco. If cracks are found, have a private contractor assess the damage and document it with photos that mark the time and date. John has Damage Claim Forms. Each household should submit their own forms but he is tracking and reporting a cumulative record of damage. If you have damage, notify John at american1776@msn.com or 575-532-1925.

The goal is to show reason for the Air Force and Army to move their supersonic operations east to eliminate future damage. It takes years to change restricted air space, but it is easier to have an administrative move of the western boundary to the Organ Mountains. Once they get damage claims, they will be more willing to move the boundary. John will be the point of contact. He did this same thing for a town in Nevada when he was stationed there. He is a retired Commander.

IX. TCA Nominations and Elections

Two candidates nominated:

- Mark Benson
- Tom Hobby

All attending approved the candidates joining the TCA Board.

X. ETZ Changes Gary Kology

When the City of Las Cruces annexed the property for the new Centennial High School, it extended the ETZ zone to Ladera Canyon. There are many changes that are not consistent with our Talavera standards. If you have covenants, the new ordinance cannot supersede it, but you or your Homeowner Association would have to take the offender to court.

A few examples:

- Businesses may add additional 600 SF buildings based on property size. (This was based on the size of city lots.)
- Business may park trucks up to one-ton.
- Businesses may have up to 5 employees at the Talavera location.
- On street parking allowed for customers.

If you would like more information, please contact Gary Kology campcop@hotmail.com or Douglas Hoffman douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com.

Karen Perez, County Commission. The ETZ zone does not have ordinances for home-based businesses so they needed to develop one. They used a lot of the city ordinances in the draft. The draft can be found on the Dona Ana County website, http://www.co.dona-ana.nm.us/development/docs/ETZ_Amendments_2012-001.pdf.

The next ETZ public hearing is Wednesday, 2/15, 5:30 PM at the DAC Government Center. Your attendance can make a huge impact! If you cannot, please send written comments to Janine Divyak janined@donaanacounty.org.

The next Noise Ordinance meeting is on 2/24, 1:00-3:00 PM at the DAC Government Center. Karen will send upcoming meeting information through the TCA email and encourages you to attend the meetings. If you cannot attend, please notify Karen of your comments.

Karen reports the road construction is scheduled to be complete by May but they expect to finish earlier.

Please remember, law enforcement cars are often poised to enforce the 25 mph construction zone. We all agree it is difficult to drive 25 through that patch but use cruise control to help. Although some neighbors report that the speed limit signage has been confusing, the construction signs and double fines override the local signs.

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

President: Douglas Hoffman
Tel: 521-1332
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Vice President: Gary Kology
Tel: 522-5640
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Treasurer: Tom Smith
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Member-at-Large: Mark Benson
Email: mark.h.benson@gmail.com

Member-at-Large: Bill Godby
Email: godbones@yahoo.com

Member-at-Large: Tom Hobby
Email: tom.hob@sbcglobal.net

Member-at-Large: Jennie Meehan
Email: jennie88011@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!

Organ Mesa Clean-up Crew

