

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)**  
**POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES (Amended)**  
**Held November 16, 2013, 6:10pm – 7:20 pm,**  
**At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station**

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Next Regular Meeting: February

Type of Meeting: Membership Meeting

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

Douglas welcomed the meeting attendees. This was the biggest and best potluck ever! Thanks given to Jesse's KC BBQ for the delicious brisket and chicken and to all those who brought the wide variety of tasty potluck dishes. The room was full and every seat was taken. New neighbors introduced themselves. Thanks to **Earl Stevens** for cleaning the Firehouse for our potluck.

Elections will be at our next meeting in February. Would you like to get to know your community better? Do you have some time to help follow-up on some of our topics of interest? Please send Douglas at [Douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com](mailto:Douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com), your interest or recommend someone for the board. We need your input to grow and thrive. We need some "fresh blood". ☺

**II. Treasurer Report. Steve Tarro**

Our current balance is \$11,135.00. If you would like to see our financials, please contact Steve at [s\\_tarro@hotmail.com](mailto:s_tarro@hotmail.com). Dues now follow the calendar and will be payable at the February meeting.

**III. TCA Website Karen Armstrong**

Our new Webmaster, Karen Armstrong, was introduced. Our website is now updated, organized and more relevant. Check the website for contact information of board members, copies of the minutes, announcements and much more information. <http://www.talaveraca.org/>

**IV. Fire Dept Earl Stevens.**

Our small **Volunteer Fire Department** has responded to 190 calls this year. They have 21 members and would like to expand with more members. So if you think you are trainable and would enjoy serving your community, please contact Daren at [dareninm@aol.com](mailto:dareninm@aol.com)

**V. Propane Co-op Perry Ashby.**

The Propane Co-op with Griffin Propane has over 200 members. If you would like to join, please contact Perry at [perry.ashby@q.com](mailto:perry.ashby@q.com) for the forms. If you are with ServiGas – Ikard & Newsome, they will meet the price offered by Griffin Propane. Now that's a WIN-WIN! Let Perry know if you have other ideas about leveraging our buying power.

**VI. Legislative Update**

Save the Date! On Saturday, December 7, 2013, from 2-4 PM, the TCA will host a Legislative Update at the Firehouse with Senator Bill Soules and Representative Doreen Gallegos. They want to know what issues you want them to focus on when they are in Santa Fe. Come ready to talk to your representatives!

**VII. Neighborhood Watch**

Jerry Gammell is the new Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. There is information on our TCA website. If you want to help organize your neighborhood or if you are a block captain, please contact Jerry at [ggamm43345@aol.com](mailto:ggamm43345@aol.com), home 522-2600, cell 612-590-9196.

The strongest power to prevent burglaries is our Neighborhood Watch program. The Sheriff's Dept is short 40 officers. There are only 2 officers working on Neighborhood Watch and Drug Prevention. They monitor our TCA emails but it is not enough. It is up to us to implement our Neighborhood Watch program. If you want a Neighborhood Watch sign, contact Jerry. The TCA can help purchase signs. The Sheriff Dept recommends you post signs – it works!

**VIII. Announcements**

**Thanks Helen Zagona!** Helen Zagona was passionate about A Mountain. She started a Clean-up Program for the Monte Vista area on the east side of A Mountain. For several years, she enlisted and supported volunteers to keep Monte Vista clean. The BLM recently hired people to keep Monte Vista clean. The BLM and TCA both appreciate all the hard work of the volunteers and Helen.

**Pet Safety.** It recently came to our attention that dead rabbits soaked in antifreeze are being left in the desert. This bait is very poisonous and very attractive to many animals. It will kill any animals that find it: dogs, cats, eagles, and hawks. We know this area has lots of wildlife and many of us moved out here to enjoy it. Let's learn to live with the wildlife and not hurt it. And pet owners- please, do not let your animals run loose.

**Illegal Dumping.** Any dumping of trash or furniture is illegal. Some one has been dumping large items off Achenbach. If you see someone dumping, please call 911, and let's keep our area clean.

**Lights at Night.** As we continue to grow and add more houses, we ask you to remember the Dark Sky Ordinance. (You can find it on our TCA website.) If lights are on at night, they must shine down and be shielded. Your neighbors should not be able to see your lights. Of course, the best action is to turn your lights off when you go to bed. If you must have them on, please use a timer or motion detector.

**Talavera Hiking Group** David Soules is offering to lead some hikes into the Organs. Further information will be posted on our TCA website.

## **IX. Community Announcements**

**Talavera Sign.** Yeah! We have lights again. These are mounted to the sign so we are hoping they won't be stolen.

**Stop Sign for your Road?** Several residents asked if they could get Stop signs installed where their road intersects Soledad Canyon. If you would like more information, please contact Douglas at [Douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com](mailto:Douglas.hoffman1@gmail.com).

**Soledad Walking Path.** Interest was expressed for a walking/biking path along Soledad Canyon Road. If you support this project, please contact Douglas. If there is enough interest, we may be able to work with the county to install a path.

**Invite to Meetings?** Now that Karen is not our Commissioner, residents asked if our new Commissioner will come to our meetings. We can invite him and encourage him to attend. There was also a request for the Sheriff or a representative from the Sheriff Office to attend.

## **X. Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Monument**

Our guest speakers were the Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Monument (OMDP) and Peter Ibarbo of Congressman Pearce's office. It was a great discussion and many questions were answered. Approximately 600,000 acres are being considered as the OMDP Monument. This would protect the Organ Mountains and several other areas rich with historical, cultural, and recreational sites. Congressman Pearce introduced HR 995 as a compromise of only 58,000 acres be protected.

The land is currently being managed by the BLM, state and federal offices. It allows hunting, fishing, ranching, hiking, off-road vehicles in designated areas, and Border Patrol access for security. Both propositions would continue these activities.

Both groups stated their proposition would prevent new mines or drilling, prevent the extraction or fracking of resources, and prevent the sale of the land.

It appears these are the biggest differences:

1. **The amount of land protected.** About 241,000 acres are already protected. Senator Pearce's proposal protects only 58,000. The Monument proposed protecting over 600,000 acres.
2. **Process.** The Monument status is declared by the President. The Congressman's proposition, Bill HR995 is approved and voted on by Congress.
3. **Access.** Currently ranchers are allowed to install locked gates to prevent access through land they are leasing. Monument status would maintain open access to all.
4. **Popular Opinion.** Peter stated some constituents called Congressman Pearce saying they do not want the Monument status pursued. A poll of our meeting attendees showed only one resident and Peter opposed Monument status. We asked Peter to notify Congressman Pearce of the overwhelming support from our attendees.

**Friends of the OMDP Monument.** Represented by Lucas Herndon, Executive Director and David Soules. They are a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supporting the National Monument status. For more information, call 575-323-1423, visit their website at <http://www.organmtfriends.org> or email [info@organmtfriends.org](mailto:info@organmtfriends.org).

**Congressman Pearce.** Represented by Peter Ibarbo. For more information, contact Las Cruces office 855-473-2723, or visit his website at <http://pearce.house.gov>.

## **XI. TCA Extras**

Your feedback is appreciated to help make our newsletters useful to you and inclusive of the latest community events. If you have suggestions on how to improve the newsletter, community news items, or you would like to write an article, please contact Douglas

Hoffman. 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@SunspotEnergy.com](mailto:Janet@SunspotEnergy.com), please send your email address to [Janet@SunspotEnergy.com](mailto:Janet@SunspotEnergy.com).

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

Your \$25 voluntary annual membership fee is due annually in January.

#### **TCA Officers and Board Members**

**President:** *Douglas Hoffman*

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**Vice President:** VACANT

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