

TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Held March 10th, 2018, 6:00pm – 7:30 pm,
At the Farm & Ranch Museum

Next Meeting: Summer 2018

Type of Meeting: Regular

I. Greetings.

Perry Ashby, TCA President, introduced the current Board members: Helen Foster, Vice President and Steve Tarro, Treasurer. Karen Armstrong, Secretary and Jerry Wertz, Member at Large, were not in attendance. Thanks to Helen Foster for volunteering to take minutes of meeting. Perry thanked Kent Foster for his service this past year as Member at Large. Perry welcomed all and any newcomers to the meeting, approximately 70 attendees. State Representative Doreen Gallegos, State Senator Bill Soules and Doña Ana County Commissioner Chairman Ben Rawson were introduced.

II. Treasurer Report.

Steve Tarro, TCA Treasurer, submitted the following figures for year of 2017 to 3/9/2018

\$12,968.25	beginning balance (carry over from 2016)
9,905.00	deposits 2017 to 3/9/2018
<u>(2,766.70)</u>	expenses 2017 to 3/9/2018
\$20,106.55	current balance 3/9/2018
\$7,138.30	Net Increase

Since this report we have received 48 additional memberships and paid expenses for Annual Meeting, web hosting and web software.

Thank you to all our members who support the TCA annually. All donations are used solely in support of the Talavera Community.

III. CleanUp

Jerry Wertz, Member at Large and Volunteer CleanUp Coordinator, organized the clean up activities last week. Perry thanked those participating in the effort. In addition, thanks to all who pick up trash in their neighborhoods, along Soledad Canyon and Dripping Springs throughout the year.

IV. Elections

Karen Armstrong was re-elected to position of **Secretary**. There have been no volunteers for the current **Member-at-Large** position. The

TCA Board will amend the By-Laws to include job descriptions for the Member-at-Large positions. The BOD will no longer respond to anonymous comments or inquiries.

V. El Paso Electric (EPE) Proposed Substation

The PRC has not acknowledged the community petition to request the Doña Ana County Commission to justify all projects prior to construction.

<http://talaveraca.org/2018/resolution-re-unnecessary-utility-capital-investments/>

EPE has submitted their Environmental Impact Statements to the BLM and the BLM has made some administrative comments. Once corrections are made there will be a period of public comment. It will be important that we make “quality” comments at this time. The greater the response, as previously stated, the better. Please send comments to BLM representative, Paula Montes at pmontez@blm.gov

EPE is only considering sites 1, 2, 3, and 3A at this time. This substation will not be serving the Talavera community, rather other areas of Doña Ana County.

VI. TCA News

Neighborhood Watch programs have been dropped due to lack of participation. We are currently looking for someone to run the program. If you would like to coordinate this activity, please contact the BOD at tca@talaveraca.org.

Some suggestions for keeping the community safe: watch for suspicious activity, log descriptions, take pictures or video, and report EVERY incident to the Sheriff’s Dept. If an officer visit is not required you can report the incident using the Doña Ana County Sheriff’s Dept. on-line reporting form:

<https://donaanacounty.org/sheriff/oprs>

The statistics are used to evaluate officer need and patrols for the area.

Steve Tarro made a motion to donate \$1000 to the **National Trail Alliance** to build a fence along Dripping Springs from the monument sign to the entrance of the park. The fence would prevent ATV activity in the area. Perry Ashby seconded the motion. After discussion it was decided to table the motion until more information could be attained regarding the fence design and on-going maintenance.

Dark Skies

Once again we remind Talavera residents that New Mexico has a Dark Sky Protection Act passed in 1999: 74-12-1 thru 11 <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/99%20Regular/FinalVersions/HB0039.pdf>

More information about night sky friendly lighting can be found on the TCA website:

<http://talaveraca.org/wordpress/wp-content/posts/LightingGuideNM.pdf>

All outside lighting is required to be shielded with any light cast downward. Non-conforming lights must be extinguished by automatic shutoff between 11:00 pm and sunrise. Exemptions are listed in 74-12-7.

TCA Propane

The TCA Propane Coop has 285 members and the current price is \$1.80 a gallon. Perry Ashby is the program coordinator. The TCA will forward your email to Perry if you are interested in joining the Coop.

VII. Guest Speakers

State Senator Bill Soules discussed the passing of the state budget and the allocation of monies for the paving of Soledad Canyon Road.

Sen. Soules noted that the PRC does not answer to the Senate, however, he stated he would do what he can to help stop the EPE Substation from being built in our area. Sen. Soules stated that the EPE Substation was not needed for the current electricity needs of Talavera, but would be charged for it, essentially, paying twice.

A resident asked about tuition funding from the lottery and Sen. Soules stated that the amount a student receives would depend on the school, but should be roughly 60%.

State Representative Doreen Gallegos

discussed the current legislative session and described it as a “good session” since they had money to work with.

Rep. Gallegos also helped procure designated funds for the Soledad Canyon Road improvement project.

As for EPE, Rep. Gallegos felt that BLM recommendations should be completed in April. When Rep Gallegos wrote EPE regarding the proposed substation she was ‘politely’ informed that it was a PRC issue rather than a legislative one.

Rep. Gallegos also got two bills passed this session, Crime Victims Services, and Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Doña Ana County Commissioner Ben Rawson

informed us that Paula Montes, pmontez@blm.gov, is the BLM point person on the EPE Proposed Substation project. Again, he reminded us to keep comments sent to Ms. Montes on the issue in order to be effective.

Comm. Rawson gave a quick recap of the UDC and how it was “customized” for our unique community. Many thanks to the TCA BOD and members for their involvement in getting the specific changes made to the UDC code affecting Talavera.

Comm. Rawson reintroduced the paving of Baylor Canyon Road after polling residents regarding their choice for whether or not to pave. Happily it passed the BOCC and paving should begin in the next three weeks.

The Soledad Canyon Road Improvement Project will begin in October. During construction Soledad Canyon will be one-way with flag personnel directing traffic.

Originally, we had anticipated that the City would have completed installation of city gas lines before the Soledad Canyon Road improvement project began. Comm. Rawson has requested an upgrade from Century Link broadband.

Steve Fischman updated us as to what he has learned regarding EPE Proposed Substation and what changes he feels should be made at the PRC. Those changes would include: a review of alternatives to substations, and require data proving need for expansion.

Talavera Community Association Dues

If you haven't already, 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: *Perry Ashby*
Vice President: *Helen Foster*
Secretary: *Karen Armstrong*
Treasurer: *Steve Tarro*
Member-at-Large: *Jerry Wertz*

The foregoing minutes were approved by the Board of Directors on March 20, 2018.

 Karen Armstrong, Electronically Signed
Secretary