

TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Held October 27, 2017, 6:30pm – 8:30 pm,
At the Farm & Ranch Museum

Next Meeting: Winter

Type of Meeting: Annual

I. Greetings.

Perry Ashby, TCA President, welcomed the Community Representatives and Candidates, meeting attendees, new residents, and introduced the current Board members.

Perry Ashby – President

Helen Foster - Vice President

Steve Tarro – Treasurer

Karen Armstrong – Secretary and Web Master

Jerry Wertz -Director at Large

New Neighbors and/or **new TCA Members.**

Welcome to all! About five new families introduced themselves. Glad to have you join us!

Community Representatives & Candidates

State Representative, District 52, Incumbent
Doreen Gallegos – *no-show*

State Representative, District 52, Candidate
David Cheek

County Commissioner, District 3, Incumbent
Ben Rawson

County Commissioner, District 3, Candidate
Shannon Reynolds

PRC, District 5 Candidate Stephen Fischmann

PRC, District 5 Candidate, Ben Hall – *no-show*

LAVFD Fire Chief Arnold Diaz and Ass't Fire
Chief Daren Bloomquist

Spontaneous speaker, Patti Gibson, District 7,
Public Education Dept, Unopposed Candidate.

II. Treasurer Report.

Steve Tarro, TCA Treasurer, submitted the following figures:

12/31/2017

\$16,286.43	beginning balance
6,450.00	deposits
<u>1,812.20</u>	expenses
\$20,924.23	ending balance
\$4,637.80	net increase

III. CleanUp.

Jerry Wertz, Member-at-Large and **Volunteer Clean-Up Coordinator**. We must recognize our faithful, Clean-Up Coordinator, Jerry Wertz and

his significant other, Elizabeth. Many thanks to all our residents who volunteered their Saturday morning for our fall cleanup. We had a significant increase in willing volunteers. Milagro Coffee kindly donated bountiful refreshments for the occasion. As always, we value those residents who regularly pick up neighborhood trash throughout the year. Keeping our community cleaner is much more successful with many hands involved.

IV. TCA News.

TCA Elections. 2019 elections will include the **President** and one **Member-at-Large**. In addition, we need to fill the **Member-at-Large** position that was vacated by Kent Foster last year. Please submit a brief resume or desire to volunteer. It was pointed out to us that the Member-at-Large position did not have a job description in the By-Laws. The BOD has written a job description for Member(s)-at-Large and attending TCA members voted to approve. The addition to By-Laws:

Section 5. Member-at-Large: Members-at-Large do not have a specific list of duties. Rather they serve the Board's strategic needs as determined by the President at any given time. Duties change as defined in organization bylaws or as needed to fulfill Board requirements and address overall organizational goals.

The new By-Laws are available for viewing on our website.

What is the TCA?

We are **not** an HOA. We are a communication conduit for *all* of the Talavera area. We communicate through the TCA website, direct mail newsletter and subscribed Member email. Please note that the BOD will not respond to **anonymous** comments.

Natural Gas Project

High pressure natural gas lines are being installed on Dripping Springs and Soledad Canyon. City Utilities will charge \$6,020 to

pipe natural gas to your curb (less \$1,400 connection incentive—within 6 months of notice of gas availability—along with financing options.) See [City Utilities Gas Resolution](#). The homeowner is responsible for gas piping from curb to residence and any natural gas connections to appliances. Anticipated cost (in addition to that owed city utilities) is around \$3K to \$5K minimum. The big question is how long will the ROI (Return on Investment) be? There has been a huge negative response from the Community due to the initial outlay!

Soledad Canyon Road Project (SCRP)

BOCC Chairman Ben Rawson stated that the November 2018 start date for the [Soledad Canyon Road Project](#) will rely on completion of the Natural Gas Project first. The SCRCP is slated to last nine months. Soledad will have an entire new road base with two traffic lanes, 5-foot bicycle lanes each side and one 8-foot walking path on south side of road.

Dripping Springs

Comm. Rawson announced that Dripping Springs Road is a future project in the works with improvements similar to Soledad Canyon.

El Paso Electric Substation

The [BLM has chosen site 3A](#) for the proposed Talavera Substation. We have been informed that Organ Mesa Ranch has filed an appeal to this decision. Yea OMR!

Propane Coop

The Talavera Propane Co-op has 300+ Members. The price for propane is the cheapest in town @ \$1.95 a Gallon.

Dark Sky

Current and new residents please follow the Dark Sky guidelines: “Residential lighting shall be shielded such that the lamp or the lamp image is not directly visible outside the property perimeter”. [UDC, §350-405 Public Lighting, B.\(1\)\(b\) Residential Lighting](#). Our night skies are important to most of us. Please limit the light pollution. Motion detectors can be helpful for controlling the amount of time lights are visible.

IV. Speakers and Candidates.

Candidates

Perry reiterated that the TCA is non-political. Each candidate who attended spoke briefly about their qualifications and plans for the future if elected/reelected. Members had plenty of time for questions and answers during our reception along with delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Speakers

Arnold Diaz Fire Chief, Las Alturas Volunteer Fire Department (LAVFD), and Daren Bloomquist, Ass't. Fire Chief, LAVFD, discussed the latest news regarding ISO ratings for county fire stations. In order to improve the ISO rating from the current score of '10' there must be four (4) firefighters (full crew) on a fire truck for every emergency call. In order to improve the percentage of fire personnel on each truck, three other districts will be included for each emergency call to county fire stations. Despite ISO rating, not all insurance companies use ISO for determining insurance rates. You might find a better rate by doing some research.

Dona Ana County fire stations need more volunteer firefighters and first responders. Over the years there have been 18 volunteers from Talavera (700 homes) and 8 from Las Alturas (568 homes). The principal difficulty seems to be our median age—50+ for our more affluent area. If you would like to volunteer despite the age advantage you could possibly help with maintenance of the stations, manning the pump on fire trucks... For more information please contact the [Doña Ana County Fire Department](#) or call 575.525.5568.

Talavera Community Association

The TCA is supported by voluntary annual donations of \$25.

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*
Member-at-Large: *Open*