

TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
SUMMER POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES
Held June 4, 2011, 6:10pm – 7:07 pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station

Next Regular Meeting: August/September

Type of Meeting: Cleanup, Potluck, & Meeting

I. Greetings: Douglas Hoffman, TCA President.

Douglas welcomed the approximately 100 people who attended. It was standing room only. We increased the order of chicken and brisket from Jesse's KC BarBQue yet it was not enough. Looks like we'll increase the order for our next meeting! Thank you for attending!

Thank you to Tom Hobby for highlighting the letters on the Talavera Community sign.

Dignitaries attending:

- Senator Steve Fischmann
- County Commissioner Karen Perez
- Fire Chief Arnold Diaz

II. Treasurer Report Tom Smith.

Our balance is just over \$7000. 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. Neighborhood Watch Gary Kology reported everything is quiet. (That's good news!) Your Neighborhood Watch program can be as few as the houses around you. To find out more, please contact Gary at campcop@hotmail.com.

IV. Volunteer Fire Department Douglas Hoffman.

The new vehicles were on display. 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. The new 6x6 ATV vehicle can carry out an injured person on a gurney. (It is very cool looking!) This will be the last of new equipment for a while. Remember, the Fire Dept can always use more volunteers.

IMPORTANT: No outdoor burning, no firepits, no fireworks. Any sparks can set this area ablaze!

V. Neighborhood Comments

Yard Sale: Kudos to Maureen and Ben Villmer for coordinating a fantastic garage sale weekend. Buyers and sellers had a great time.

Dark Sky Ordinance: Please turn off your lights when you tuck in for the night. Use motion sensors instead of leaving lights on. We moved

out here to enjoy the skies. The lights left on interfere with telescope viewing.

Slow down: Please slow down for the 25 mph speed limits. Kids are out of school and could be playing in the street just around that next corner.

VI. Verizon Cellphone Service The TCA Board and many residents contacted Verizon about the loss of cellphone reception. As a result of the AT&T – Alltel merger, Verizon lost a tower behind A Mountain and AT&T now owns the Southern New Mexico market area. Verizon is researching where they can install a new tower or a repeater. Any work must be approved by the Planning and Zoning Committee. At this time, nothing has been proposed to the Committee.

Residents reported:

- Verizon allowed some residents to change to Sprint or AT&T without a termination fee.
- Verizon gave some residents an extender at no charge. The extender will boost the signal within your house.

VII. TCA Website Larry Cottingham

Larry has done a great job managing the TCA website for several years. How would you like the website to serve you? Please email Larry at larry@larryc.com with items you would like posted, such as:

- TCA Community activities
- Babysitting services
- Ride share
- Hiking buddy requests
- Other ideas? What would you like to see posted?

VIII HS School Traffic Douglas Hoffman and Bill Godby

The new Centennial High School will open in just over a year with Freshman and Sophomore students. Reduced capacity at opening will give us and the city an opportunity to adjust. Right before school opens, the School Board will decide from which neighborhoods they will draw the students.

Karen Perez and the MPO asked the city to make #1 priority the Missouri extension, and #2 priority the improvements along Dripping Springs. The city decided to pave Sonoma Ranch from Lohman to Dripping Springs. This \$9 million project, they plan to do for \$2 million. The only improvements scheduled for Dripping Springs are turn lanes and possibly a traffic light.

Our School Board Representative, Maria Flores, has opened doors for us in getting information and our concerns heard. We have a long way to go and might need your support at upcoming meetings.

Our concerns are:

- Traffic issues at the school intersection and at University/Telshor intersection: No impact studies were done. What do these intersections need to be safe?
- Additional access routes: They are needed to disperse the traffic. The city could open the Missouri extension and/or another access point on Dripping Spring near Farm & Ranch Museum.
- Moving emergency equipment to Talavera, Las Alturas and the HS: Traffic along Dripping Springs will delay/prevent emergency response.
- Zoning: Land across from the HS is zoned Industrial. Can we be proactive to get the area along Sonoma Ranch zoned as residential?

IX. Mike Park Reports:

Home-based Business Zoning. The proposed Home-based Business Zoning Ordinance is going to the Planning and Zoning Committee. The new proposed ordinance is on the TCA website, www.talaveraca.org. It controls some of the things we don't want next door: flashing signs; large construction vehicles; etc. Please review it and send your comments to Karen Perez, kperez@donaanacounty.org. She will make sure the committee knows your concerns, both good and bad.

FEMA and flood maps. The FEMA battle continues. The Dona Ana County Flood Commission is comprised of state employees and is not a part of Dona Ana County. Mike is trying to get this changed to be a county jurisdiction. When your support is needed, he will send an email through Janet, TCA Secretary. Please respond to Mike's request and attend the meeting. The County Commissioners listen to your 3-minute comments.

The current proposed FEMA map was posted on the firehouse wall. It is a little better but still doesn't match our area. Senator Bingaman has been fighting it with us but he is retiring. Mike is trying to meet with Congressman Pearce to get him on board. FEMA is trying to push the maps through. The Talavera maps are being submitted and we're trying to get them accepted.

X. County Redistricting John Smith

After the census is taken every 10 years, the voting districts are redone to accommodate the new numbers. The county grew by 68%! District 4, the northeast area of the county, grew the most. Redistricting goals are to distribute the same number of people and ethnic diversity in each district. Several proposed maps were posted on the firehouse wall. Pros and cons of each map were discussed. The public is invited to comment but the Commissioners have the final decision.

Karen Perez, County Commission. Karen is trying to remain impartial. She feels strongly about the county representation of areas where the county has no influence such as NMSU and the City of Las Cruces. She is also concerned about drastically changing district area boundaries midterm. It might be difficult for residents to have a different county commissioner who is unfamiliar with their concerns for the remainder of the term.

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*
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Member-at-Large: *Bill Godby*
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Member-at-Large: *Jennie Meehan*
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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!