

TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
SPRING CLEAN-UP AND POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES
Held September 26, 2009, 6:00pm – 8:15 pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station

Next Regular Meeting: TBA

Type of Meeting: Membership Meeting

I. Greetings and Clean-up Thank you: Douglas Hoffman, TCA President. Douglas welcomed the meeting attendees and introduced the Board Members. He asked the new residents and first time attendees to stand and introduce themselves.

II. New Meeting Procedure Helen Zagona. Helen explained the TCA Board has received several concerns about the length of the general meetings. In an attempt to provide more focused information and opportunities for all voices to speak, each speaker will have a time limit as follows:

- 5 mins – Presentations/speakers
- 3 mins – Announcements
- 2 mins – Questions/comments

Tonight Helen is the timer and the procedure will be used to see if we achieve the desired effect. Please let us know how you like the new procedure.

III. Dark Skies/Light Pollution Carol Rehder This special presentation covered the effect that light pollution has on astronomy, wildlife, energy consumption and the inconvenience to other residents. Carol also left a variety of materials for attendees including a list of resources for appropriate outdoor lighting. Remember Talavera has a Dark Sky Ordinance so do a good thing and turn off all your lights by 11:00 PM.

IV. Talavera-Las Alturas Fire Department Daren Bloomquist We had our most successful clean-up yet! A total of 56 people participated. Daren also gave an update on the Volunteer Fire Dept (VFD). He asked residents to keep the roads maintained for emergency vehicles, introduced the newest members of the VFD, and appealed for more volunteers.

The annual VFD smoked brisket fundraiser dinner is scheduled for Saturday October 10. Tickets are still available at \$10 each. Contact Daren at 644-9163 or dareninnm@aol.com to find out more.

V. State Senator Steve Fischmann Steve reported he received a lot of communication from residents in favor of a “texting while driving” ban. Senator Fischmann asked for a show of hands for those in favor of a “texting” ban, a hands-free cell phone law and an outright ban on cell phone use while driving. There was a strong show of hands favoring a “texting” ban, and fewer hands favoring a “cell phone use while driving” ban.

VI. TCA sign Douglas Hoffman Douglas presented a proposal for a new sign to be installed for the TCA. Area resident, Mark Isler showed us the proposed sign. He is donating his time and labor for the manufacture and installation of the sign. The TCA will only pay for materials. The members present voted for approving an expenditure of no more than \$800 to purchase the sign. Treasurer Tom Smith agreed to allow installation of the sign on his property at the intersection of Dripping Springs Road and Soledad Canyon Road.

VII. Adopt BLM area Helen Zagona: Helen reported TCA Board agreed to adopt the BLM’s Monte Vista parking area on the East side of A-mountain. She asked for volunteers to provide a presence there to reduce and prevent vandalism and to keep the area clean. President Douglas announced the county will place an ‘Adopt-a-Highway’ sign on Dripping Springs Road in recognition of our clean-up efforts.

Helen also talked briefly about the proposed wilderness designation for the Organ Mountains and asked residents to sign a letter of support.

VIII Neighborhood Watch Douglas Hoffman The Dona Ana Sheriff Office wants to do a Neighborhood Watch program in our area. They will schedule a training class at the fire station, probably on a Wednesday evening, in the near future. Date and time to be announced through email notice.

IX. Community Website Larry Cottingham Larry provided a look at the newly improved website and offered residents the opportunity to have ads posted on the site.

Larry also talked about the October 1 ETZ commission meeting where items pertaining to the Talavera area are on the agenda.

Larry asked if anyone is interested in volunteering as a tax preparer for the AARP Tax-Aide program. If interested, contact Larry at larry@larryc.com.

X. County Commissioner Karen Perez

Karen talked about the proposed impact of the new high school on traffic in our area. She reported the possibility of extending Sonoma Ranch Blvd from Lohman to Dripping Springs. While providing multiple access roads to the high school, it would have an even worse effect on Dripping Springs Road traffic, as it would become a popular bypass to Telshor. The MPO is currently concentrating on trying to get multiple access roads from the West using Missouri and other streets in that area. Commissioner Perez encouraged residents to contact her, Assistant City Manager Robert Garza, City Councilor Sharon Thomas in whose district the new HS is being built, or the MPO.

XI. 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.

If you did not receive these minutes from janet@snapforward.com, please send your email address to janet@snapforward.com.

Talavera Community Association Dues.

Tom Smith, Treasurer, sends out a thank you to those who have already submitted their 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 Committee Chairpersons

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Member-at-Large: *Helen Zagona*
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Chair of the Parks Committee: *Tom Packard*
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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!