

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
SPRING CLEAN-UP AND POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES
Held February 21, 2009, 6:22pm-7:33pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station**

Next Regular Meeting: May 20, 2009 at 7:00 PM Type of Meeting: Membership Meeting

I. Greetings and Clean-up Thank you: Larry Cottingham, TCA President. Larry welcomed the meeting attendees and the many new faces.

II. Cleanup Report Daren Bloomquist. Daren thanked the 40+ people who cleaned up our roadways today. Organ Mesa had a great turnout with 20 adults, 4 kids, and 2 garbage trucks. It was great fun for all! We will schedule another road clean up in August/September.

III. Talavera-Las Alturas Fire Department
The firehouse is always looking for volunteers, fire fighters, maintenance assistance, and help around the firehouse. Last year Talavera handled about 700 emergency calls. Sometimes NMSU will offer their assistance and respond.

If you would like to help, meetings are held every Thursday evening at 7 pm at the main station at 4145 Cholla off Las Alturas Drive with Saturday morning training once a month. Call Daren at 644-9163 to find out more.

IV. TCA Board Election
Nominations were given and all candidates were unanimously elected. Your 2009-2010 Board is:
President: Douglas Hoffman
Vice President: Gary Kology
Treasurer: Tom Smith
Secretary: Janet Honek
Member-at-large: Tom Brophy Jr
Member-at-large: Helen Zagona

V. FEMA study Mack Sneddon, NAGS Board
NAGS, Noah's Ark Group Study, submitted the 10-page engineering report on the FEMA Study. Even though they pointed out serious technical flaws, FEMA feels bad information is better than no information. FEMA is ignoring the report we sent because it analyzed their study rather than replaced the current flood zone study. For \$100,000 more, a new flood zone study can be done which could possibly override the current study. They will not withdraw the flawed report. Unless we submit a new flood study, FEMA is going forward with the original flood study. If we submit a new flood study with different information, then FEMA will consider it. If our new study does not come up different or if they

disagree – it is up to their discretion – then they'll ignore our new study.

Matt warned us that all property values will go down because the lower housing prices of those in the flood zone will pull the comparatives down for everyone. Contact Mike at mdpark@hughes.net for more info.

Comments added by Commissioner Karen Perez: Karen believes it is hard to undo the fiasco that has been done. Her concern is to make sure TCA residents do not get hit with flood insurance. The Flood Commission works for the governor and they recommend going through the appeals study. We're going to submit the report that NAGS had done.

Talavera residents have 90 days from January 16 to provide an engineering study proving you are not in flood zone. The County is not helping so Karen is coordinating and hosting a series of workshops with group of engineers to help people slog through the FEMA paperwork. We need surveyors to work with multiple properties showing they are above the flood plain. It is important for neighbors to coordinate efforts and flood FEMA with appeals. Be sure to get a certified acknowledgement of what you submit. Karen's cell phone is 644-4055. She will post information on the TCA website <http://www.talaveraca.org>.

VI. Park Committee
John Smith did not attend. Larry filled in some of the history on the project. When Organ Mesa was being developed, as compensation for the increased density zoning change, Mr. Curry donated a two-acre lot near the Fire Station. The land was given to the county on condition the county would build a park. You've probably seen the stakes laid out on the land. One neighbor filed a protest to stop construction. More information coming.

VII. New High School Traffic
Helen Zagona: The new high school will take two years to build and will serve 2,000 students, plus faculty and staff. Currently, the only entrance is west of the A Mountain curve. Helen has arranged a **meeting on Wednesday, March 4th,**

7:00 PM at Good Sam Auditorium with Commissioner Karen Perez, City Counselor Sharon Thomas, (new) School Board Member Maria Flores. She also invited officials from the school district office, Tom Murphy from the MPO, Assistant City Manager Robert Garza and Ben Woods from NMSU Planning and Development. The officials will make brief statements and then we will take written questions from the audience. We ask neighbors to attend with questions and concerns about the traffic problems we anticipate will occur when the school opens.

If you are concerned about the traffic and safety concerns, please voice your concerns to your elected official Maria Flores 644-9612.

Commissioner Karen Perez: Karen is also on the Metropolitan Planning Organization. NMSU is leasing the land to the high school for \$1 per year. Since it is so difficult for the schools to obtain large tracts of land, they accept the land when offered, then deal with all the rest of the issues involved. She is pushing the school board to identify what areas the high school kids will be coming from to help determine the flows of traffic. She suggested the city annex a strip of land from Sonoma Ranch for access. She would also like an access road from Imperial Ridge. To avoid “stop and go” traffic from Dripping Springs, she suggested an under/over pass to keep the traffic moving.

There are also concerns about monsoon season flooding. Just northeast of the new school are five large arroyos. BLM is considering “ponding” some of the drainage upstream. The quarries are another site used for ponding. In addition, NMSU is considering creating a reservoir with a turf farm.

Washington, DC is trying to create a fund to contribute for community impact when large amounts of troops are brought into an area. Karen is talking to White Sands about troop expansions and how they might be able to inject money into the school fund.

VIII Neighborhood Watch

There has been some interest in a Neighborhood Watch Program. The Las Alturas Homeowner’s Association has the Sheriff organizing their neighborhood watch program. A group of reserve officers will do the training. Are you interested? If so, let us know and we’ll have representatives at the next meeting. FYI, although most Talavera residents don’t have door-to-door vendors, if one

comes to your door be sure he is wearing the required placard on his chest.

IX. Community Rummage Sale

A Saturday in end of March, 7 AM – 2 PM

Maureen Villmer needs names and e-mail addresses of those interested in a giant Community Rummage Sale at the Fire Station. She will run ads, place signs and generally get the ball rolling. Depending on how many people, the cost would be about \$10.00. Those who participated in the past said they sold out! Contact maureenvillmer@hotmail.com or call 496-7605.

X. TCA Extras

TCA Website Do you have any items you think should be posted on our website? Please email them to one of our board members.

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 by email, please send your email address to janet@snapforward.com.

Talavera Community Association Dues.

Thank you to those who have already submitted their dues. Support your Talavera Community Association. Remember to submit your \$25 annual dues 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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Organ Mesa Clean-up Crew

