

TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
SPRING CLEAN-UP AND POTLUCK MEETING MINUTES
Held August 28, 2010, 6:00pm – 7:30 pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station

Next Regular Meeting: November

Type of Meeting: Membership Meeting

I. Greetings: Douglas Hoffman, TCA President.

Douglas welcomed the meeting attendees. He gave special thanks to:

- Larry Cottingham for website maintenance
- Earl Stevens for setting up and cleaning up firehouse
- Bernie Digman for providing Milagro Coffee to clean-up volunteers

II. Treasurer Report Tom Smith.

Tom explained the TCA is funded by voluntary member dues of \$25 per year. The brisket, chicken, drinks, paper goods and utensils are provided by the TCA. This year we are also assisting the firehouse with special requests, providing Neighborhood Watch signs, and purchasing plants for landscaping around the TCA sign at Soledad Canyon.

III. Neighborhood Clean-up and Fire Department Daren Bloomquist

We had a great turnout for our semi-annual clean-up! A total of 49 people gathered in Organ Mesa and at the firehouse. Daren asked the TCA membership to consider purchasing some reflective cones that can be used to mark the clean-up territories.

Attention: Someone dropped off some oil at the back of the firehouse. Please pick it up. The firehouse is not set up to use or recycle this.

The Volunteer Fire Department scheduled their Annual Brisket Dinner for Saturday, October 23. Tickets are only \$10 each. Contact Daren at dareninm@aol.com to purchase your ticket. Remember, the Volunteer Fire Department can always use more volunteers. Trainings are scheduled for the third Thursdays and third Saturdays.

IV. Neighborhood Watch Program Gary Kology

Gary is out of town. Douglas announced the Neighborhood Watch signs are in. If you are a Block Captain and ordered a sign, please contact Douglas to pick it up.

V. TCA Sign Landscaping Douglas Hoffman

Tom Packard is a Master Gardener who designed landscaping for the area around the TCA sign at

Soledad Canyon. A motion was made and passed that the committee spend up to \$200 to purchase the necessary plants and items. Tom Smith, who lives at the corner, agreed to water the plants. An email will be sent out with the time and date scheduled to plant. Many hands will make light work, so please come and join the planting group.

VI. Recycling Program Judy Smith

Donna Kendall contacted Mesilla Valley Disposal and provided an informative handout to attendees. For a small fee, Mesilla Valley Disposal will pick up recycled items twice a month. They participate in the “one-stream” recycling where you can put all your recycled cardboard, aluminum and tin cans, newspapers, mixed papers, and plastics in one barrel. Even if you do not use Mesilla Valley Disposal for your regular service, you can still sign up for recycling. For more information, call 647-9094.

VII Firehouse Medical Supplies Douglas Hoffman

The firehouse medical cabinet needs some basic items that are difficult and expensive to obtain through county channels. A motion was made and passed to provide \$300 to purchase thermometers and various medical items for the firehouse medical cabinet.

VIII. City condemns Moongate Discussion

Many attendees participated in a lively discussion about the City of Las Cruces condemnation of Moongate Water. Just this weekend, the Bulletin published an article about the misleading claims against Moongate. There is a lot of concern about what happens to TCA Moongate customers if the City takes over the business. As County residents, we have no representation in the City. At the least, our water rates will increase. Attendees agreed we want to be assured of the same water quality and water pressure.

Suggestions were made to:

- join forces with Moongate,
- testify in support of Moongate,
- talk to our elected representatives,
- write letters to the PRC. (Moongate is regulated by the PRC. If the City

operates Moongate, the City would not be regulated by the PRC. The PRC will fight against the City taking Moongate over.)

The Talavera Water Group explained the City, not Moongate, has provided assistance and water during water crisis. They are concerned about the TCA taking action that would jeopardize that assistance.

After much discussion and discovery, a motion to take a stand failed. The TCA will continue to provide information for residents to make their own decisions. The discussion was tabled until another meeting. We need more information and Talavera residents might be better served by a special task committee similar to NAGS, the group that fought FEMA problems

IX. Ladera Canyon land swap

Phillippou owns approximately 200 acres on Ladera Canyon. The BLM was negotiating to purchase the land to protect public and firefighter access to Achenbach Canyon. Phillipou wants to transfer the land to another developer to satisfy his debts. Motion was made and passed to authorize Douglas Hoffman, as TCA President, to contact the state BLM director to push for BLM to purchase the land as originally planned.

XI. Announcements

Karen Perez, County Commissioner

Watch the agendas for upcoming MPO meetings. A corridor study has been requested to evaluate the traffic patterns if Sonoma Ranch is opened for the new high school. There are concerns it would become a busy bypass for Telshor and I-25 increasing traffic beyond capacity. A good show of bodies at the meetings helps our position. Notices will be sent by email.

XII. 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@snapforward.com, please send your email address to janet@snapforward.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 Committee Chairpersons

President: *Douglas Hoffman*
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Secretary: *Janet Honek*
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Treasurer: *Tom Smith*
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Member-at-Large: *Open position*

Member-at-Large: *Mark Isler*
Email: isler@newmanbillboards.com

Chair of the Parks Committee: *Tom Packard*
Email: tompack2002@yahoo.com

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!



Organ Mesa Clean-up Crew



A few residents enjoying Milagro's Coffee at the firehouse.



A trailer full of trash bags. Great job!

