

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Held August 12, 2006, 5:30pm-8:00pm,
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station**

Meeting called by: TCA Membership
Next Regular Meeting: November 2006
Type of Meeting: Pot Luck Dinner and General Meeting

I. Greetings and Introduction of New Neighbors, Al Vickers, TCA President. Al welcomed the meeting attendees and about half a dozen new residents introduced themselves and received a hearty welcome to the community! Al reported that the clean-up held this morning was very successful. Clean-up organizer Daren Bloomquist reported that over 35 community members participated in the clean-up.

II. Financial Report and Organizational Report, Stephanie Charitonenko, TCA Secretary/Treasurer. Stephanie reported that as of June 30, 2006, TCA funds amounted to \$1,486.48 based mainly on previous dues paid by members to date and receipt of new, annual dues requested from members from the start of 2006. The balance was virtually unchanged from last quarter. Anticipated expenditures are 190.49 for new signage, \$165.75 for postage, and \$80 for potluck food. Anticipated income for the upcoming quarter includes \$175.00 in dues collected at the meeting.

Stephanie also reported that the TCA has now officially been incorporated as a non-profit corporation in NM and that the process to become a 501(c) (4) for IRS tax-exemption purposes is in progress and expected to be completed before the next meeting. Once this process is complete, payment of \$25 annual dues can be deducted from personal income tax as a charitable contribution.

III Election of New Officers
Stephanie Charitonenko, TCA Secretary/Treasurer announced that she was moving out of the area and was resigning from the Board of Directors, effective immediately. President Al Vickers called for nominations from the floor to replace Stephanie. Larry Cottingham was nominated to fill the position of Secretary. Tom Smith was nominated to fill the position of Treasurer. A vote was called for each position and both candidates were unanimously elected by show of hands.

IV. Talavera Fire Station Report, Daren Bloomquist, Volunteer Fireman.

Summary of discussion, Daren reported that thanks to the efforts of State Representative Joseph Cervantes, the Las Alturas/Talavera volunteer Fire Department had received a grant of \$185,000 for the purchase of new equipment. Construction of the next phase of the fire station has begun, and will feature drive-thru bays. Daren also reported that there are a limited number of sandbags available at the fire station for emergency use. Because there is a limited quantity, community members are asked to only use the minimum needed if there is an imminent threat of flooding. Daren introduced Sandy a volunteer first responder. Sandy announced that the fire department would be holding a CPR class on a to-be-determined Saturday in the next few weeks. Community members are invited to attend. There will be a \$25 charge for this approximately 6 hour class.

**V. Tortugas Mountain Recreation Area.
• Oswaldo Gomez, BLM**

Mr. Gomez discussed BLM plans for the Tortugas Mountain ("A" Mountain) Recreation Area. BLM has constructed a new parking area on the West side of the mountain, and will soon complete a second on the East side. The BLM has plans to create a trail system around the mountain by upgrading existing informal trails. BLM relies heavily on volunteers and will be seeking volunteer organizations to assist with this effort. Mr. Gomez also discussed the BLM goals for the Organ/Franklin Mountains Recreation Area. He noted its status as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern or ACEC. While BLM has goals to improve recreational opportunities in this area, there are no specific plans at this time.

VI. State Legislative Update.

Rep. Joseph Cervantes: Rep. Cervantes discussed state issues. He noted that the funds

to fix the Tortugas Arroyo – Dripping Springs Road crossing at the Farm and Ranch museum, while considered critical for the GRIP-II program, were not appropriated. Infrastructure improvements for the proposed spaceport took precedence. Rep Cervantes noted that he was running for re-election un-opposed and then took questions from the audience.

VII. County News.

• **Commissioner Paul Curry:** Commissioner Curry gave a brief overview of what he considers the 3 most pressing issues facing the County at this time. They are 1) Junk, abandoned automobiles and illegal dumping are a serious problem. There is a lack of environmental laws to address this issue. 2) Amador Hotel, the county is working with the City of Las Cruces to turn this historic building and former county office into a historical museum. 3) Renaming Motel Blvd. Commissioner Curry proposes renaming this street to “Old Butterfield Trail.

• **Sheriff Todd Garrison:** Sheriff Garrison gave a brief overview of his department and the community policing initiative. He then took questions from the floor. Among the issues that were discussed included a neighborhood watch program. Sheriff Garrison indicated that he would be willing to have a neighborhood Watch presentation for our next meeting. He also discussed current staffing levels. The department currently has 140 officers. Sheriff Garrison believes he needs 160 to accomplish his goals. The national recommendation is 180 officers based on County population.

• **Area Road Issues: County Road Director George Granados** discussed the road situation in our area. In general, the unpaved roads are “private” roads with access easements. That means that while individual property owners hold title to the roads, there are access easements that allow residents to use the roads to access their property. Maintenance of the private roads is up to the property owners.

• County Resolution 05-22; Mr. Granados then explained this county resolution. It provides a process for property owners to petition the county to accept the roads for maintenance and upkeep. The key provision is that all property owners on the road must agree to deed the road easement portion of their property to the county. How the road is maintained (as a dirt road, or paved) are negotiable items with the county. Mr. Granados also explained the benefits of having the county accept

responsibility for the roads. Since this resolution was passed, there have been 8 roads in the county transferred to county ownership and maintenance. Mr. Granados expressed his willingness to discuss the process with all residents. The telephone number for his office is: 647-7200.

• **Tortugas Arroyo Crossing;** Mr. Granados explained the county’s plan to fix the crossing on Dripping Springs Rd. The county plans a 4 box-culvert crossing, and has plans and a budget drawn up. While state funds were not appropriated in the last legislative session, the county will ask for funds again in the upcoming 2007 session. In the meantime, they plan to construct a temporary box culvert on the West side of Dripping Springs to ease the serious erosion that occurs with every rain storm.

VIII. Committee Progress Reports.

• **Road Committee – Kent Foster;** The committee has been studying road conditions on Soledad Canyon and Dripping Springs roads. They have also been working with home owners on Alma Road to work through the county petition process under Resolution 05-22. Property owners on Lost Padre Mine Road have also expressed interest in having the County take over the road. Kent also explained the process in a little more detail. There is a fee associated with the petition process. In addition, there is an open question about who will be responsible for the cost of upgrading the road to county standards. The county has indicated that the issue may be negotiable.

• **Park Committee – Stephanie Charitonenko** Since Stephanie has resigned from the TCA, There is a need for a new Park Committee chairperson. The committee is charged with developing plans for a 2 acre park next to the fire station. The land was donated by Paul Curry, and has been deeded to the County. The park committee will develop a plan for the park and an estimated cost for the development. Preliminary investigation and proposals have been developed, and the work needs to continue. TCA member John Smith volunteered to be the committee chairperson.

• **Flyer/Communications Committee – Helen Foster;** A flyer advertising the Talavera Community Association and inviting residents to participate was mailed during the week of August 7 – 11. Many thanks to all of the many people who helped create the flyer, determine addresses, and accomplish the mailing.

IX. Association News.

Volunteers and Ideas Needed: The Talavera Community Association is dedicated to

- Preserving and enhancing the physical and aesthetic environment within the community;
- Maintaining and improving property values and sense of community pride and identity;
- Serving as a mechanism for communication and advocacy within the community and beyond;
- Sponsoring cooperative planning, research, fundraising, and public education programs as they are deemed necessary.

To meet those goals, we need your ideas, and energy. Your willingness to volunteer and help the organization is eagerly sought. If you would like to serve on a committee or have a skill or knowledge that would enhance our goals we would like to hear from you. The TCA is actively seeking 2 or 3 additional board members who would be willing to commit a few hours each month to help pursue the organizations goals. If you are interested, Please contact :[Al Vickers at tel.: 521-1220.](mailto:AlVickers@msn.com)

• TCA Officers and Committee Chairpersons

President: Al Vickers tel: 521-1220 email: ekvickers@msn.com

Secretary: Larry Cottingham, tel: 521-0409, Email: larry@larryc.com

Treasurer: Tom Smith, tel: 521-4431

Email: Tom@fastwave.biz

Road Committee Chair: Kent Foster

tel: 522-1206, email : kentfoster@zianet.com

Park Committee Chair: John Smith tel: email: american1776@msn.com

Flyer/Communications Chair: Helen Foster, tel: 522-1206, email: Helenfoster@zianet.com

X. Other Issues

• **Recycling:** Resident Jeff Berg has offered to help us consolidate our recycling efforts by arranging a drop off during certain times of the month at the local firehouse. [To participate or receive more information, please call Jeff at 522-0286.](#)

• **Interested in Receiving the Albuquerque Journal?** The Albuquerque Journal is currently looking to start home delivery in our area. If interested, please call 1-800-577-8683, ext. 3172 – they need a show of interest. Ask for Damian or Robbie. Or, contact local resident, Bill McHale at 522-2332 or email billmch2000@yahoo.com. carriers to service our area.

• **Your Comments and Inputs Are Always Appreciated, Larry Cottingham.** Your feedback is appreciated to help make future issues useful to you and inclusive of the latest community events. If you have suggestions on how to improve newsletter format or content, or you would like to suggest community news items to be included in the next issue (new issues expected every three months, in line with our TCA meeting schedule), please send them to larry@larryc.com. Any corrections are also appreciated.