

**TALAVERA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (TCA)  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
Held February 10, 2007, 6:00pm-7:30pm,  
At the Talavera Substation of Las Alturas Fire Station**

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Meeting called by: TCA Membership

Next Regular Meeting: May 2007

Type of Meeting: Pot-Luck Dinner and General Meeting

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**I. Greetings and Introduction of New Neighbors, Al Vickers, TCA President.** Al welcomed the meeting attendees and asked new residents to introduce themselves. Three families introduced themselves and received a hearty welcome to the community!

Al reported that more than 24 adults volunteered to participate in the neighborhood cleanup Saturday morning.

**II. Financial Report and Organizational Report, Larry Cottingham, TCA Secretary/ Tom Smith, Treasurer.** The secretary reported that there are currently 192 residents have attended one or more meetings of the TCA or its predecessor organization the Soledad Canyon Homeowners Association. There are 85 people on the Email list. The address of the TCA is: **Talavera Community Association  
P. O. Box 1057  
Mesilla Park, NM 88047**

TCA Treasurer Tom Smith reported that as of 02/10/2007, the association had a balance of \$1126.51. At the November meeting, the membership had authorized the association to purchase new tables for use at the meetings. Tom reported that the Los Alturas Volunteer Fire Department had purchased tables that can be used for our meetings.

**III Jorge Grenados; Director of Public Works, Dona Ana County**

Director Grenados presented an update on county road projects. The major area of concern for our residents is the Tortugas Arroyo crossing of Dripping Springs Road at the Farm and Ranch Museum. The county has requested 1.5 million dollars from the state to fund a permanent fix to this seasonal problem. The request for these funds was defeated in the 2006 legislative session, but there are high hopes that the legislation will be approved in 2007.

Regardless of the outcome of the Grip II proposal, the county has \$350,000 of matching funds that will be used this year to improve the crossing. Work should begin in late April to stabilize and widen the roadbed to prevent future serious erosion. If the 1.5 million dollars is approved by the legislature this year, the whole project will be started. The permanent fix includes a 4 box-culvert over-crossing. In the event that the Grip II funds do pass, the work may start later, but construction will definitely begin this Spring or early summer. The project will take 2 - 4 months to complete.

Mr. Grenados also discussed other county road projects. Pavement on Baylor Canyon Road will be extended this year. Baylor Canyon Rd is the only other road that provides access to the Talavera area. There are also plans to continue the shoulder work on Soledad Canyon Road, however that will not occur until 2008.

In response to a question about clearing debris from County roads after heavy rains, Mr. Grenados explained that that is considered a priority level 3. After the 2006 rain season, there was so much damage to county roads in the Hatch and Anthony areas that were a higher priority that debris removal took a long time to complete.

Mr. Grenados again told us that he and his staff are willing and open to discussing the private to county road conversion process with anyone.

**IV. Los Alturas Volunteer Fire Department update. Gary Wee, Asst. Chief Talavera Station**

Gary Wee, presented an update on the Los Alturas Volunteer Fire Department. Recently through the efforts of State Senator Lee Rawson and State Representative Joseph Cervantes, the department received \$100,000 for new equipment and upgrades. This money allowed for the expansion of the Talavera sub-station and the purchase of a "Jaws-of-Life" for both stations. He also reminded us that all

residences should have a reflective sign with the house number prominently displayed. This will aid fire department staff locating you in the event of an emergency.

Chief Wee also made a plea for volunteers for the fire department. New personnel are desperately needed. All positions are needed. These include Fire Fighters, EMT and auxiliary members. All training is paid for by the fire department.

**If any TCA members are interested in joining the Los Alturas Volunteer Fire Department, please call Jennie Meehan at 522-8855.**

#### **V. Amendment to By-Laws.**

The proposed amendment to the by-laws of the TCA was passed by a unanimous voice vote. The amendment changes the terms of officers to 3 years and institutes a staggered election schedule. Two members will be elected each year instead of the entire board as originally required by the by-laws.

#### **VI. Election of Board Members**

Nominations were called for all positions on the board of directors. Written ballots were distributed. All candidates were asked to speak briefly on their qualifications and reasons for running.

After all candidates had spoken, nominations were closed and the vote proceeded by secret written ballot.

#### **VII. Committee Progress Reports.**

##### **• Road Committee – Kent Foster;**

The committee continues to work on the process to try to get Alma Road accepted by the County. Letters have been sent to all landowners on Alma Road to ask for agreement. At this time, they had not yet received concurrence from all landowners on Alma Road.

##### **• Park Committee – John Smith;**

John reported that the Park plan was completed and presented a drawing of the proposal at the meeting. Costs have been estimated, and a Capital Outlay Request has been completed and submitted to State Representative Joseph Cervantes. The request will be introduced at the 2007 legislative session, probably around February 1.

##### **• Neighborhood Watch Committee – Jerry Gammell**

Jerry has been in touch with the neighborhood watch coordinator of the Sheriff's department. We expect that Deputy Alan Franzoy will make presentation on the Neighborhood Watch program at our May general meeting.

#### **VII. Election Results;**

##### **The Election Results were announced.**

President (3 year term) Larry Cottingham  
Vice President (2 years) John Smith  
Secretary (1 year term) Janet Honek  
Treasurer (3 year term) Tom Smith  
Member at large (2 year term) Helen Foster  
Member at large (1 year term) Steve Fischman

#### **X. Other Issues**

##### **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](mailto:larry@larryc.com). Any corrections are also appreciated.

##### **• TCA Officers and Committee Chairpersons**

**President:** *Larry Cottingham, tel: 521-0409*  
**Email:** [larry@larryc.com](mailto:larry@larryc.com)

**Vice President and chairman of the Parks Committee:** *John Smith tel:*  
**Email:** [american1776@msn.com](mailto:american1776@msn.com)

**Secretary:** *Janet Honek*  
**Email:** [Janet@snapforward.com](mailto:Janet@snapforward.com)

**Treasurer:** *Tom Smith, tel: 521-4431*  
**Email:** [Tom@fastwave.biz](mailto:Tom@fastwave.biz)

**Member-at-Large:** *Helen Foster tel:*  
*522-1206*

**Member-at-Large:** *Steve Fischman*  
**Email:** [stephen.fischmann@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.fischmann@gmail.com)

**Road Committee Chair:** *Kent Foster*  
*Tel: 522-1206,*  
**Email:** [kentfoster@zianet.com](mailto:kentfoster@zianet.com)

**Membership Committee Chair:** *Helen Foster*, tel: 522-1206,**Email:**  
[Helenfoster@zianet.com](mailto:Helenfoster@zianet.com)

**Neighborhood Watch Committee Chair:**  
*Jerry Gammell*  
**Email:** [ggamm43345@aol.com](mailto:ggamm43345@aol.com)