

# **MINUTES OF SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LOWER RIO PUEBLO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

The second annual general meeting of the Lower Rio Pueblo Neighborhood Association met at 6:30 p.m. on April 4, 2006, at the Quality Inn, Taos, NM.

Present at said meeting were the following Directors constituting a quorum of the full board: Irene Gates, Bob Long, Larry Brooks, Mark Cowan, Bob Brock, and Doug Scott. Absent were Sheila Grainger, Elmer Garcia, and Helen Doroshow.

Since the Association is without a president, Bob Long, our vice president, opened the meeting. Bob made an announcement that Helen Doroshow, one of the board members, is ill and asked that we keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Bob then introduced the board of directors that were present and he thanked Dave & Janet Noll for all their hard work in initiating and getting this Association formed and incorporated. Thanks were also extended to David Douglas, who could not be present, for his work in establishing our Association's web site and keeping it updated with current announcements and news. And Doug Scott was thanked for creating our first newsletter.

The first matter on the agenda was the introduction of Tami Torres, who is the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM. Tami made a presentation on the proposed development for the Taos Valley Overlook area. After a study and numerous meetings held, the BLM wants to establish the Overlook area as a recreational area based on comments of what people want from a recreational area. Specific trails will be established with a starting projected date of June of this year. According to the BLM, the public wanted loop trails or single track trails and also trails geared to mountain biking.

Discussions are still ongoing regarding the Taos Junction Bridge and traffic flow. The end of CR110 seems to be the most used entrance, but Tami said that the BLM is discussing an entrance by the Stakeout area. BLM wants to define specific areas for parking and campsites with toilet facilities to be available. BLM wants to accommodate horses and horse trailers in this recreational area and to have supporting stories about this area at different trail heads.

BLM has proposed the following restrictions: No firearms allowed; camping will be in designated areas only; no hunting; dogs to be on leash within a quarter mile of the trails.

There will be another public meeting in May. Tami encouraged all interested persons to attend.

The next order of business was an update on the proposed justice center. Jim Steinbach is chairman of the committee to keep this Association up-to-date on any

developments with respect to the proposed justice center. Jim gave some background on the letter that was presented to the County Commissioners back in October 2005 in conjunction with Vista Linda, Los Cordovas and our Associations in which 19 questions and points were brought up about the proposed justice center being built on the County's 40 acres on CR110. A deadline for response was given for December 5, 2005. There was no response.

In January 2006 Jim met with our new County Manager and the County's attorney, Tom Blankenhorn, to see if they could provide some of the answers to the questions asked. No answers were given.

At the February 27 County Commission meeting, a presentation was made by a Texas-based group by the name of Faulkner-USA. This group builds jails. It was proposed to the County Commissioners that Faulkner-USA would finance the building of the jail complex without a county election. This means that the jail complex would be built without the public's approval and without any knowledge of the total cost of the project and without answers to questions about any of the water or land use issues. In Jim's opinion, the County is ready to go ahead with this proposal and Jim thinks the Commissioners are steamrolling the whole County with no explanations of how much this whole project would cost the taxpayers.

In early March, another committee was formed consisting of Jim Steinbach and members from Vista Linda's Association. This committee drafted and sent a letter to the State Attorney General, Patricia A. Madrid, to County attorney Tom Blankenhorn, and to Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, James C. Jimenez. In said letter a series of questions were asked about rules and regulations that the County is required to follow and what the county must divulge to the public with respect to its planning for the construction. A copy of the letter was also sent to the Taos News and the Horsefly. As of last Saturday, Jim said that our commissioner, Gabe Romero, still had not heard from Tom Blankenhorn about the letter or seen it.

In conclusion, in Jim's opinion, at this point the best action we can take if we don't want any construction at CR110 is to delay the building of the proposed justice center for as long as we can.

Mark Cowan then brought us up-to-date on the proposed by-pass. Even though the Pueblo does not want the by-pass to go on their land, the engineer is still choosing the first alternate route, which is 1500 feet west of Los Cordovas Road, go around the sewage plant, to come out somewhere around the Taos Airport. The beginning of the by-pass would be about a mile after the Stakeout. There is another public meeting on April 19. Mark seems to think that the by-pass is very close to becoming a reality, but it could still take anywhere from three years to possibly eight years to be built.

Bob Long thanked all the speakers and all the members who attended the general meeting. According to our By-Laws, our next general meeting will be held in February of 2007.

There being no further discussions or business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Irene S. Gates, Secretary