

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING  
OF  
LOWER RIO PUEBLO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

A general meeting of the Lower Rio Pueblo Neighborhood Association met at 6:00 p.m. on May 24, 2005, at the Quality Inn, Taos, NM.

Present at said meeting were the following Directors constituting a quorum of the full board: Dave Noll, Irene Gates, James Hansen, Helen Doroshov, Bob Long, Larry Brooks, and Suzanne Courier. Absent were: Mark Cowan, Sheila Grainger, Elmer Garcia, and Patricia Corral.

President Dave Noll introduced himself to the group and started by stating that the reason this meeting was called was to make the announcement that we are officially a neighborhood association, fully approved and recognized by Taos County. One of the other reasons was to form a nominating committee to name persons to serve on our Board of Directors, whose term will expire in October of 2005. Nine directors will be voted in and the directors will then appoint a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Dave Noll then informed the meeting that he had spoken to the Taos Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on Monday, May 23. Most of the county commissioners were at that meeting, along with Taos Mayor, Bobby Duran. The main topic of discussion at that meeting was the proposed Justice Center/Jail Complex to be built at the County Road 110 site. Commissioners Gabe Romero and Don Francisco Trujillo oppose the County Road 110 site, but the other three commissioners either approve of that site or are still undecided. Dave was informed that the Weimers and the Cunnyngham, who own property close to the current Albright Street site, are willing to sell land to the County so that the Justice Center/Jail Complex can be built at or near the present site. Dave Noll urged the persons at the meeting that if we are opposed to the County Road 110 site for the proposed Justice Center/Jail Complex, that we should write to our county commissioners, call them or even go to see them to let them know why the Justice Center/Jail Complex should not be built on the County 110 site and why it should stay at its present location.

There is a measure to be put on the ballot either at a special election or next year at a primary election to raise the gross receipts tax to pay for the construction of the Justice Center/Jail Complex. If we are opposed to the Justice Center/Jail Complex being built at the County Road 110 site, we should let the County Commissioners know that we will oppose any gross receipts tax increase to help build the Justice Center/Jail Complex in our neighborhood. If the increase in gross receipts tax measure does not pass, then the county will have to go to plan B and look at other financing options.

Our Planning Director, Alan Vigil, was invited to this meeting and he spoke next to the audience. He is fully in favor of neighborhood associations and he was invited to speak to ours to give us some ideas and suggestions as to how we, as a neighborhood

association, can work with the county to achieve our goals for our neighborhood. The more information we have about what is going on in the county, the more power we would have with the County Commission. Alan believes it is a good idea to invite the County Commissioners to all of our meetings so that we can have a dialogue between ourselves and the County. Alan believes that this is very important. This dialogue would put issues in perspective as to what is doable and what is not. We, as an association, need to be realistic about our goals and vision for our neighborhood. Alan believes that the key words to achieve what we want are “perception”, “expectation” and “outcome”.

Our neighborhood is really growing and changing and we have to look at these changes and what the impact would be on our area. How would these changes affect our taxes, the character of our neighborhood, the infrastructure, etc. One of the major developments is the development by Elmer Garcia which is to be presented to the county and built in five phases. Although Elmer’s proposal was tabled until further information was given to the County (water availability in this area, more traffic study), he will present his proposal at a public hearing in the near future. Another development is the proposed by-pass which is set to go in on the west side of Los Cordovas Road. There is a traffic light set to go in at the intersection of State Hwy. 68 and County Road 110. And of course, there is the proposed Justice Center/Jail Complex to be built in our neighborhood.

Alan said that although a “dark sky” ordinance has been proposed, it has not been passed by the County. It is very close to being adopted with language similar to the ordinance adopted by the Town of Taos. Which brought up a question of the proposed Justice Center/Jail Complex and its security lighting. Alan said that there is a way of having security lighting done in adherence to any “dark sky” ordinance.

We all thanked Alan for coming. Since there were a few members from the Vista Linda Neighborhood Association, Dave Noll brought up the suggestion that if we are to fight the proposed Justice Center/Jail Complex being built at the County Road 110 site, that we should get together with the Vista Linda N.A. and the Los Cordovas N.A. to plan a strategy. We must show solidarity to the County and our desire to have the Justice Center/Jail Complex stay at the Albright Street site.

Dave Noll then moved on to select a nominating committee to present names for a new board of directors. Bob Long, Janet Noll and David Douglas were appointed and approved as the nominating committee. Dave Noll also suggested that we have another general meeting at the end of June and encourage as many people as we can to attend so that other committees can be formed for our neighborhood association. We would like to have a neighborhood clean-up committee, a neighborhood watch committee, and possibly a newsletter committee. We will ask for volunteers at this meeting. If we are to succeed in our goals and vision for our neighborhood, we all need to work together and help each other.

There being no further discussions or business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Irene S. Gates, Secretary