

The San Marcos Association Annual Meeting: Feb.2013

Turquoise Trail Fire Department meeting Room

Board Members Present: Walter Wait, Isolde Wait, Helen Boyce, Archie Tew, Alexis Higginbotham, Les Hancock.

Eight general members

Santa Fe County commissioner Dr. Liz Steffanics, Constituent Services Liaison, Julia Valdez.

Guest Speaker: Stefany Burrowes, First Born Home Visiting Services
(Guest Speaker Karen Torres, County Hydrologist was not able to attend.)

President Wait brought the annual meeting to Order at 6:30PM

Archie Tew reported a balance of \$1457.09 and distributed a "profit and Loss" Statement for March 2011 - Feb. 2012. The return of the Association's 501c4 Federal tax Status was briefly discussed, and a thank you for all Gail Buono's hard work in this matter was offered.

The floor was turned over to Ms. Burrowes who introduced "First Born Home Visiting Services" a United Way of Santa fe County program that is seeking to expand its services. The home visitor program is directed at first time families and offers support, education and referrals to support new families. Home visits are scheduled on a weekly basis. The program is funded by CYFD, donations, and foundations. Mrs. Burrowes provided flyers, a resource directory, and cards, and requested that we might pass them out to anyone who might need the organizations services.

President Wait then briefly presented the Organizations activities, accomplishments and works in progress. He handed out a prototype for the "High desert news" flyer, a two page news sheet that aims to prompt residents to view the SMA web site and its facebook pages. He stated that it could be produced inexpensively, and distributed at local businesses. He stated that since we can no longer afford to mail a newsletter, it is not reasonable to expect residents to pay the association dues. Free membership was briefly discussed. Wait stated that the SMA has been involved in the Land Use Planning Code review, pointed out that the San Marcos District has a County approved plan but that the County has not produced the ordinance that was supposed to go with it. He stated that the Board has been active on the County's Waste management

Task Force, and on review of the County's proposed Animal Control ordinance.

Wait's presentation was cut short as Commissioner Steffanics arrived and the floor was turned over to her.

A three page flyer was handed out. This listed a) Gross Receipts Tax-funded Capital projects Initiated in 2012, b) Road Improvement, Water, and open space projects, and c) Recommended Top 5 and top 10 ICIP County-Wide projects. She stated that there were three types of funding a) Gross Receipts Taxes, b) bonds, and c) ICIP (capital Improvement Projects) that the County recommended for funding to the NM State Legislature.

Of interest to the San Marcos Area is a big plan for a Highway 14 Senior Center Land acquisition. The County is looking at three different properties in the vicinity of the Fire Station, and in the vicinity of the County Route 44,45 intersection. The District five ICIP request includes a design for an extension of the County water line from the Turquoise Trail School to the Lone Butte area to accommodate this planned Senior (and possible community) center project.

Liz pointed out that the legislative session ends March 16 at noon and that funding bills generally go to the Capital Outlay group, Senior Center Requests goes to "bonds".

The discussion then turned to the areas continuing desire to inaugurate bus service down Highway 14. Liz pointed out that the Commission would like the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to set up a "blue bus" route all the way to Golden. The Blue bus would connect with the Rail Runner station, allowing commuters to move either into the city bus system or to the train. She pointed out that the Blue Bus is a free service, a fact that was unknown to the the residents. They expressed interest in a "free" bus service, but also stated that paying for the service would be OK, just so long as it was established. It was identified that this transportation is a priority for our area.

Discussion then turned to the issue of public parking at the new County Court House.

Liz stated that the Commission is working with the City to get spaces at the Sandoval parking garage. Everyone agreed that parking needs to be provided, at least near by, for the public.

Discussion then turned to the proposes County Animal Control Ordinance. Liz stated that there would be two meetings to discuss the proposal. Wait stated that SMA has submitted comments on the draft, and that the ordinance has not been written with the rural areas in mind. There was a lot of concern over fee increases, and the idea that cats would be required to be licensed by the County.

Liz stated that the fee increase for dogs had already been passed in the form of a contract with the Santa Fe Animal Shelter (this turned out not to be the case).

There was a question on the Mt. Chalchihuitl Remediation project and questions concerning the Rancho Allegro Road Improvement Project.

It was mentioned that the La Bajada Ranch Steering Committee has found two endangered species living on Ranch properties,

There was discussion of the Oil and Gas State presumption bill and its probable death in committee. Liz briefly discussed the State legislative process, and how “dummy” bills are introduced. These dummy bills can crop up at the last minute. Residents can track bills by doing a key word search, like “oil”.

Liz was asked about the status of the draft County Code and she stated that Commissioner Holien has asked planning for a summary of the roughly 6,000 comments that the county has received, and a status report. There is at least one chapter that is still being re-written.

Wait pointed out that the San Marcos District plan was first approved in 2007, revised in 2010. He stated that the County ordinance was written, and a first BCC meeting was conducted. It has not been dealt with since by planning and Wait suggested that it is time to advance the District ordinance. Liz suggested that SMA draft a foraml request to her and that she would follow up and get it to the right people. (This has been done).

Wait thanked Commissioner Steffanics for her continuing support and for her continuing attendance at SMA annual meetings.

Wait then returned to SMA business. He stated that since the SMA is now almost entirely dependent upon donations and its annual garage sale, that folks support it as best they can. He stated that the tentative date for the garage sale would be May 25/26 (since changed to May 20).

The topic “what to do when the well goes dry” was briefly discussed since the planned for speaker, County Hydrologist Karen Torres, got hung up in a County meeting and could not attend. Wait briefly mentioned thoughts reflected in the “High Desert News” flyer, and the cost of water hauled from the County and how one gets a permit for it.

Wait stated that the bye-laws were corrected by the Board in 2012 and asked for a motion to accept the Bye-laws as currently posted on the Associations Web Site. The motion was made by Alexis Higginbotham and seconded by Helen

Boyce.

Gail Buono suggested that wording permitting "free membership" be added to the Bye-laws. This was accepted by Higginbotham and Boyce. The motion was passed unanimously.

Wait then called for the election of SMA Officers and suggested a New slate. This was unanimously laughed down, and a motion was made to retain all of the current officers. This was approved unanimously by voice vote.

The Officers for 2013 were approved as follows:

Walter Wait, President; Alexis Higginbotham, vice president, Archie Tew, treasurer, Isolde wait, Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9P.M.