



THE TAOS NEWS

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Planning board terms expiring; town wants new applicants

By Patricia Chambers
The Taos News

A year after the mayor and Taos Town Council replaced the entire Planning & Zoning and Historic Preservation commissions for interpreting the town's land-use regulations too freely, six members appointed to serve on the joint commissions will end their one-year terms.

Senior Planner Rudy Perea said the staff is polling the commissioners this week whose terms are to expire July 26 to ask if they want to be reappointed.

Town administrators expect some vacancies and are asking for volunteers to serve on the commissions.

The mayor and town council are asking town residents who would like to volunteer to serve to submit a letter of intent with a brief summary of experience and education related to land use planning and regulation.

The term on the commission would be one year.

The Planning & Zoning Commission meets the first Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. on of each month in the council chambers.

The Historic Preservation Commission approves appropriate construction in the town's Historic District and the Planning & Zoning Commission rules on variances from the town's Land Use Development Code regulations.

The planning office provides training and resources to the commissioners.

Town Council removed the previous commissioners after a series of appeals of their rulings denying such zoning approvals as the gasoline station at Smith's Food and Drug Store and planned unit developments being developed by Mark Yaravitz.

The conflict erupted into name-calling and hard feelings between the council and the former commission members. Several former members had threatened to sue the council, but no court action was ever taken.

The current commission has faced some controversy, but not directly.

The planned united development known as Valverde Commons was approved by the commission, but parciantes from several acequia associations filed a lawsuit challenging the ruling. The lawsuit is not yet scheduled to be heard in District Court.

The terms of three members of the Historic Preservation Commission will end this month:

- Fred Robbins
- Merely James
- Zeke Tapia Jim Thompson, Josefa Cruz and Cipriano Medina will end their term July 26 as mem-bers of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Letters of intent regarding the appointments should be sent to Town Clerk Renee Lucero (RLucero@taosgov.com), Town Manager Daniel Miera (DMiera@taosgov.com) or Planning Director Allen Vigil (Avigil2@taosgov.com), or by mail to Town Hall, 400 Camino de la Placita, Taos, NM 87571.

For further information, call (575) 751-2000.