

# The Rio Rancho Tea Party

Volume 2



June 1, 2014

## Hey-Ho! To Committee We Go!

The road to bureaucracy is paved with good intentions. The Governing Body's vote to implement new rules and procedures to organize individuals into committees could stem from a sincere desire to manage members' concerns and ideas. In theory, the idea that committees will make a more efficient city government sounds great. In practice, committees can become a crutch that adds another level of rules, regulations and red tape to get through to complete a task or make a decision. More concerning is the possibility that this effort might easily turn into a way to control or suppress the ideas and actions of the individual. It could effectively silence the voice of the individual with the words "The committee recommends..."

All Governing Body members have always had the ability to seek out information, share information with their fellow members and act on their findings. They can collaborate with one or two other members on an issue, and the City Manager, City Attorney and depart-

ment heads are available to offer their opinions and bring forward their ideas. The desire and ambition of each Governing Body member to follow through is up to them individually. Lighting a fire under city staff to get things done may not always be easy, but adding another layer of bureaucracy through committees does not make it any better.

In conjunction with these committees, new regular monthly work sessions have been implemented. The work sessions are a much needed addition that will provide the entire Governing Body the opportunity to share information and ideas with one another in a public setting, albeit at 3:00 in the afternoon. For those of us who have day jobs, the work sessions will be recorded.

Still, that nagging thought of committees lingers. Assurances were made that no more than six committees would be active at one time. What a relief. Arguments have been made that the Albuquerque City Council has multiple

committees. This may be true, but does that mean Rio Rancho should emulate them? Albuquerque also hired a private firm at a cost of \$1.5 million to review and make recommendations for loosening restrictions on their sector (area) plans, with an estimated 3 year completion time. 3 years. Our Governing Body is on the cusp of reviewing our own area plans and rezoning ahead of development. Realistically, we should be able to accomplish this in six months to a year. If so, this would give Rio Rancho an edge over Albuquerque for much-needed commercial development. However, if it goes to committees or (Heaven forbid) a study, we will likely lose our edge.

Moving forward, the Governing Body should use restraint in utilizing committees. It could too neatly pigeonhole elected officials and their ideas, creating the illusion of activity while accomplishing nothing (except creating hurdles). Let's hope for the city's sake, this is much ado about nothing.

## No More Swingin' the Golf Course Blues

### A new owner. A new day.

At the May 20<sup>th</sup> special meeting, the Governing Body approved an agreement with the new golf course owner. We view this contract for a two year reduced wa-

ter rate to be a temporary incentive that helps a new business get started. It's similar to the incentives that have been given to HP, Stolar, Premier Theatres, Rust

Medical Center, and The Village, as well as many other businesses that benefited from the ongoing impact fee moratorium. This agreement demonstrates

### **Upcoming Meeting**

#### **Highlights**

**Tuesday, June 3rd, 2014**

#### **Guest Speakers**

- Mayor Gregg Hull speaks about Economic Development
- City Councilor Mark Scott discusses the impact of yield control on business

**Tuesday July 1st, 2014**

#### **Guest Speakers**

- Club Rio Rancho and Golf Course owner, Jhett Browne gives an update on Golf Course renovations
- City Councilor Chuck Wilkins talks about water issues

**\*Subject to change**

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## CORE VALUES



We are dedicated to constitutional freedoms, free markets, limited government and fiscal responsibility.

Our commitment to seeking truth and accountability is the hallmark of the Rio Rancho Tea Party.

### *RRTP Executive Board*

*The RRTP is non-partisan & takes no official stand on social issues. We unite on our core values.*

## No More Swingin' the Golf Course Blues ( continued)

Rio Rancho really is becoming more business friendly.

We support the separate consideration of the overall re-use water rate when the Governing Body actually has all the facts on water rights and return-flow and can then make an educated decision on what citywide re-use irrigation rate is in the best interest of our city.

Jhett Browne, the new golf course owner, has already invested thousands in renovations of the clubhouse, pool and grounds with a contract to spend \$1.5 million in improvements into a new restaurant and bar open to the public, improving the greens, installing water-conserving sprinkler systems, and again opening it to the public. He's also hired 49 employees and will be adding about 40 more.

They showed that in 14 days, they had hosted eight banquets with a total of around 1500 guests for these events. That means gross receipts for Rio Rancho.

The new owner is also looking to the future as a responsible water user in our community. In consideration of the fact that the previous owner used approximately 700 acre feet of water per year without the North 9 course, Mr. Browne has a plan that will get the golf course to a sustainable irrigation level of around 400 acre feet of water per year without the North 9.

Offering the new owner a temporary incentive for two years, with progress markers to ensure he is meeting his goals, benefits everyone. It also gives the new owner

time to turn things around, gain memberships and purchase water rights to install a well, or adjust his budget to accommodate the citywide re-use water rate set by the city in 2 years.

Supporting this incentive has nothing to do with whether you play golf or live on the golf course. It's a business that will bring in much-needed revenue. The Rio Rancho Tea Party supports offering reasonable, temporary incentives like this that bring in businesses providing jobs and gross receipts revenue for our city.

## *AIMS Update!*

While RRPS is exploring a possible lawsuit against the Secretary of Education for allowing AIMS into Rio Rancho, AIMS moves forward with their plans to lease space in the UNM West building.

Currently, the Public School Facility Authority is assessing the UNM West building and AIMS is waiting for the final OK from UNM Administration.

Contact your RRPS school board member and let them know our tax dollars should not be wasted on lawsuits and intimidation.



## Know a WW II Vet?

Honor Flight of NM flies World War II Veterans, free of charge, to Washington D.C. to tour the WW II Memorial. For more information, watch the video presentation on the "Veterans" page of the Rio Rancho Tea Party website.

[www.rioranchoteaparty.org](http://www.rioranchoteaparty.org)