

Alto Coalition for Environmental Preservation First Annual Public Business Meeting



Mark Severance, Chair AltoCEP
6:30 pm July 6, 2022



Agenda

- What Has Changed with the Alto CEP
- Where Do We Go from Here?
- Your Benefit from Alto CEP Being a 501(c)(3) Public Charity
- Financial Status, Balances & Sustaining
- Neighbor Helping Neighbor & Help Wanted
- “I Can’t See It, So It’s Not My Problem”: Talk With Dr. Mike Miller
- Status of Our Concrete Batch Plant Legal Objection Cases from Attorney Tom Hnasko
- Q & A with Tom, Mike & Mark
- Adjourn



What Has Changed

- The Alto CEP is now a New Mexico Non-Profit Corporation and a 501(c)(3) Public Charity
 - Declared an NM Non-Profit by the NM Secretary of State on March 21
 - Designated a 501(c)(3) Public Charity by the IRS on June 1
- Formal Officers & Directors positions now in place
- Being a 501(c)(3) Public Charity requires holding an Annual Meeting
 - This won't be the only public meeting we hold
- Our mission of Environmental Preservation of the Alto area ***remains unchanged***



Alto CEP Officers & Directors

- Chairperson: Mark Severance
- Vice Chairperson : Kevin Fleharty
- Secretary: Barbara Yount Cathey
- Treasurer: Brenda Restivo
- Chief Info. Officer: Doug Thompson
- Comptroller: Deborah Sheehey, CPA
- Media Communications: Galen Farrington
- Legal Affairs: Pierre Pfeffer, Bill Horton
- Operations & Fund Raising: Vacant



Where Do We Go From Here?

- Continue to work for favorable decisions in our legal objection cases and, if necessary, appeals to those decisions
- Pay off objection cases' expenses (Attorney, Expert Witnesses, Air Dispersion Analysis, Noise Analysis)
- In parallel:
 - Look for solutions to prevent reoccurrence of heavy industrial encroachment along the Billy the Kid Scenic Byway/NM 220 corridor
 - Encourage landowners and Property Owners Association to implement Deed Restrictions
 - Pursue Special Zoning District along the NM 48/NM 220 (Billy the Kid Scenic Byway) corridor
 - Engage with Lincoln County Commissioners regarding localized zoning
- Transition to environmental preservation educational activities
 - Wildlands fire prevention, water conservation, living in the WUI etc.



Your Benefits from

Alto CEP 501(c)(3) Public Charity Status

- Donations made directly to **Alto CEP** on or after March 21, 2022 are deductible from your federal income tax
- **Alto CEP is eligible for Qualified Charitable Distributions**
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions can be donated TAX FREE by individuals with 59 or more years of maturity & wisdom
- IRA Required Minimal Distributions can be donated TAX FREE to the Alto CEP as a Qualified Charitable Distribution by individuals with 72 or more years of maturity & wisdom
 - Qualified Charitable Distributions are transferred directly from your IRA to the Alto CEP
 - IRA Custodian issues a check or ACH transfer from your IRA to Alto CEP
 - **Consult your Tax Advisor or IRA Custodian for instructions**



Financial Status

- Alto CEPs primary expenses have been objection cases' expenses
 - All Officers & Directors are non-paid volunteers
 - Meeting spaces have been generously donated
 - No office or equipment expenses (laptops, cell phones, etc.)
 - Other occasional misc. expenses are minor (NM State and IRS filing fees, insurance, Zoom) and some are covered by in-kind donations
 - Publicity items costs are covered by in-kind donations
 - Fund raising events service costs are covered by ticket sales revenue or in-kind donations

- Alto CEP is now enjoined with Hinkle Shanor LLP for legal representation in our 3 cases of legal objection to the proposed CBP
 - Change from Ranches of Sonterra Property Owners Association
 - All money contributed to the Sonterra CBP Legal Fund has been expended
 - Alto CEP has assumed all billing and balances due



Financial Balances

- Funding raised since the start of representation (August 2021) through Ranches of Sonterra & Alto CEP: **\$395,494.29**
- In-Kind Donations of **\$3998.00**

- Legal Expenses Billed (August 2021-May 2022): **\$698,220.31**

- Legal Expense Paid: **\$361,042.84**
- Other Expense Paid (Noise Survey & Analysis, Filing Fees, Fund Raising Expenses): **\$26,330**

- Legal Expense Balance Due: \$ **337,177.47**



Sustaining Funds

- ***Fund Raising is Critical to Sustain Our Efforts***
- Future fund-raising events
 - Evening at El Sueno catered by Village Buttery on August 12
 - Kokopelli golf event October 23
 - Dinner events at other venues
 - Silent and on-line auctions
 - Raffles
- Alto CEP is pursuing grant funding from multiple organizations to offset case expenses



Some Approaches to Direct Donations

- Tax benefits from donations to the Alto CEP 501(c)(3) Public Charity are available to everyone
- When thinking about donations consider these options:
 - 1% of Appraised Value Rule-of-Thumb as Protection Against Property Devaluation
 - 1% of \$500k appraised value = \$5k
 - If this amount were contributed by 500 of our email list recipients, it would yield \$2.5M)
 - \$50/month recurring donations by 500 of our email list recipients would yield \$300k/year
 - Recurring donations can be set up via auto-draft, PayPal, Bill Pay etc.
 - Please consider covering provider fees if using online payment systems



Alto CEP is About Neighbors Helping Neighbors

- Alto CEP has been working to protect the homes and health of our entire Community – *because no other organization is doing so*
 - No action from the Lincoln County Commissioners regarding helpful Ordinances
 - Village of Ruidoso no longer maintains the Extra Territorial Zone
- Alto CEP is managing what amounts to community debt on behalf of the entire Alto Community
- Neighbors have been helping their neighbors in the fight to stop the Concrete Batch Plant – *and we are winning*



Help Wanted

- Help with fund raising activities (contact assistchair@altocep.org)
- Assistance for CIO with our Wordpress web page (contact CIO@altocep.org)
- Assistance with SZD establishment (contact legalteam@altocep.org)
- Individual to lead development of environmental preservation educational activities: wildlands fire prevention, water conservation, safe living in the WUI (contact chair@altocep.org)
- What else can we do? Where do you think you could help? (contact chair@altocep.org)



“I Can’t See It So It’s Not My Problem”

- Medical evidence suggests otherwise
- Ask Dr. Mike Miller
Chief, Section of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Division of Surgical Oncology
Banner M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
Gilbert, Arizona
Part-Time Resident of Alto Lakes



Status of Legal Cases: Attorney Tom Hnasko

- New Mexico Environment Department's DISAPPROVAL Decision
 - Possibility of an Appeal
 - Possibility of Re-Application
- Deed Restrictions Complaint in NM 12th Judicial District Court (Judge Sugg)
- Private Nuisance Complaint in NM 12th Judicial District Court (Judge Sugg)



Questions for Tom, Mike & Mark





Let's Do This!

- **We Can Sustain Our Positive Momentum With Your Help**
- **We Can Preserve our Beautiful Environment With Your Help**
- **Bring Your Ideas, Time & Talents and Resources**
- **Stay Informed - Spread the Word**

Visit altocep.org Join Our Mailing List & Stay Current

Thank You for Your Continued Support!!