

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Meeting May 6, 2009
Bonita/Sunnyside Fire Station
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mike Cohen, Rick Blacklock, Carol Freno, Susan Kopp, Don Scovel, Steve Stonehouse, Ray Ymzon

Opening: Cohen called the meeting to order. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a period of silence in honor of our military.

Minutes: Tabled

Website: Cohen distributed a new flier that publicizes the website and Bonita's Business and Professional Association. Members discussed accessing the website.

Law Enforcement Reports:

Sgt. Cobb told the group that there was a memorial service today to honor all law enforcement personnel who have been killed while on duty. He reported that the total who have been killed in the USA this past year is about eighty, many of whom died in traffic-related incidents. He said the ceremony is held yearly. Cobb spoke about the dangers of Highway Patrol officers pulling over to the side while on freeways; he advised SVCA members to avoid doing this because it is so dangerous. Cobb's written report listed nine traffic collisions. Citations were issued for various violations; included: 29 for unsafe speed and four for DUI.

Julio Garcia's written report was distributed. The majority of crimes listed were burglaries. He explained that a fight had taken place in the 5100 block of Bonita Road, this reported as "battery with serious bodily injury." As for the burglaries, Garcia told the group that laptops, jewelry, small items were taken for the most part. He said that in the case of a residential burglary in the Highlands a relative of the victims was implicated. Garcia offered a free, residential security consultation for anyone interested. He also recommended the Neighborhood Watch Program. The group discussed the cost of traffic tickets; some of the more common violations cost about \$300 to \$400. Garcia said unauthorized parking in a handicap spot will cost about \$445 to \$485, and Sr. Volunteer patrols are authorized to hand out this kind of ticket. Garcia spoke about drivers using phones or radio-type devices while driving. He said there was a loophole in the law that allowed NEXTEL users to talk while driving, but now the loophole has been closed. Use of NEXTEL will be treated the same as use of a cell phone while driving.

Report from County Supervisor Greg Cox's Office:

Michael de la Rosa spoke about the trail system in the County saying that not all trails are secured at this point.

He mentioned the Central Avenue drainage channel. He reported that the County is checking the area for mosquitoes and so far has not found many. However, Cohen, who lives near the channel, mentioned finding a large number of mosquitoes outside his home. A related issue was mentioned and questioned—whether water in the channel is moving or stagnant.

De la Rosa heard a complaint about the condition of the road near the intersection of Belle Bonnie Brae and Annie Laurie. It was reported that the damage occurred when telephone poles were removed. De la Rosa said it will probably be a few years before the road is repaired; in the meantime the County will put in slurry.

Members questioned De la Rosa about proposed Central Avenue paving. A few members had heard different accounts of how and when Central would be improved.

Treasurer's Report: Stonehouse reported there is \$4,079.42 in the SVCA checking account and \$3,412.63 in a CD.

Project Report: Members discussed expansion plans of Corpus Christi Catholic Church. It was reported that the church is undergoing a second-phase expansion, which calls for a 2,600 sq. ft. social hall and a two-story K-8th grade school to replace the existing school. Ymzon said he knows about the church's plans, as he is a member.

Round Table:

Steve Stonehouse told the group that Liz Stonehouse had surgery today for a broken leg. She sustained the injury while walking on a trail near Conduit Rd.

A member reported contacting Code Enforcement about a home in the 5300 block of Annie Laurie. However, he believed there was no response from Code Enforcement.

Kopp expressed a concern about abandoned homes, especially their potentially hazardous swimming pools. Members questioned whether Code Enforcement ever conducts follow-up visits when there are complaints. De la Rosa said Supervisor Cox's office should be contacted if Code Enforcement doesn't respond to complaints satisfactorily.

Adjournment

Minutes submitted by Susan Kopp