

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Board Meeting
November 4, 2009

Present: Rick Blacklock, Sgt. Cobb, Van Collingsworth, Michael de la Rosa, Julio Garcia, Susan Kopp, Ken Pitney, Tom Pocklington, Bill Routhier, Don Scovel, Mike Seiler, Liz Stonehouse, Steve Stonehouse, Harriet Taylor, John Taylor, Sheri Todus, Bill Turpin, Ray Ymzon

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Ray Ymzon at 7:00 p.m. Flag salute followed and remembrance of those serving in the armed forces.

Minutes: Janet Reno was not present at the October 7 meeting, as noted in the minutes. Members agreed that Carol Freno's name should be substituted. With this correction, members voted to approve the October minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Steve said that the checking account balance was \$7,442.54. In addition he received dues from new members today.

Guest Reports:

Sgt. Cobb reported: He provided written data on traffic collisions, but not on citations issued. There were three injury collisions out of eleven collisions in all for the last month. Four collisions were classified under "turning"; three – "unsafe speed"; one – "DUI" and two in the "other" category. A Highway Patrol officer injured recently, Officer Shoemaker, is receiving therapy and should return to duty in December. Another local officer has been named "officer of the year."

Officer Cobb asked if any area needed more surveillance. San Miguel Road was suggested.

Julio Garcia, Sheriff's Dept. reported: He advised not to leave packages in plain sight in vehicles, or leave car windows cracked open in parking lots. Recently seven GPS devices were stolen; of these, five were recovered. He said that people have been taking social security numbers and using the internet to gain access to credit cards. He advised being careful with confidential material, even at home. He cautioned against leaving doors unlocked and windows open when leaving the house. TV's, jewelry and electronics have been stolen from homes recently. Neighborhood Watch was strongly recommended.

Other recurring problems—drunkenness, fights at the Caribe Bar & Restaurant, corner of Bonita Rd. & Central Ave. Two weeks ago a patron exited the bar firing a gun. Sheriff's officers plan to work with the ABC hopefully to curtail these types of problems.

Julio provided a list of property crimes committed in October.

Michael de la Rosa, aide to Supervisor Greg Cox: Michael said the following:

- Traffic light synchronization is in process in the Bonita valley.

- The trail project continues; those using the trails are now able to cross over the Sweetwater River.

Next, a discussion took place between Michael and those in attendance. The first topic was the South Bay Freeway (Rt.125 toll road). Several people agreed that the company responsible for planting trees and bushes along the freeway had not done the job as promised; that some of the landscaping was never put in, although the company says it is now finished. It was noted that certain steps were to be taken to mitigate the negative effects of the freeway extension. One person said he was stonewalled when trying to find out which of the mitigation promises were kept and which were not. Michael said he could get this information.

These were some of the complaints about traffic from those in attendance: There are too many Eastlake commuters cutting through Bonita. One person suggested making the toll road free or less expensive in order to alleviate this problem. There is far more traffic on H and L Streets, Chula Vista, than there is on the 125 extension. The daily volume of traffic on San Miguel Road was said to be about 4,800 vehicles, many of which are speeding. San Miguel was said to be very dangerous to cross—a major accident waiting to happen.

Michael agreed to the idea of a community meeting to discuss traffic issues; this to occur after the first of the year. He said he would talk to Supervisor Cox about it. Some members of the audience suggested the Supervisor be present at the proposed meeting, as well as Chula Vista Mayor Cox.

Van Collingsworth's Report on the Bonita Meadows Open Space Preserve:

The following remarks were made by Collingsworth: Bonita Meadows covers about 200 square miles and is located west of Proctor Valley Road. The land has experienced erosion and has been marred with various items that have been dumped in the area. At present, Collingsworth is applying for a state-sponsored, environmental grant to improve the property. This will require community support, such as support from local politicians, the Sweetwater Planning Group, the fire department, Crossroads II, and homeowners' associations. He asked the SVCA to serve officially as the main support group.

There was a motion that the SVCA sign a letter in support of the grant. This motion carried. A second motion was that SVCA not serve as the leading group supporting the grant application. This motion did not pass. A third motion was that SVCA designate itself as the lead sponsor of this project; the motion passed. A final motion: That Collingsworth, now a member of SVCA, be identified as SVCA's project manager, should the grant be forthcoming, and that from this time on he would serve as the point person, whether or not the grant is given.

Adjournment: 8:55 p.m.

Susan Kopp, substitute secretary

Next meeting : December 3, 2009