

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
November 5, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Ray Ymzon at 7 PM at Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department. Members present were Don Scovel, Tom, Liz, Steve, Rick, Susan, Carol.

MINUTES: Were tabled

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tabled

GUEST REPORTS:

Sgt Cobb of the California Highway Patrol gave this report. Bonita enforcement is back up. There seems to be a lot of stop sign violators between 6 and 9 pm. DUI is the same unsafe speed same .

Shifts have been restructured to twelve on, then twelve off.

Julio Garcia of the Sheriff's Department gave the following report:

- Now is the time to start protecting ourselves from crime in the coming season.
- *Do not leave packages in plain site in vehicles, or leave windows even cracked in lots.*
- *Park vehicle in well lit area at night. Be sure no one is following you. If you feel that you are in danger, go to security at the mall or store where you are and request a guard. You may have to wait, but one will be provided.*
- *Whenever you return to drop packages, move your vehicle so on one watching can think you're returning to the store.*
- *Be aware where-ever you use a credit card that only four digits of the card show on the copy that the store keeps. This is a law.*
- *And lastly, family members have been taking social security numbers and using the internet to gain access to credit cards and other things. Be careful where you leave confidential material, even in your own home.*
- *Do not leave doors unlocked and windows open when you leave home.*

Break-ins, and stolen cars are on the rise. Also, do *not* throw addressed mail in the recycling, as people come by to steal it and therefore steal your identity.

If you are going away outside the county for the holiday, be careful.

You can get the Sheriff's Department to drive by your house while you are gone.

SPECIAL REPORT:

None

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

- No one attended from State Senator Hollingsworth's office.
- No one attended from Congressman Filner's office.
- Fernando Reyes came from Assemblywoman Shirley Horton's Office and gave the following report:
- Michael De La Rosa from Supervisor Cox's office gave the following report.

Michael De La Rosa gave the following report.

The holidays are the time of project updates, making sure there are funds available for the ongoing projects for next year, among which are the Staging Areas, the San Miguel issue and Frisbie Street.

Liz mentioned that on Central Avenue going west there is still foliage blocking the no turn sign onto Frisbie Street. She believed the foliage was impeding the right of way.

In response to the question, Michael said that hazmat events are subject to money being in the department, or to grants.

Tom stated that Chula Vista Sanitation will allow drop off of hazmat for a \$5.00 fee. Good Will, AMVETS, and DAV will take monitors, TVs, VCR's and camcorders.

Fundraising schools, like Sunnyside and Lakeside will also take them.

There is a problem with people stripping houses in Chula Vista, Michael continued. There is an ordinance that states that Mortgage holders have to register bank owned properties. The fee is \$75.00

Don Scovel mentioned that the issue is that people usually just walk away from the building, leaving it vulnerable to others who strip it bare. Banks have a hard time protecting these buildings. The other problem is one of safety. They often have poor fencing, not to mention pools which have

water which is left untreated and can become a mosquito breeding ground. Mosquitoes breed West Nile Virus.

Tom stated that he could ask the Volunteer Patrol to patrol these areas more often.

Michael said that was a good idea. That the County was trying to get sanction from the Government or something in the County laws making lenders responsible. Penalties and fines could run from \$50k to 2.5M

Rick put forth the following motion: That the SVCA draft a letter to Supervisor Cox asking the County to launch an investigation along with the City of Chula Vista into mitigating the problem of abandoned homes in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Sweetwater Valley. Seconded by Susan and passed unanimously.

STANDING REPORTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT: We have a new paramedic who is already being recruited by other fire departments. The State of California Automatic Aid package failed. It needed 66% and only got 63%. Besides, they don't know where the money to fund this thing is coming from.

- **FLOODING AND WATER:** no report
- **TRAFFIC AND ROADS:** no report
- **PARKS:** No report
- **PLANNING GROUP:** Bonita Christian Center came before Planning Group to expand creating new buildings to the West side of their property. The vacant lot to the extreme west side will remain vacant for overflow parking.
- **Fil-Am Church** is also requesting a new building. Planning Group didn't like the "Costco" type design, so sent them back to the drawing board for a revision.
- **And** Planning Group agreed to allow the County to remove three trees which seem to create a hazard of some sort.
- **MEMBERSHIP:** At this time there are 85 new members, among them one group membership, three gold memberships, one silver, and one bronze.

- **PROJECT REPORTS:** None
- **SENIOR PATROL:** none

ENVIRONMENTAL:

NEW BUSINESS: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

ROUNDTABLE: Carol mentioned that she had not been able to attend the annual meeting.

George wanted to come to meeting but he had been away all day and was worn out.

Tom noted that the annual 'Toys for Tots' program would be starting on the 21st of November and run to the 19th of December in order to get the toys to the Marines out at Miramar timely. He also requested that Star's emails be emailed to him.

Susan mentioned that people were actually living in some of the abandoned homes, though she couldn't figure out how they could live in a house without water.

Ray told us about his trip to Yellowstone, how he was able to photograph some really unusual animals like moose, antelopes, and of course bears. His wife got some amazing shots.

Tom also mentioned that there will be a fundraising event for the Museum on Dec 12th.

Motion to adjourn, Rick, Second-Steve
Meeting adjourned 8:20pm

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE ON December 3,2008 at the Bonita Fire Station

Elizabeth Stonehouse
Secretary