

Making the Sweetwater Valley the Best Place to Live

P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org



**SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
January 4, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Library Community Room. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr. Jonah Valdez, a writer from the San Diego Reader. President Seiler then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country followed by a moment of silence for armed service personnel, law enforcement and first responders.

Directors present: Mike Seiler, Jim Woodford, Tom Pocklington, Steve Stonehouse, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Sharon Coleman, Mary Ellen Phillips, Sharon Clayton

Members present: Mary Ellen Phillips, Carol Freno

Guests present: Michael De La Rosa, Jonah Valdez, CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon, S.D. Sheriff's Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia

MINUTES: Motion by Tony Tieber, second by Mary Ellen Phillips to approve minutes of December 7, 2016. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S NOV. REPORT: Accepted as written.

Checking Account Balance: \$ 539.13

County Grant Funds on Deposit: \$ 5,752.00

Certificate of Deposit Balance: \$ 3,452.30

Ending Balance: \$ 9,743.43

(Previous Balance was \$9,868.37) Report accepted as written.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Officer Thepkulchon reviewed statistics for CHP activities during November and December, 2016. He told us at lately they have been short on officers due to injury. The good news is that more people are arranging with Uber and Lyft to take them home after an evening of parties and drinking. This has kept a lot of inebriated drivers off the roads. He reminded us that a new law is now effective that under no circumstances (such as navigation apps) can a driver have a cell phone in his/her hand. Even if you are stopped at a traffic signal, do not pick up your phone. Officer Thepkulchon asked Michael De La Rosa, as County Rep, to request a few more 35 MPH signs be installed along Central between Bonita Road and Corral Canyon. We currently have only one sign near Bonita Road. Many drivers don't see it because they are focused on the traffic and navigating the intersection. Mr. De La Rosa will contact General Services to request the addition of at least one more 35 MPH sign.

Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia reviewed San Diego County Sheriff's stats for our Sweetwater Valley areas. While ours continues to be a low crime area, burglaries are still occurring, specifically thefts from motor vehicles. Our monthly reminder: Don't leave anything in your car. Domestic violence is on the rise in both our County and the State due to alcohol and drugs. Locally, we also had a vehicle stolen, a home burglarized, a person robbed, and an aggravated assault. We can always call Mr. Garcia at 619-498-2435 for a scheduled, no cost

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consultation at our homes and/or businesses. In response to a question about stolen mail, he reminded us that falls under authority of the Postal Inspector. We should never put mail in our mailbox, and especially don't do it and lift the flag. Anyone driving by can take the mail. Always go to the Post Office and mail items before 5 p.m. so it gets picked up that same day.

Both Officer Thepkulchon and Specialist Garcia are members of the local task force charged with addressing the local homeless issue. The homeless are congregating behind the bike shop and on Kaiser property. Parks and Rec are cleaning up these areas, but businesses can also help by keeping fences in repair and gates locked. The next task force activity is planned for January 18th. In addition to CHP and Sheriff's Dept, representatives from Parks and Rec and Health Dept will participate. A valleywide homeless count is scheduled for January 23, 2017.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Michael De La Rosa—Supervisor Greg Cox' Office

Mr. De La Rosa expressed happiness that our two law enforcement reps were working together on the homeless task force. The key to success is to build relationships with these people and try to steer them toward help. It is yet to be determined how many will accept housing vouchers and how many landlords will actually accept them into their units. We need some kind of dedicated housing facility. The swearing in ceremony for Supervisors Cox, Jacob and Gaspar is scheduled for January 9th at County Operations Annex.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

SVCA Website Update: Tony Tieber reviewed the status report of our website developer, Richelle Farley. The idea of a new/redesigned logo to represent our community is challenging. The plan is to have logo ideas sent to Tony and a committee of Tony, Judy, and Sharon Clayton will review with Richelle. We do have a \$50 Visa Card incentive out there for anyone whose idea becomes the basis of the new logo. Tony Tieber also told us he would not agree to post association agenda's or minutes on Next Door. The neighborhoods are too varied, and he does not want to create a "hit and miss" situation.

President Seiler asked those present about inviting our new Sweetwater Authority Director, Josie Calderon-Scott, to an upcoming meeting, perhaps February. Everyone liked that idea, and Tom Pocklington felt it was important to have a discussion with her about the SWA decision to cancel the 30" water pipeline replacement project. The pipe has 100 years old sections, and a failure could cause immense damage to our community. Those present also agreed to request Ray Traynor, 125 Operations Manager, return in March to follow-up on our November discussion with him regarding:

- Can SANDAG remove the toll from the San Miguel Ranch Rd/125 interchange to Highway 54?
- Can SANDAG reduce the toll for this travel?
- Explain how SANDAG can restructure the current "out-of-proportion" toll rate for the above.

(Note: Mr. Traynor will come to our April 5, 2017 meeting)

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NEW BUSINESS: None.

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Fire Department: Tom Pocklington told us this time of year is still dangerous due to chimney fires now that the weather has turned colder. He also reminded us to change the batteries in our smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Roads: Tony Tieber had nothing new to report. However, he will have some action items for the February meeting.

Website: Tony Tieber told us that everything related to the website was covered earlier.

Planning Group: Steve Stonehouse told us the Sweetwater Community Planning Group (SCPG) reviewed a Tennis Court Lane developer’s request to separate one parcel into two private home lots. The request was approved with a few stipulations. The existing SCPG officers were re-elected to another term. Steve Stonehouse and Harriet Taylor will serve as Co-Chairs, Elizabeth Stonehouse will continue as Secretary. Some code enforcement issues were brought up to Michael De La Rosa during his regularly-scheduled update.

Membership: Sharon Coleman announced no new members.

Senior Volunteer Patrol (SVP): Jim Woodford announced that everything is going well. They did participate in mitigation of an Imperial Beach three hour issue. Now, with early darkness, two evening patrols are in place. Currently, the patrol numbers 19 volunteers. The latest activity figures follow:

	<u>December 2016</u>	<u>Year-end 2016 Summary</u>
Hours on patrol	280	3,348
Number of patrols	24	284
Number of miles driven	1,194	14,489
Vacation checks	100	1,078
YANA (you are not alone) calls	18	117
YANA visits	2	12
Citizen assists	7	101
Traffic control	1	2

Mike Seiler suggested we could attend the SCPG meeting on Tuesday, February 7th, and participate in the code compliance issues discussion. Maybe we should invite the code compliance enforcement officer to attend our SVCA meetings as well.

Mike Seiler then introduced Carol Freno, and he and Tom Pocklington reminisced on Carol’s many commitments and contributions to protect and improve our community. Carol Freno then gave us her official resignation. We all wished her well and thanked her for her service to the community.

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Tony Tieber moved to adjourn, Sharon Coleman 2nd, all approved and meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Judith A. Tieber, Secretary