

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
May 3, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Library Community Room. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. 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. Our guest, Mr. Ray Traynor, Operations Manager for SR 125 is here to give us feedback from the last time he attended our meeting. Welcome to Mr. Traynor, and we will get to his update soon.

Directors present: Mike Seiler, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Jim Woodford, Ken Pitney, Sharon Coleman, Sharon Clayton

Members present: Glenn Kopp, Bill Coleman, Prudence Prince, Mark Kukuchek, Harriet Taylor

Guests present: Julio Garcia (SDSD), Victor Avina, Officer Pete Thepkulchon, (CHP), Chief Tim Isabell (Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Station), Jessica Mier (Congress Woman Susan Davis' Office), Mark Todd, Jake Hill, Parisa Hill, Mike Clowers, Connie Ralph

MINUTES: Motion by Tony Tieber, 2nd by Sharon Clayton to approve meeting minutes of April 5, 2017. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S MAY REPORT: Accepted as written.

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 301.29
County Grant Funds on Deposit:	\$ 1,572.66
Certificate of Deposit Balance:	\$ 3,452.53
Ending Balance:	\$ 5,326.48

(Previous Balance was \$5,480.26)

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon reviewed our area citation statistics. Speeding, cell phone use, and running stop signs continue to be problematic. He has also seen increased parking complaints, and an incidence of road rage. An attendee brought up an interesting encounter with a young woman sitting in the middle of a road. She called 911 to request help for her, but no one ever came.

Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia reminded us he can give recommendations for safety improvements at our homes and businesses. He reviewed criminal activity including tools stolen from an open garage, tools stolen from the back of a truck. Sheriff's Dept. received 480 calls for service in April. We have 2 sheriff deputies and 2 detectives covering our area. He reminded us to lock all doors and windows when we leave home. Julio works on safety recommendation meetings Monday-Thursday, and he works other events on Fridays and weekends.



CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Mr. Ray Traynor reviewed the discussion topics which was basically a recap of our previous discussion:

- Removal of San Miguel Road free access to SR 125.
- Why is a toll charged for the highway between SR 54 and San Miguel Ranch Rd.
- SANDAG acquisition—Improved mobility, 20-40% toll reductions,
- Traffic on San Miguel Road

He told us the tolls are structured to pay off debt and cover operations and maintenance. SANDAG must also have reserves to cover improvements and major projects. The toll road management has proactively run a direct marketing plan to get as many cars and trucks as possible onto the toll road. While SANDAG has no control over the toll avoidance traffic, it was discussed at the time of toll road construction. That would have been the time for the County to set aside impact fees to mitigate this negative effect on our neighborhoods. Mr. Traynor reported the vehicular traffic on 125 is on track to exceed expectations. There is also a possible opportunity to refinance the debt through the Federal Government and keep tolls at the current rates. That would be a really great debt resolution outcome because it would allow the debt service to remain at an even level. While this all sounds good, the bottom line continues to be community negative impact. We need less through traffic on our Bonita-Sunnyside roads between East H and SR 54. Mr. Traynor suggested we look at traffic calming techniques along San Miguel Road.

Harriet and John Taylor started "Preserve South Bay" to oppose construction of the toll road because it did not, and still doesn't, take people where they want to go. People need to go north and west, and not east. Most all Bonita and Chula Vista through-traffic empties onto SR 54, and everyone sits in worse traffic. Ray Traynor will give us copies of his slides, and Tony will post on website. It looks like our next step is to go back to the County. Mr. Avina, from County perspective, expressed the feeling that from a regional and long-term view, SR 125 was and still is a good idea. While it was supposed to be the traffic panacea we all hoped for, we cannot always control bad driver behavior. Jessica Mier discussed opportunities for grants requesting DOT funds to finance these types of highway construction. Can we work with Chula Vista through SANDAG and Supervisor Cox to address this issue?

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Victor Avina—Supervisor Greg Cox's Office: We were told the County budget of \$5.6 billion includes some nice enhancements for our area. Public Safety funds have been allocated to purchase body cameras for our Sheriffs, \$3.5 million for upgrading the library children's section, \$0.5 million to build the bike skills park, and adequate funding to complete the Glen Abby Trail. As an update, the curbs around/near the apartment complexes along Briarwood/Robinwood roads are still getting the red paint. Moving along but not yet finished. The 35 MPH signs for Central are in the works. Good news regarding road repairs—the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 will send \$538 million to San Diego County during the next decade to maintain and repair about 2000 miles of County roads. The Supervisors' plan is to "front load" this funding so repairs can get started; and then "pay the County back" once the funds arrive. The funding comes from increased fuel taxes and other up-charges for electric cars. Mr. Avina also passed out a sheet of paper with important County phone numbers. This will be an

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attachment to the minutes. We then had discussion about how National City is handling the homeless situation in the Sweetwater Riverbed and other areas. National City officials put up **No Trespassing** signs which make it illegal for these people to be in the area. We discussed doing this same thing for our Sweetwater Riverbed open space. We ended the discussion (due to time limits) with the question—where would/should the signs go?

Jessica Mier—Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office: Ms. Mier announced that Congress has passed a temporary budget good through September, 2017. As we all know, the Healthcare bill is coming up again. Congresswoman Davis co-sponsored/supported bills to help ensure women receive equal pay for equal work, the Presidential Tax Transparency Act, the Supreme Court Ethics Act, and the Voting Rights Advancement Act. She is also working on a new Student Loan Repayment Plan. A student from Mater Dei High School won the district art contest and gets a free trip to Washington D.C.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

SVCA Website Update: Tony Tieber reviewed the website status. We are well on our way to completion at: www.sweetwatervalleyca.com. The greatest challenge is the community calendar because groups are not being specific enough about meeting dates. We still need to link up with users to develop needed procedures.

Bonita Blast is the September signature fundraising event for the Bonita Museum. President Seiler made preparation assignments.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Fire Dept: Chief Isabell reported Dept received 147 calls last month. May 21st (8-11 am) is the Pancake Breakfast fund raising event. Signs will be posted. Fire fighters were sent to San Bernardino and Riverside County. Weed abatement letters will go out next week. Chief Isabell also told us representatives from the Parks Dept and Fire Dept walked through the Sweetwater River bottom to look at completed brush abatement work and what still needs to be done. The next phase of brush clearing will not begin until September. A wild land fire training course is planned to occur at Mission Trails Regional Park. One hundred thirty engines from San Diego and Imperial County and law enforcement officers will participate. Smaller South County in-service training also occurs in different areas of South County.

Roads: Tony Tieber told us the Planning Group is still working with County to get cross-walk white lines painted on Bonita Road at Central.

Planning Group: Steve Stonehouse reported the Sweetwater Community Planning Group (SCPG) discussed and approved a request for a property setback variance from 40 ft to 20ft because of an existing slope.

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Membership: Sharon Coleman reported the following membership information: We have 16 individuals, 27 families, 12 gold members, 7 organizations and 12 groups. She suggested we have a training meeting for our neighborhood directors.

Senior Volunteer Patrol (SVP): Jim Woodford told us all members of the SVP will be taking two CPR classes given by the Fire Dept. The volunteers are currently patrolling between 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 5 or 6 days a week. A SVP member will be at the Safety Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A County Code Compliance employee is there every Monday. Last week they had enough volunteers to do some 2 p.m. patrols.

April Activity

Hours on Patrol	334	YANA Calls	17
Number of Patrols	30	Citizen Assists	7
Number of Miles Driven	1,706	Traffic Control	1
Vacation Checks	74	Number of Volunteers	19
YANA Visits	3		

General Announcements:

President Seiler discussed plan to conduct a flag-change out ceremony to start our June meeting. We will enlist the help of girl scouts this year. He is thinking we meet outside by the flag at 6:30 to take down and fold the flag, then put up the new flag, do the pledge, and then come inside to continue meeting. **NOTE: START TIME CHANGED TO 6 P.M.**

Mr. Seiler announced the "Lakefest" Community event scheduled for this Saturday noon-5 p.m.

President Seiler adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Judith A. Tieber, Secretary

Attachment: Important County Telephone Numbers