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### SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING September 6, 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, especially our newest member, Mr. Jimmie Lacey.

Directors Present: Michael Seiler, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Jim Woodford, Tom Pocklington, Sharon Coleman

Members Present: Connie Ralph, Glenn Kopp, Valerie Gerken Rios, Parish Hill, Jake Hill, Jimmie and Julia Lacey

Guests Present: Margaret Reya, Michael Raya, Mike Clowers, Victor Avina, Jessica Mier, Julio Garcia

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Steve Stonehouse moved, with second by Tony Tieber to approve June 7, 2017 and August 2, 2017 minutes. Unanimous

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Steve Stonehouse presented report.

Checking	\$1,454.19
Certificate of Deposit	\$3452.76
Ending Balance	\$4906.95

Report accepted as presented.

#### **Elected Representative Reports:**

Victor Avina—Supervisor Greg Cox Office: Expressed the Supervisor's gratitude for the nice turnout for our State of Bonita and his opportunity to tell everyone present about all the great capital improvement projects coming our way. Victor shared with us that he will be riding "Slick" in the Bonitafest Twilight Parade this year. We were updated on the status of painted crosswalks at Bonita Rd. and Central. Equipment is now functional and lines will be painted before our October meeting. On September 13 and 14, Public Works will be fixing the undulations on walking path south and adjacent to Sweetwater Rd. The Supervisor and Victor are researching a longer-term solution to keep the path in good condition. As requested by Elizabeth Stonehouse at the State of Bonita, the process to evaluate the installation of a cross walk or stop sign at Bonita Road and Dory is underway. He will keep us apprised of that process. Tom Pocklington expressed concerns about traffic blockage due to road repaving on Sweetwater, Willow, Central along with the planned Sweetwater Authority Pipeline construction. He wants assurance that all these agencies are talking to each other to develop an acceptable traffic flow through these areas. He suggested the project communicators decide on a plan to get everything done, but staggered, not all at once. Tom expressed gratitude and complemented the traffic control staff. Given the circumstances, they did a great job.

Along this same line, many of those present also complained and lamented about the trenching activities happening over and over on Willow near Bonita Rd. One crew would come in, dig up the road, do something, and fill it in again. The next day a different crew would come in and do the same thing. All this digging, re-digging etc, has a very negative effect on area traffic. Since this is Chula Vista and not County property, the only way forward is to continue to complain to Chula Vista Public Works and John McCann at 619-691-5044, district representative.

Mr. Avina reported the “Tell Us Now” app is operational and now contains a working status of job which we can access for updates.

Jessica Mier—Congresswoman Susan Davis: The Congresswoman is back in D.C. and hit the ground running. Greatest urgency at this time is working out a deal to address the pending government shutdown. Another important concern is the need to address DACA with new legislation to be effective within the 6 month deadline set by President Trump. Title 9 funding is potentially on the chopping block. That would be a huge blow to many school programs and activities. As a member of the Education Workforce Committee, Susan Davis will work diligently to protect Title 9 funding. The Congresswoman was the recent recipient of the 2017 Refugee Award. As a result of our SVCA meeting discussions about the detrimental effects of the 125 toll avoidance traffic, the Congresswoman has taken on this problem and paired up Department of Transportation (DOT) with SANDAG to discuss a possible road refinancing plan that would decrease the current pressure on SANDAG to maximize toll income.

Mike Clowers told us he is having a meeting with Ray Traynor, Operations Manager, to discuss unresolved issues including completion of the San Miguel Ranch Rd/SR 125 Toll Rd. interchange. We all understand, with the pending balloon payment, SANDAG is not comfortable to authorize such a major road improvement at this time.

#### **Law Enforcement:**

Mr. Julio Garcia—Sheriff’s Department: Mr. Garcia told us the crime activity in Bonita continues to be much lower than other County areas. That said, we did experience two residential burglaries, one aggravated assault, and someone stealing brass flower vases from cemetery plots. Regarding cars, we were reminded to never leave items in plain view. He reported that crimes of domestic abuse here and across the County are increasing—up to 100%. About 45-50 victims/month are reporting in. Mr. Garcia again suggested the need for more neighborhood watch committees. He is always willing to help these groups get started. One bit of possible good news is what seems like a reduction of homeless hanging out behind the Kaiser buildings. However, someone did mention seeing homeless sleeping under the freeway overpasses.

#### **Continuing Business:**

Website Update: Tony Tieber reported the next short-term step is to train SVCA directors interested in making our new website less dependent on our contractor. He offered to set up a one hour training session (6-7 p.m.) just before our October 4 meeting. He will put out an email notice to those who have expressed interest. Or you can let Judy know if you are interested ([jtieber@cox.net](mailto:jtieber@cox.net)). Training will cover website, Facebook, and Twitter including how to upload documents, post notices and better use the communications tools now at our disposal.

Long-term plan remains the Community Calendar. There is a lot of ambiguity amongst our area organizations. Getting firm meeting dates is problematic. A future plan also includes having

these organization representatives attend a training course so they can post information for their respective groups.

**Bonita Blast:** President Seiler reminded us that Bonita Blast fundraising event is this Saturday. Activities include a silent auction, dinner, dancing and learning about all the area organizations. Tickets are \$75. Mike Seiler described the SVCA display that includes a board, a plaque, and a history of the organization. Bill and Sharon Coleman have donated a lovely coffee basket and Sharon Clayton has donated a beautiful handmade necklace and earrings set for the silent auction.

### **Community Forum:**

**Fire—Tom Pocklington:** Reported the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Station received 137 911 calls last month. 75% were for medical reasons. Don't hesitate to call, no fees are charged, and our fire fighters are also paramedics so able to handle large crashes, etc. The station is 100% manned and currently has a \$2.2 million budget. We were encouraged to keep our weeds cut and debris to a minimum due to high fire danger. If we feel a property is unsafe due to weeds and overgrown plants, we are encouraged to call the Bonita weed Abatement office at 619-479-2346.

**Traffic and Roads—Tony Tieber:** Nothing to report other than he has 2 large charts left from State of Bonita that detail the local road improvement work planned and the schedule for getting them done.

**Sweetwater Community Planning Group—Steve Stonehouse:** Reported planned renovations for La Finca De Adobe restaurant and parking lot. While many neighborhood/County issues were addressed in the renovation plans, the Group felt more details were needed and more issues had to be better addressed before giving approval to this project. Several restaurant neighbors were present to see plans and ask questions. Since the short County checklist was not approved, the project leadership will have to develop a full site plan.

**Status of Storage Facility:** Currently in process to complete county check list. It has not come before the Planning Group yet. The land under consideration is a flood plain that requires a lot of extra expense. President Seiler reviewed the entire project process for attendees.

**Membership—Sharon Coleman:** Ms. Coleman told us she intends to focus new membership efforts on local, affiliated clubs and convince them to become members. She was also happy to report a few new SVCA members. As an aside, she shared some local excitement on Winnetka Dr. At around 6:30pm, 9/2/17 a DUI suspect driving recklessly downhill at about 80 MPH lost control and crashed through a homeowner's fence at the corner Winnetka and Bram. Luckily no one was home at the time, damage was limited to the fence and the grass. Neighbors detained driver until the CHP arrived on site. Sharon later talked with Officer Pete Thepkulchon who confirmed the driver was traveling between 80-90 mph and was DUI.

**Senior Volunteer Patrol—Jim Woodford:** We learned that two new people will be attending the academy soon. With this addition, the plan will be to expand patrols from 19 to 21. The YANA daily calls and weekly visits are going well. The Patrol has also been helping Sheriff Deputies at Imperial Beach check points, and at the San Castle competition. They are averaging 4-5 vacation checks/day so staying busy. At this time, they do not have enough staff to keep the Safety Center open every day.

August 2017 Statistics:

Hours on patrol	262	Number of Patrols	22
Number miles driven	1,169	Vacation checks	100
YANA Visits	1	YANA Calls	22
Citizen Assists	6	Traffic Control	0
Number of Volunteers	19		

Tom Pocklington reminded us that the Bonitafest Twilight Parade was coming up.

President Seiler told us the Neighborhood Directors need to be reaffirmed or elected. He will forward some information to Judy to send out in an effort to find neighborhood and organizational volunteers. This action item will be on next month's meeting agenda. If current Directors could respond back on their willingness to continue service, we'd appreciate knowing.

There being no further business, Tom Pocklington moved, Jim Woodford seconded that we adjourn. Unanimous, and President Seiler adjourned meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tieber  
Secretary, SVCA