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



SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING January 3, 2018

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 invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country followed by a moment of silence to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals

Directors Present: Michael Seiler, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Sharon Coleman, Sharon Clayton

Members Present: Glenn Kopp, Mark Kukuchek, Prudence Prince, Miguel and Lesley Fernandez, Patricia Belden, Gene Gallegos, Alan and Fran Cornell, Jake and Parisa Hill, Scott Lewis, Eugene Cook, Connie Ralph

Guests Present: Donna Hodge, Julio Garcia, San Diego County Sheriff's Dept., CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon, County Supervisor Cox representative Victor Avina, Congress woman Susan Davis' representative Zach Bunshaft, Phil and Celia Berdeski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Steve Stonehouse moved and Tony Tieber seconded the motion to approve the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes; no discussion; unanimous approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Steve Stonehouse presented the January 2018 Financial report.

Checking	\$1,616.12
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,452.99
Ending Balance	\$5,069.11

Report accepted as presented.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon reviewed citation activity/focus areas for December 2017. We were told to expect lower activity numbers now that it is getting dark earlier. The CHP staff is directed to highway activity/accidents. We did have four collisions, one of which was a DUI. The La Luz bar patrons in Belle Bonnie Brae Shopping Center are causing some safety concerns due to fights. Both CHP and Sheriff deputies are keeping an eye on the situation. During January, Officer Thepkulchon will be participating in training that is associated with marijuana legalization and possible driving under the influence and will be able to speak more on that subject next month.

SD County Sheriff Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia reported area crime was up in December. Bonita experienced 2 robberies, an aggravated assault, thefts from motor vehicles and buildings and a motor vehicle theft. Five different agencies continue to work the homeless problem here in the valley. The "jungle" homeless camp has now been cleaned up and the area

will be patrolled and checked on a regular monthly basis by four different agencies to keep the area clean and free of homeless people. Apparently, the displaced homeless are now behind the Kaiser buildings. We encouraged these law enforcement individuals to continue to seek out these people and help them find permanent places to live and accept help. He told us the Sheriff's Department will also be conducting training to address the marijuana legalization and related issues and concerns.

Elected Representative Reports:

Congress woman Susan Davis' Office: Zach Bunshaft told us the Congresswoman has been very busy. She listened to her constituents' many concerns about the GOP tax plan, and she spoke against the harmful effects on many occasions. She was active in preserving the survivor benefits for 63,000 military widows, cosponsored legislation requiring sexual harassment training for members of Congress, and building a register of apprenticeships and other work-based learning programs for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors. She is actively engaged in budget negotiations to include funds for community health centers, children's insurance, the Dream Act, natural disaster relief, and Social Security and Medicare program protection.

Supervisor Greg Cox Office: Victor Avina discussed the County roadwork priority plan, and told us they are working on contracts now for 2018 forward. The County is "front-loading" funds to get roads fixed faster. They are currently seeking community input to make sure they've got it "right". As a follow-up to last meeting, the last traffic count on Corral Canyon was 8-27-2013. He gave that report to Glenn Kopp for review. We discussed the need for refurbishing the traffic calming structures (4) along Corral Canyon. Glenn Kopp would like to paint the curbing red, but others thought reflective white or an alternating red and white stripe would be more eye catching, especially at night. Victor Avina will research County standards in this regard and find out if County Public Works can take on this job. He will get back to us next month. Mr. Kopp agreed to wait.

Victor Avina explained that the hepatitis epidemic is slowing down. The vaccinations, sanitary stations and education are working to resolve the problem. Our latest challenge is the stronger than expected flu strain that has hit San Diego hard. He advised that if a person does not have health insurance and they need/want a flu shot, they should just call 211 and talk to an agent.

Regarding the concerns about the three sets of uncoordinated traffic lights at top of Briarwood/SR 54, part of the problem is fixture ownership. The County and/or Caltrans owns the lights. A County traffic engineer will be checking the site on Thursday morning, January 4th to see if better coordination is possible. Those at the meeting also identified two other intersections that need adjustment: One is Acacia from all three directions and Bonita Rd at Willow driving west. The left turn signal for traffic turning onto Willow/Grevillia is much too long. Drivers on west side facing east must wait for the turn signal to clear before they can proceed through the intersection. Mostly, there is no or very little traffic turning south. Victor will have traffic engineers also look at these two intersections.

Due to continuing issues with traffic congestion on San Miguel Road at Sunnyside School, County is looking into the feasibility of restriping parking on the north (wide) side of San Miguel Road. It is currently parallel parking along the curb, and County staff is thinking if they made it diagonal parking a lot more cars could be accommodated.

A new Neighborhood watch group is being formed to address unsafe issues along San Miguel Road. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10th, 7:00 p.m. at the Sweetwater Community Church across from the Pinery tree lot.

Victor spoke to the KUSI news piece (Turko files) addressing the seemingly odd construction of two handicapped street corner ramps on Allen School Road. He assured us that the ramps were step one of a process to build some additional infrastructure for the "Safe Walk to Schools" program. County has applied for additional funding to build connecting pathways. Finally, Victor thanked member Mark Kukuchek for a trail ride to visit the new Fairy Shrimp trail and existing temporary trail so he could better understand the request to keep both the new and the temporary trail open in this very busy section of our open space.

President Seiler told us that at our February 7th, 2018 meeting, we will have the chief Willow Street bridge engineer, Jonathan Salsman, come to update us on the bridge construction. This will be an opportunity to discuss issues and/or concerns associated with traffic congestion on Sweetwater Road on the north side of construction.

Continuing Business:

Chula Vista has not yet responded to our request for a written, signed communication regarding possible municipal golf course redevelopment plans.

President Seiler introduced Mr. Phil Berdeski, the owner of Bonita Village Shopping Center. Mr. Berdeski requested the opportunity to address the SVCA attendees to explain the ownership history and his current plans to revise the shopping center property. While the east side of the center was built in 1980, the west side is much older, having been built in 1965. The shopping center was owned by a partnership of Midwest physicians and Mr. Berdeski. Due to differing investment goals, Mr. Berdeski began buying out the partners. The buyout was completed in 2006. The recession of 2008 precluded any opportunity for him to borrow redevelopment funding. However, with the current economic climate, he has been able to secure funding sufficient to demolish and replace the west section's buildings, from the old San Diego Trust and Savings building west to the corner of Bonita Road and Willow St. He has been in talks with the City of Chula Vista, and is looking to hire an architect to begin the redevelopment process as soon as possible. He explained the new center will be rebuilt at the higher level of two feet above the 100 year flood plain. He isn't sure yet how to handle the "Old Bonita Store" brick building since it is a 127 year-old landmark structure that sits too low in elevation. He explained some possible options, but has not made a decision. He invited anyone interested in sharing thoughts and concerns to talk with him after the meeting or to contact him via email at phil@berdeski.com. Mr. Berdeski expressed a desire to attend future meetings and keep us up-to-date on his progress. This is the first step in a long process, and we welcome his willingness to keep us "in the loop".

President Seiler continued the meeting with a description and discussion of the direct mailing tool "Every Door Direct Mail" as an opportunity to deliver an SVCA introductory communication to all Bonita residents. There are 12 districts within the 91902 zip code. There is a cost to do this, but we have the opportunity to prioritize districts and send out notices over time as funding is available. Victor Avina will check with County grants personnel to find out if funding might be available to do this. With design, printing and mailing, he expects the cost to be \$1,500-\$2,000. A .pdf containing the "Every Door Direct Mail" will be attached to these minutes so members can review the program and see how the demographics are listed for each district.

Community Forum:

Fire—Tom Pocklington: No report

Community Focus Group---Lisa Goodsell: Lisa reported the process to begin forming the structure of the new community focus/alliance group will occur in a two-part process. Two meeting dates are established for this “getting off the ground” work:

Wednesday, January 10, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Fire Station Training Room

Thursday, February 15, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Fire Station Training Room

A full report and recap will be submitted to SVCA shortly after the 2/15/18 meeting. During these two meetings, we will identify the top concerns by vote, along with opening the discussion for a game plan and identifying shared leadership roles. If you are not already on the e-notice list, please email Lisa directly to become part of this effort. LisaColetteArt@cox.net.

Traffic and Roads—Tony Tieber: Tony reminded those present to look around their neighborhood and let him know of any roads that should be added to the County list for 2019. You can reach Tony at tony.tieber@cox.net. Tony recently became aware of a citizen concern regarding traffic exiting from the back of the Bonita Village Shopping Center onto Grevillea Way. There have been some near-miss incidents where shopping center traffic does not stop or yield before entering Grevillia on their way to the intersection with Bonita Road. Tony encouraged the neighbor to discuss this issue and others with Mr. Berdeski, and hopefully alleviate the problem through the new shopping center design process.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group—Steve Stonehouse: No meeting was held in January.

Membership—Sharon Coleman: Ms. Coleman reported we have new members, and she does have application forms for any interested meeting attendees. Currently we have:

Individual members	24	Gold	14
Family	29	Silver	3
Organizations	7		

Annual membership cost is very reasonable at: \$15 Individual, \$25 Family, \$50 Organization, \$100 Silver, and \$250 for Gold.

Senior Volunteer Patrol—Jim Woodford: No report.

December 2017 Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities:

Hours on Patrol:	284	Number of Patrols:	24	Number miles driven:	1,296
Vacation Checks:	85	YANA Visits:	1	YANA Calls:	20
Citizen Assists:	9	Traffic Control	1	Number Volunteers:	21

Year 2017 Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities:

Hours on Patrol:	3216	Number of Patrols:	279	Number miles driven:	14,241
Vacation Checks:	984	YANA Visits:	10	YANA Calls:	239
Citizen Assists:	98	Traffic Control:	3	Number Volunteers:	21

Round Table:

A concern was expressed about the unkempt appearance of the Dollar Tree Store on Bonita Rd. Trash is not emptied often enough and the sidewalk not cleaned. Who can we call about it? Has to be City of Chula Vista.

President Seiler adjourned meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tieber
Secretary, SVCA

Next meeting: February 7, 2018

Attachment: PDF: Every Door Direct Mail

Mission Statement: The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association is the direct conduit to local County elected and appointed officials, law enforcement and emergency first responders to discuss and resolve issues directly related to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.