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

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Library Community Room. President Seiler welcomed members, guests and those contemplating membership to the meeting. We were invited us 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, Tom Pocklington, Jim Woodford

Members Present: Prudence Prince, Margaret Welsh, Eugene Cook, Dana and Nancy Cornell, Greg Ward, Alan and Fran Cornell, Mark Kukuchek, Harriet and John Taylor, Jim Groth

Guests Present: Representative from County Supervisor Greg Cox' office Victor Avina, Congress woman Susan Davis office Jessica Mier, CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon, Representative from CV Councilman John McCann's office Samantha Trickey, San Diego County Sheriff Rep. Julio Garcia, Suzanne Mathews, Robin Leon, Susan Day from Burn Institute, Barbara Provost, Sharmane Estolano, Ann and Walter Rodriguez

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve, Jim Woodford second, to approve September 5, 2018 minutes. Approved with two abstentions.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse reporting.

Checking	\$1,688.42
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,453.51
Ending Balance	\$5,141.93

Stephen acknowledged the membership efforts of Sharon Coleman and Lisa Martin-Goodsell. Report accepted as presented.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon told us he was able to organize a special task force to focus on pedestrian safety during the National Walk to School Day campaign. Twenty two tickets were given at Central/Bonita Rds and 66 tickets handed out at Bonita/Otay Lakes Rds for failure to yield to pedestrians. On the actual Walk to School Day, Sunnyside Elementary will be a focused enforcement on speeding and not yielding to pedestrians. New CHP swing shift coverage will help with local enforcement.

Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia updated us on Bonita crime activity. We had six homes burglarized: 3 had open doors. He also told us to be careful if we have new Apple I Phones. Robbers are very actively watching for and stealing these phones. We were reminded

that the holidays are coming and more important than ever to keep our homes secured at all times and be aware of our surroundings.

Elected Representative Reports:

Congress woman Susan Davis representative, Jessica Mier, announced it has been a very busy month for the Congresswoman. A new budget has been passed and signed into law. She has been involved in the National Commission on Service Roundtable. The Commission was created by Congress to consider methods to increase participation in military, national, and public service and to review the military selective service process. The Congress woman is also working to expand high quality apprenticeship programs to help young people and job-seekers learn a trade/skill, and allow employers to fill openings with highly skilled workers. We were reminded that Susan Davis can appoint candidates to military academies where tuition is free. We were asked to check her website for upcoming learning sessions on China and other countries.

County Supervisor Greg Cox's representative, Victor Avina, gave us updates including the bike park construction schedule (late spring/early summer 2019), new school crossing lights scheduled for installation the week of October 18th, and a meeting is being set up with the San Miguel Rd. Traffic Committee to look at traffic mitigation options for wide part of SMR. Regarding SR-125 traffic, the Supervisor wants to encourage citizens to use the highway. We need to keep pressure on SANDAG to figure out a way to get traffic off SMR. Bottom line is that SANDAG owes \$200 million on 125. At October 10th Supervisors' Meeting, the focus will be on the cost of housing, regulatory reviews and how to reduce costs to encourage construction of affordable housing. Mike Seiler suggested a strong grass roots effort is needed to address this issue. Vacant parcels are now being used for affordable housing. Is there a study or document that shows us the value of currently unused County properties?

Ms. Samantha Trickey deferred to Chula Vista Councilmember John McCann who arrived late. Mr. McCann told us about his discussions with Ray Traynor, Operations Manager for the SR-125 (SBX) Toll Rd. Mr. Traynor told Mr. McCann that an extensive study would have to be done before the toll was changed from San Miguel Ranch Rd to SR 54. The study cost is now \$400,000. Councilmember McCann noted that this section of road amounts to only 4% of SANDAG's income. It seems very logical to do a trial run to see what would happen with a reduced toll. The original toll decreases really did result in an increase of vehicles using the road. Mike Seiler, Tony Tieber, Stephen Stonehouse and Harriet Taylor will be meeting with John McCann later in October to continue this discussion.

New Business:

Revamped SVCA Flier: Parisa Hill worked on a new flier for the Association. Mike Seiler reviewed the new format and wording with us. Everyone was happy with the new look. One change was to eliminate the word "politicians" and replace with "elected officials". Tom Pocklington moved, Sharon Coleman seconded to adopt the amended flier. Passed unanimously. Many thanks to Parisa for her work on our behalf.

Burn Institute presentation: Susan Day from the San Diego Burn Institute told us about the history and mission of the Burn Institute. It is an active local nonprofit started in 1972. Its focus is two-fold: Fire prevention and burn survivor support. We are fortunate to have the wonderful UCSD Medical Center Burn Center for burn victims. The Burn Institute steps in to provide support after hospital discharge. The Institute is currently offering to install free, high quality

smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the homes of seniors 62 years old and older. The Institute will schedule the installation which includes a 10-year lithium battery, and will come back in 10 years to replace the battery. The alarms will be placed in strategic locations where the alarm can be heard by everyone in the house. Studies show that older people are more apt to perish when alarms are not in use. We were told that \$0.94 of every dollar raised by the Burn Institute goes directly into programs and services. There are no income requirements for the free smoke detectors, homeowners only to be 62 years or older and own their own home or condo. Susan Day reminded us that smoke detectors must be up high (smoke rises) and carbon monoxide detectors should be lower, like by a light switch. The number to call for smoke detector installation/information is 1-858-541-2277. Please note: If your smoke detector is incorporated into your home security alarm system, they can't change it but can add a separate detector.

Community Forum:

Fire—Tom Pocklington reported the Fire Station has a new certified fire fighter. The Dept. is doing well.

Bonita Alliance—Lisa Martin Goodsell updated us that BA is working on a draft letter to Chula Vista City Council members and Mayor to lay out a long term plan for the Chula Vista Golf Course and Rohr Park. The letter will focus on the Legacy Park designation. Any questions or comments should be directed to LisaColetteArt@cox.net. The finalized letter will be brought back to the SVCA members for approval.

Planning Group—Stephen Stonehouse gave the update. Susan Nichols from the Airport Noise Abatement Committee met with us. She is looking for new committee members, preferably someone from each area of the metropolitan area. Won't take a lot of anyone's time, but important to have all areas represented. Sweetwater Authority provided an update on water main replacement project. A presentation was made for construction of "Kiku Gardens" a residence for elderly. Our feedback was helpful to their efforts to build this with community input. The CPG voted to send a response letter to County Planning and Land Use regarding the negative mitigation document for proposed ACE Storage. Finally, David Norgard from Parks Dept. discussed our PLDO (Park Land Development) priorities.

Traffic/Roads—Tony Tieber reported his observation from recent driving trip that at least 25% of highways/roads between here and the Midwest are in poor condition. Another 20% were being actively replaced. So California is not alone in struggling to fund needed road/bridge repairs.

Membership—Sharon Coleman reported on current membership numbers: 29 individuals, 42 families, 3 silver, 12 gold and 7 community nonprofits. She has sent out her final reminder for this year and will remove anyone who has not paid. She expressed the importance of community involvement, and reminded us new members get a free pen.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol—Jim Woodford reported the Sr. Volunteer Patrol has been moving the speed trailer around Bonita. They continue to be at Sunnyside School in the afternoon. They are 20 members strong and patrol 5-6 days/week. They have a second You Are Not Alone (YANA) older person who is now getting calls on a regular basis. She has expressed deep appreciation for the service. The white patrol car does have a radio for communication. Jim told us Bonita residents are very good about not parking in handicap designated stalls so not a lot of parking tickets have been issued. He solicited new members with the promotion of getting your own

uniform and two weeks of training. Jim Groth thanked both the Sr. Volunteer Patrol and the Fire Dept. for their help with traffic control on San Miguel Road.

September 2018 Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities:			
		Number of volunteers	20
Hours on Patrol	228	Number of Patrols	19
Number Miles Driven	900	Vacation Checks	44
YANA Visits	2	YANA calls	33
Citizen Assists	1	Traffic Control	7

Trails - Mark Kukuchek announced the September 15 clean up day was a great success. The Bonitafest Twilight Parade was great fun. Tom Pocklington sponsored the flag change-out that Friday, and Bonita Valley High School hosted the 8a.m.-4 p.m. Bonitafest activities. Don't forget the Melodrama, always great entertainment. The Bonita Valley Riders are sponsoring a wine tasting event next Saturday afternoon.

President Seiler recused himself from the discussions concerning the ACE Storage facility, and stepped outside. Vice President Tony Tieber took over the meeting while Harriet Taylor addressed those present to ask if the SVCA would support the Sweetwater Community Planning Group effort to stop the ACE Storage facility. Tom Pocklington moved and Mark Kukuchek seconded that "Members agree to support the SCPG effort with a letter." Motion passed, and Judy was tasked with writing the letter of support. Tony will sign it. Harriet Taylor told us the Sweetwater Community Guidelines does not support this project. It is clear from all the "coming together" activity of local citizens, this storage facility is not wanted in our community. October 9th is the deadline to submit letters for public comment. County will respond back to each letter. She plans to put an informational folder together for each member of the Planning Commission. We will be notified when this project will come up for Planning Commission review and vote, possibly in December. It is important that concerned citizens show up to express their displeasure with this project. She reminded us that both the Sweetwater Community Planning Group and the County Planning Commission are advisory only. The Board of Supervisors will make the final decision.

Tom Pocklington moved, Stephen Stonehouse seconded to adjourn meeting. So moved.

President Seiler returned as the meeting was closing at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Tieber
Secretary, SVCA

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.