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SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
MEETING HELD AT THE BONITA-SUNNYSIDE LIBRARY  
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING  
January 7, 2026

**Directors Present:** President Felix Felix, Vice President Judy Tieber, Treasurer Stephen Stonehouse, Mike Clowers, Sharon Coleman, Richard Scott, Secretary Liz Stonehouse, and Mike Parnell.

**Members Present:** Bill Coleman, Janeen Reed (BVH), Susan Heavilin, and Mike Clowers.

**Guests Present:** Chief Mike Simms, Ardyel Lim and Tyler Miller.

- 1. Call to Order:** 6:35 PM by President Felix Felix at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library Community Room.
- 2. Attendance:** Members were reminded to sign in for attendance record accuracy.
- 3. Approval of Dec. 3, 2025 Minutes:** Steve Stonehouse motioned to approve: Richard Scott seconded. Passed.
- 4. Special welcome:** a welcome greeting was provided to our members, guests, representatives of our elected officials, and to those contemplating joining the SVCA.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Stephen Stonehouse provided the January Treasurer's report.
  - \$4,460.59 Previous balance
  - \$45.00 PayPal to Mail Chimp

-\$29.47 Check # 868 Paid to Judy Tieber for Kindness Week Supplies  
-\$210.00 Check # 869 Paid to US Post Office Box Rent  
-\$180.00 Check # 870 Paid to Keep It Growing Web Services  
+14.42 Dues Received  
\$4,010.54 Ending balance

**6. Bonita Fire Department:** Chief Sims mentioned that the process to determine who will be the next Fire Chief takes place tomorrow, Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. The BSFPD Board of Directors will be presented with the results of this process at our January 13<sup>th</sup> regular Board Meeting and potentially pick his successor.

The Heartland Training Facility Authority (HFTA) has taken delivery of our new Live Burn Training Building which is being assembled onsite and should be completed tomorrow. The Central zone's training officers will conduct multiple train the trainer burns with the manufacturer in the following week.

We hired a new firefighter paramedic on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Probationary FFPM Trevor Magnett has been doing great with all his new hire training. He will work toward his rigorous 2-year probation which consists of regular written and manipulative testing in all aspects of the job. Total emergency responses for December-187.

**7. CHP:** Lieutenant Lane mentioned that they removed 15 abandoned cars. There were 5 DUI arrests, 26 crashes granted the rain had an impact and 9 of those were injury accidents. The CHP in our area will now wear body cameras.

**8. Elected Officials Representatives Reports:**

**A. Ardyel Lim mentioned the following report:**

The legislature is back in session. The Senate has a newly sworn-in Pro Tempore, Senator Monique Limon, who represents Santa Barbara, parts of Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties. She is succeeding Senator Mike McGuire from Northern California. With this comes some shake-ups in Senate leadership and committee appointments. Just right before

Christmas, Pro Tempore Limon assigned Senator Padilla to continue serving as the Assistant Majority Whip and Chair the Insurance Committee. He continues to serve in the Agriculture, Governmental Organization, Health, Housing, and the Joint Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification, with new assignment in the Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee. Legislation-wise, the Senator had just introduced 3 bills for this session, with a few more coming soon. The bills introduced are the following:

Senator Steve Padilla announced that he will introduce language into Senate Bill 58 that will update California's air quality standard for hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), a gas that is found at high concentrations in the Tijuana River Valley and the Salton Sea region. California's hydrogen sulfide standard has not been updated since 1969.

Senate Bill 867 aims to place a 4-year moratorium on the sale and manufacturing of toys with artificial intelligence (AI) chat bot capabilities for children under 18. This legislation is to allow time for safety regulations to be developed protecting children from dangerous AI interactions.

Senate Bill 876, working together with California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, introduced SB 876, which would comprehensively reform the insurance claims process by cutting red tape, improving payouts and ending insurance company delays and runarounds. Requiring a "disaster recovery plan" from insurers for handling claims and meeting timelines – reviewed by the Department in advance and put into effect in an emergency. Doubling penalties during a declared emergency for violations of insurance fair claims practices and settlement law. Requiring insurance companies pay restitution to policyholders when laws are violated. Addressing delays resulting from the assigning of multiple adjusters by requiring insurance company status reports to policyholders within 5 days anytime a new adjuster is assigned. Improving recovery by expanding policy limits for Additional Living Expenses by 100% in a declared disaster. Expanding up-front payments by requiring Actual Cash Value and structure replacement cost be paid quickly following a total loss, with interest payable if late. Providing adequate recovery funds by requiring a mandatory offer of extended and guaranteed replacement cost coverage when writing a policy, and regular updated replacement cost estimates for

new business and renewals. Safer rebuilding by applying mandatory building code upgrade coverage at the time of rebuild – not at the time of loss – to account for updated rules.

On Dec. 17, 2026, we held a Chula Vista District Office Open House, where we welcomed about 70 constituents and regional stakeholders to our office. They had the opportunity for a quick check-in and intro meeting with the Senator.

The Senator also participated in a webinar hosted by Small Business Majority for a fireside chat with local small business owners to discuss the top issues shaping California's Main Streets. He shared his thoughts and concerns surrounding the impact of immigration enforcement on businesses, economic worries regarding tariffs on supply chains, and affordability to live in the state and in our region.

Outside of legislation, the Chula Vista team continues to meet with constituents from various parts of the district to provide updates, hear their concerns, and share his priorities moving forward. We are currently accepting bill comments, suggestions, and concerns once again.

Events-wise, we are still in the planning stage, so if you have any suggestions on events or community outreach, please let me know. If you have any additional questions, please reach out via email, his website, or by calling the Senator's San Diego County office and I'd be happy to speak with you more. Thank you

Contact: Ardyel Lim, District Representative, Office of State Senator Steve Padilla, District 18, [Ardyel.Lim@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Ardyel.Lim@sen.ca.gov).

**Office of State Senator Stephen C. Padilla, 18th District**

Offices: San Diego County (619) 409-7690,  
Sacramento (916) 651-4018, Imperial County (760) 335-3442.

**B. Tyler Miller, Senior Council/ Mayoral Assistant for John McCann reported the following:**

The board and community members were informed of the upcoming return of Coffee with the Mayor. Dates, times, and locations are currently being planned for 2026 (TBD). Attendees were advised to monitor the Mayor's social media platforms, newsletters, and email communications for updates. It was noted that meeting locations will be distributed across Council Districts 1–4 to provide residents citywide the opportunity to engage with Mayor McCann for questions and input.

An update was provided regarding a recent press conference held by Mayor McCann related to the Rohr Park Master Plan and Horse Arena, which he reaffirmed his full support of the equestrian community for the preservation of the horse arena. It was stated that Mayor McCann remains in regular communication with the horse community, boards, clubs, and residents to collect public input. Questions and concerns raised by board and community members were addressed to the best of my ability on behalf of Mayor McCann and the City of Chula Vista. It was further noted that the Rohr Park Master Plan remains in the early planning stages and that no final decision is anticipated for a year. In addition, it was expressed that the Parks and Recreation Commission must review and approve the plan before it is forwarded to City Council for consideration, approval, or denial.

For general updates, discussion took place regarding changes for the Starlight Parade, involvement in Taste of Bonita and Bonita Fest. Furthermore, a brief update on the future outlook of the Chula Vista/Bonita Golf Course is under consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

## **9. Continuing Business:**

**A. Participation in the Starlight Parade Dec. 6, 2025:** There was a discussion with pictures of the truck float that was in the Starlight Parade. Judy employed her truck and we decorated it with lights, banners, and Christmas ornaments. A Christmas tree and bubble machines were also used for more effect. Miss Bonita, Chief Sims and Ernesto rode in the back. Members were thanked for contributing to the cause.

**B. SVCA Website Redesign & Maintenance Request for Proposals Update:** SVCA President Felix mentioned that due to the

holiday season wrap up, he was finishing up with the collection of website redesign and maintenance RFPs. He would be sharing them with the board before presenting them to our members for their review and approval. Tony Tieber asked about the bidding process. Felix mentioned that members reviewed the SVCA Website Redesign Proposal and approved it at the last meeting and to move forward with conducting RFPs. Felix conveyed the importance of requesting several bids to make it open and competitive for transparency.

**C. Letter of Support to City of Chula Vista for Horse Arena:**

President Felix stated that a letter of support for the horse arena in the Rohr Park Master Plan was submitted to the City of Chula Vista to include:

1. Mayor John McCann
2. Deputy Mayor (District 1 Council Member) Carolina Chavez
3. District 2 Council Member Jose Preciado
4. District 3 Council Member Michael Inzunza
5. District 4 Council Member Cesar Fernandez
6. City Manager Tiffany Allen
7. Deputy City Manager Courtney Chase
8. Parks and Rec. Director Frank Carson
9. Parks and Rec. Commission Members

SD County District 1 Supervisor, Paloma Aguirre also received a copy.

**10. New Business:**

**A. SVCA Operations Manual:** President Felix mentioned that he was working on the SVCA's first operations manual with the Board to complement the new Bylaws. He provided a preview of the draft plan on the laser projector during the meeting and stated that it would go through several revisions before presenting them to our members for their review and approval.

**B. Application for Grant Funding:** The SVCA is looking into applying for county funding through two grants: one for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program and the other through the Community Enhancement Program. The grants will fund the redesigning of our website and

marketing campaign to streamline our association's mission in fostering inclusiveness "as-a-one-stop-shop" to promoting community spirit and civic pride through proactive engagement with the County, local elected and appointed officials, law enforcement, emergency first responders, and community groups with the goal of improving the quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley Community.

## **11. Community Forum:**

**A. SCPG Chair Felix Felix updates:** Steve Stonehouse was congratulated for being appointed once again to the Planning Group. There was a presentation by DPW concerning the vacation of a section of Quarry Road and Sweetwater Road that was presented only once to the Planning group. They were asked to return when they had more detailed information for us to make our decision on. They also had not properly reached out to residents about the matter. Marianne Delatorre is our new liaison to Supervisor Aguirre and she has been doing a great job.

**B. Traffic and Roads:** Mike Clowers mentioned that the TAC meeting this Friday will not include anything on the agenda for our community.

**C. SVCA Membership:** Judy noted that we have 68 members: 28 gold and 40 paid.

**D. Volunteer Patrol:** Jim Woodford was not present.

**E. Sweetwater Authority:** Elizabeth Cox was not present.

**12. Other Announcements & Items not on the Agenda:** The City of Chula Vista Parks and Rec meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6:30PM. The meeting is open to the public at the Norman Park Center.

**13. Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Stonehouse, Secretary

**Mission Statement:** The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association (SVCA) fosters and promotes community spirit and civic pride through proactive

engagement with the County, local elected and appointed officials, law enforcement, emergency first responders, and community groups/organizations with the goal of improving the quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley community.