

**SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER: This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Michael Seiler with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country and a moment of silence for armed service personnel, law enforcement and first responders.

Directors present: Mike Seiler, Steve Stonehouse, Jim Woodford, Tony Tieber, Carol Freno, Susan Kopp, Judy Tieber, Tom Pocklington, Ken Pitney

MINUTES: Minutes from September meeting, motion to approve by Steve Stonehouse, 2nd by Judy Tieber. Discussion: need correction to Bob Chicca spelling. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's report dated October, 2014, was moved to accept by Jim Woodford, 2nd by Ken Pitney. Approved

Checking Account Balance	\$1197.21
Includes: CK 722 for Foolproof	\$1,200.00
Certificate of Deposit Balance	\$3,450.75
Total	\$4647.96

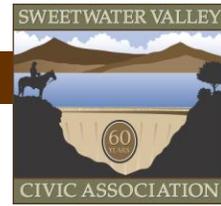
OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK:

Mike Seiler announced that the SVCA sign as approved at last meeting (changed 60 years to Est. 1949) was conveyed to Bob Chicca, and the Bonita Kiwanis Club would begin installing plaques at 8:00 a.m. Monday.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

No law enforcement report from CHP.

Law enforcement report from San Diego County Sheriff's representative, Julio Garcia: Mr. Garcia presented crime data in Map Format which was very easy to understand. Further reporting enhancements called "Dashboard" are in process. September was the lowest month of reported crime in recent Bonita history. Briarwood and Cedar Wood are still our problem areas with two car thefts. In comparison, Imperial Beach had nine car thefts. Julio took this opportunity to discuss ways to prevent crime. When parking your car, never leave items in plain view. Take the time to store purses and other important items in your trunk. Do not leave 2nd floor windows open, shred any personal papers in



cross-cut shredders, don't leave your car running while quickly running back into house or store (such as 7/11 for your coffee). Holidays are coming. Be vigilant, and call Julio for a free home security consultation. He is also recommending that we lock our cars even if stored in the garage. It takes about two minutes for a thief to open a garage door. Julio accompanied six deputies in the multi-agency task to clear out homeless near Bonita Plaza.

Susan Kopp brought up a concern expressed by a woman living on Old Dairy Road of someone living in open space behind her house that backs up to Bonita Highlands open space. Her husband, Glenn, checked out the concern and found someone was, indeed, living back there and was possibly starting fires. Mr. Garcia urged Susan to tell the woman to call the Sheriff's Dept.

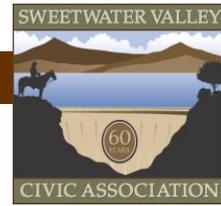
ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS:

Michael De La Rosa:

Michael also discussed the cleanup of regional park homeless camp which was a coordinated effort by Parks Dept, National City and Sheriff's Dept. It was quite an eye-opener with all the buildings, outstanding warrants and drug-related criminal activity.

Michael is still trying to find one comprehensive summary or report to help answer Steve Stonehouse' question related to balancing the continued area development vs. water shortage/conservation. Michael is still looking for the lawn signs about speeding for the Winnetka neighborhood. Tom Pocklington has four that he will pass on to Sharon Coleman.

Regarding road repairs, he was asked if there has been any progress in finding funding other than the gas tax. Michael responded that hopefully, some maintenance money will become available and distributed to all supervisors. It was also pointed out that the red curb along Bonita Road in front of large church property is no longer visible and big rigs are now parking there overnight. Another suggestion was to repaint the center yellow lines and replace the bots dots on Proctor Valley Road between Bonita Meadows Rd and San Miguel Road. Lines very faded and worn because drivers cut the curves and drive on/or over the yellow lines. Regarding the large eucalyptus tree on SE corner of Proctor Valley Rd and San Miguel Rd. blocking vision, Michael requested a letter from this group and also support from the Sweetwater Community Planning Group. Judy Tieber took that as her action item. County workers will be/are working to clear out drainage ditches around the County. Were seen today working on drainage channel by Bonita Highlands lot 51. County will also be starting work on trail segment behind Flower Lady on Bonita Road.



Gavin Deeb:

Gavin toughed out the heat at Bonitafest, and felt it was a good day to meet people. The Health and Fitness Fair at the South Bay Family YMCA had a decent turnout and was, overall, a success. A few people were found who needed medical attention. He distributed the latest Davis Dispatch and discussed the most important topics addressed there-in. These include the introduction of the Fee Free Student Loan Act, and the opening of new car lanes at San Ysidro Port of Entry (Phase 1). He noted that Phases 2 and 3 still need funding approval from Congress, but Congresswoman Davis is encouraged because after new car lanes were opened, border-crossing wait times decreased substantially to only 10-15 minutes. Phase 2 will cost about \$240 million to add additional bidirectional pedestrian crossings and a multimodal transit center.

STANDING REPORTS:

Fire Department: Tom Pocklington shared that we are in the peak wild fire season. It does not appear that we will experience an El Nino year to alleviate drought conditions. He reminded all to be ever vigilant for fire. He shared the story of a 94 year old man stuck in his bathtub. Luckily it ended well with help from First Responders. SDG&E staff is in process of checking gas meters to make sure they don't leak. He suggested tying a wrench to our gas meter so we can quickly turn it off in emergencies such as an earthquake.

Traffic and Roads: No report

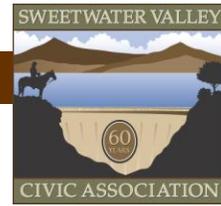
Planning Group: Steve Stonehouse announced there was no October Planning Group meeting.

Membership: Steve Stonehouse announced we had two new members. Judy will get info from Liz Stonehouse.

Senior Volunteer Patrol: Jim Woodford announced that his group will be meeting a week from Friday and will send September statistics to Judy for inclusion in minutes. The SVP conducted 10 vacation checks in one day—the most ever! They took care of a sprinkler system, put mail in back yard and notified emergency contact.

September 2014 Patrols

Number of Patrols	24	Number of Vacation Checks	184
Number of man hours	279	Number of Citizen assists	17
Number of Miles driven	1,067		



Jim asked what was going on in the open space along Corral Canyon. Mike Seiler explained that the Highlands is removing about 1/3 of lawn area and will cover with bark to cut down on water use. Highlands HOA wants to set an example for residents. Jim reminded everyone that we can get free mulch at Otay Land Fill. However, you haul it yourself.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

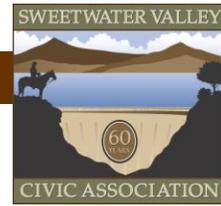
President Seiler discussed status of Sweetwater Authority (SWA) Water Rate Payer lawsuit (SARPA). He expects it will take about a year to be heard. He also thinks we should be hearing something this month about finalization of the Capistrano Taxpayers Association lawsuit. The expectation is that this group will prevail. If the Taxpayers Association wins the case, our suit will move faster and most likely will settle out of court. The SARPA lawsuit also includes reimbursement for all incurred legal costs. President Seiler will keep everyone up to date.

Bonitafest:

Carol Freno expressed a sentiment shared by many that Max Branscomb and staff did a great job on Bonitafest. It was successful, fun, and Carol had ample opportunity to talk to a lot of people who didn't know our organization even existed. The fliers were wonderful, and she suggested we pass them out at other venues and when we get new neighbors in an effort to increase our visibility. The Twilight Parade was fun and had a small town atmosphere. The only downside to Bonitafest is that someone (or persons) removed two expensive Bonitafest signs, and organizers have not been able to locate them. The signs need to be returned so available for future years. The only other problem was booth arrangement: the booths/people were in the hot sun while cars were parked in the shade under the solar panel structures. Ms. Freno suggested writing a letter to Max to thank him for keeping Bonitafest alive and for our free booth. President Seiler will take on that responsibility.

Bylaws:

As correction to an earlier statement, Ken Pitney is really in Seat 7. That way Jim Woodford stays in Seat 3. Seats 8 and 10 are not in alignment with bylaws, but since we did add seats this year, President Seiler feels we should leave everyone in place; and give "even seat" new assignees a "bye" for next year.



NEW BUSINESS:

Vision Statement:

Group discussed fact that the SVCA does not have a published Mission or Vision Statement on the website that conveys the purpose of our organization. After some brief discussion, it was agreed that attendees would send their ideas/drafts to Judy at jtieber@cox.net for discussion at our next meeting.

Website:

President Seiler asked if anyone present would be interested in getting more involved in the SVCA website or maintain a Facebook Page. There was no interest.

ROUND TABLE:

Tom Pocklington discussed the fact that if you use your credit cards to make purchases and your account number gets compromised, you have no liability for payment.

President Seiler brought up the trash truck issue. Bonita Highlands now has 12 trucks/week working in the Highlands. Their HOA attorney feels the Association can go out to bid for trash/recycle/lawn waste removal. For 667 homes in the Highlands, it was felt that one bid for the entire residential community would be cost effective and terms could go 4 to 5 years. It might be something other HOAs in the Valley would like to consider.

Ken Pitney announced that the Chula Vista Art Guild 14th Annual Art Show would be held at the museum. Reception is October 3rd at 5:30. Paintings will stay in place until November 6th.

October 17 is date for Kiwanis annual golf tournament fund raiser at the Salt Creek Golf Course. Applications available on the Kiwanis website.

Tom Pocklington moved, Ken Pitney seconded that meeting be adjourned. Approved. Meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Tieber
Secretary