



## Making the Sweetwater Valley the Best Place to Live

P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 [www.sweetwatervalleyca.org](http://www.sweetwatervalleyca.org)

### SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING November 4, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library Community Room. President Seiler led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country followed by a moment of silence for armed service personnel, law enforcement and first responders.

Directors present: Michael Seiler, Tony Tieber, Stephen Stonehouse, Sharon Coleman, Ken Pitney, Tom Pocklington, Carol Freno, and Judy Tieber

Members present: Irene Blacklock, Bill Coleman

Guests present: Julio Garcia, Sheriff's Office, Officer Scott Panfil, CHP, Michael De La Rosa from Supervisor Greg Cox's office.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from October 7, 2015 meeting. Carol Freno moved to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tony Tieber. Minutes Approved.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance: \$1,973.23

Certificate of Deposit Balance: \$3,451.49

Ending Balance: \$5,424.72

Steve reminded us that we will be paying \$150/month for website administration. CD will roll over in either March or April 2016. Report accepted as presented.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Officer Panfil announced this would be his last attendance at our SVCA meetings because he was being reassigned to Vehicle Theft Investigations Unit. This is a "plain clothes" position, and he is very excited about the opportunity. He told us to call the main CHP Office if we are not getting the service we expect. He expressed his gratitude for being a part of our community and wished us well.

Sheriff's Dept: Safety Officer Julio Garcia reported Sheriff's Dept. stats for October, 2015. Again, the highest crime area is up around the apartment units on Briarwood. A black Dodge Ram with Chargers bolt and no license plate is primary suspect in breaking into storage units late at night. He again told us that Bonita was one of the safest places to live. He reminded us, if we see suspicious activity or people, call the non-emergency number at **1-858-565-5200**. Remember, holidays are coming so must be extra vigilant. Lock all doors and windows when leaving your home. Burglars always try the side door to the garage so check it. If you own/use a motor vehicle, don't leave items in plain view. As the Crime Prevention Specialist for our area, Mr. Garcia is available to visit your home and make suggestions to improve your home security. Call the non-emergency no: 1-858-565-5200 to make an appointment. Additionally, on November 19, Mr. Garcia has organized a "Holiday Watch" event to be held in the

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Bonnie Brae Shopping Center near Bakery from 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. He would welcome the opportunity for citizens to stop by and discuss their security issues/questions with the Sheriff's Dept. staff. He also reviewed proper safety and security protocols when putting purchases in our car trunks. There was also discussion about the latest scam going around North County at this time. Someone calls you demanding you owe \$500 to the IRS, and if you don't pay, you will go to jail. Please just ask for the name and telephone number of this person's supervisor; and he/she will hang up. He also reminded us that, with the time change, we should be aware that door-to-door solicitations are not allowed between the hours of 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Legal solicitors must have an ID badge with picture, name, company and tax exempt number. If any of these things are missing, don't open the door and do call the Sheriff's non-emergency number to report incident. Carol Freno brought up issue of homeless encampments. She came across a man with plywood who was getting ready to build a "house". While that area is County, the management of riverbed areas lies with the Parks and Rec Dept. There are a lot of weapons in these encampments, so Parks and Rec staff always take Sheriff's Deputies with them. Sweeps are done two times a year.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS:** (out of order) To follow up on Association request to have a "show and tell" of our new website and opportunities to move into Facebook and Twitter, Tony will organize a presentation with/by Amanda Schoedel for December. He feels we should get all our handouts digitally so we can get out to the website ourselves. There is nothing new to report on Facebook and Twitter.

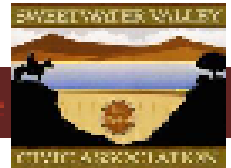
### **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

Supervisor Greg Cox' Office: Michael De La Rosa

Mr. De La Rosa told us the County has been working the last two weeks to close down an illegal marijuana dispensary on Linnwood Hills. The Sheriff's Dept. obtained a cease and desist order and responded quickly to the situation. Another illegal dispensary opened up in Lincoln Acres. There is a joint Sheriff and Code Enforcement team working on these. He also reported he has been working on the banners issue with City of Chula Vista along Bonita Road. Liz Stonehouse did an excellent job in bringing this issue to the attention of Chula Vista City staff. Next we have to address the speed limit issue on Bonita Road. Chula Vista and National City are both having discussions about the homeless issue. There is a lot of collaboration going on. We must remember homelessness is not illegal. Loitering is illegal. County provides social services for these people, but the housing responsibilities belong to cities and not the County. In response to a question, Mr. De La Rosa told us that SANDAG only deals with regional transportation issues. We need everyone at the table and pooling resources to address homeless issues. Focus groups are there working, but we do need more information sharing to be the most effective. He will send a summary plan to Judy Tieber for how County is working with cities to address the issue. Tony Tieber brought up a citizen concern that a white fence structure protecting a drainage ditch area along Sweetwater Rd at Cresta Verde and Evergreen is inhibiting line of sight for drivers wanting to turn out onto Sweetwater Rd. Tony asked how he could go about finding out who the fence belongs to. Michael suggested he take a picture and send it to Murali Pasumarthi with a note about the concern. Murali will figure it out.

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Mr. De La Rosa also discussed the issues surrounding the City of San Diego and their need to declare a state of emergency before City staff can get permits to clean out storm drains and drainage ditches. The County was very proactive in this regard. County has a global permit that covers all standard storm drain maintenance issues. They must still follow restrictions such as nesting season and sensitive habitats.

**Rep. Susan Davis' Office:** Jessica Mier was unable to attend. However, President Seiler reviewed two documents: One about El Nino, and another forum about college affordability.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- a. The Office of Dan McCallister, San Diego County Treasurer Tax Collector has offered to have him come speak to us. Tom Pocklington wondered if we could combine speakers with Friends of the Library. Friends of the Library already has the D.A. coming to discuss scams against seniors in November. Could do McCallister the following month. Tom will take as an action item.
- b. Members agreed to pass for now on the opportunity offered by Joel Wright, Community Event Permit Coordinator, to host a free training session for organizers of temporary community events.

## COMMUNITY FORUM:

Fire Department: Tom Pocklington reported that everything is going well. Relieved we had no major fires this year. AMA Ambulance Service has the County contract, and we have been very happy with their level of service. An ambulance is always parked in their building (next to Jack-in-the-Box) and we have two at the Fire Station. Three homeless sites are on their radar, but Fire Dept will not go talk to these people without Sheriff Deputies present. December 5 at 5:30 (Saturday) is date/time for trimming the Christmas tree. With rain coming, there is plenty of dirt and sand bags free for the community's use. Bring your own shovel. Also reminded us a used needle receptacle is in same area, again for community use.

Membership: No new members.

Senior Volunteer Patrol: Jim Woodford sent in his activity report for October.

Hours on patrol	258
Number of Patrols	24
Number of Miles Driven	998
YANA Visits	None
Citizen Assists	12
Traffic Control	1

Roads: General discussion held about traffic speed on Bonita Rd. being challenged because a court case declared Bonita Road between Willow and Otay Lakes to be a speed trap, thus making the speed limit illegal. A speed study showed the predominant speed to be 41 MPH.

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That is why Chula Vista wants to increase speed to 40 mph. Citizens of Bonita are attending a meeting about it this evening. Tony also reported on Sweetwater Authority (SWA) plans to dig up Bonita yet again to lay a new pipeline. Plan contains 5 segments and will significantly affect trails. (Pls note: Mr. Luis Valdez from SWA will be at meeting 12-2-15 to discuss this plan.) Michael De La Rosa heard about this for the first time at Planning Meeting. The County will have issues with this plan. It would really mess up the trails and traffic movement. He is wondering what flexibility SWA has built into their plan. Michael will be talking to Jim Smyth. The Bonita Optimists sign is now up on Provence House.

Planning Group: In addition to what has already been discussed, Steve Stonehouse reported that Verizon Wireless came back to Planning Group to present plans for a wireless facility, disguised as a clock tower, to be built in the little shopping center on corner of Briarwood and Robinwood. In addition, a preliminary presentation was given about plans to build a senior living facility called KIKU Gardens to be located at top of hill on Linwood. It is planned to hold 25 residents. Concern was expressed that road is pretty narrow and not finished well.

Ken Pitney arrived late because he went to Bonita Rd. traffic meeting in Chula Vista. Lots of dissention. The Traffic Safety Committee is not recommending the change to 40 miles/hr and will study issue longer. Issue is that predominate speed (when checked) was forty one and there have not been any reported accidents. Judge could not find a reason to keep the speed at 35 mph.

Carol Freno gave an update on parking permits for Sweetwater College area. Chula Vista did pass the parking ordinance and it is out for review by staff. Ordinance states that residents of the area who want to park on street will be required to obtain a \$40 annual parking permit. No permit, no parking on street. Took 2.5 years to work its way through the system.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Tony moved we adjourn at 8:35, Judy seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Judith A. Tieber, Secretary