

Making the Sweetwater Valley the Best Place to Live

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



SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING July 16, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: The annual meeting, held at Provence House, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Michael Seiler. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country was led by Miss Sweetwater Valley, Caitlin Lange; followed by a moment of silence for armed service personnel, law enforcement and first responders.

Officers/Directors present: Michael Seiler, Tony Tieber, Stephen Stonehouse, Elizabeth Stonehouse, Carol Freno, Tom Pocklington, Ken Pitney, Judy Tieber
Members present: Rick & Irene Blacklock, Alan & Fran Cornell, Several members of Bonita Optimists, Greg Cox, Chuck Hamilton, Mark Kukuček, Hilda and Manuel Paul

President Seiler welcomed everyone to this, our annual meeting. He gave a brief association history, and moved directly into the election of officers. 2015-16 Slate of Officers include:

Michael Seiler	President
Tony Tieber	Vice President
Judy Tieber	Secretary
Steve Stonehouse	Treasurer

President Seiler asked for any nominations from the floor. None given, Rick Blacklock moved nominations be closed, second by Liz Stonehouse. Nominations closed. The above officers were elected for this next term.

2015-2016 Slate of Officers for Members of the Board:

Seat 2:	Elizabeth Stonehouse
Seat 4:	Glen Abbey
Seat 6:	Carol Freno
Seat 8:	Elizabeth Stonehouse
Seat 10:	Vacant
Seat 12:	Sharon Clayton

President Seiler presented the Slate for Members of the Board up for reelection and noted which community areas did not have representatives listed. He asked for nominations from the floor, None given. Rick Blacklock moved to accept nominations as presented. Seconded, and board members were elected as presented.

President Seiler encouraged those present to join the SVCA, and reminded us that the SVCA does not meet in August. The September meeting will be at the Fire Station, and all meetings after September will be held at the Library Community Room.

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He then turned the meeting over to Supervisor Greg Cox for the State of Bonita. Supervisor Cox thanked those present for their continued interest in the Community. He acknowledged key staff from his Office including: Michael De La Rosa (Policy Advisor); Luis Montegudo (Communications); Danny Melgoza (Deputy Chief of Staff); Khea Pollard (Community Representative); Marvin Mayorga (Intern); Jason Hemmons, Louis Chertkow, Yidelwo Asbu (Parks and Rec); Derek Gade, Murali Pasumarthi, Lawrence Hirsch (Public Works); Lt. Dave Brown and Whitney Buckingham (Sheriff's Dept); Tim Isbell, Tom Pocklington, Mark Scott and Buck Martin (Bonita/Sunnyside Fire Dept); Julie Gay (Bonita Museum); and Marissa Lowe (Bonita/Sunnyside Library); and Ernie Zamudio (South Bay Irrigation District).

The Supervisor announced a County budget for this year at \$5.4 billion with a workforce of 17,033.5 employees. This is increased over past years to support the requirements of Laura's Law and improved regional communication system. We have a new wild fire helicopter, a new \$54 million crime lab under construction, a new downtown employee parking garage due to open in October. This parking garage will be available for general parking during weekends/special events, and is located about one half block from Little Italy. Mr. Cox proudly announced that, because of the County's excellent financial condition, none of these projects required financing. Additionally funding is now available to address needed road improvements and to expand services under the Affordable Care Act. The County Animal Shelter here in Bonita is scheduled for kennel replacements at a cost of \$16 million; and over the next 10 years, just about everything will be replaced. By renovation end, we will have a \$40 million facility.

Additionally, the County has set up an 85,000 sq. ft. Resource Center in National City to offer Veterans' Services and serve as a Family Resource Center. This is in the former Great American Bldg on Mile of Cars Way.

San Diego County won the Taxpayers Association Grand Golden Watchdog Award for a very successful program to help incarcerated veterans with rehab services and treatment programs. In all, San Diego County won 43 awards for outstanding programs. Additionally, the County is giving back to our community with \$43,700 for expanded space for Friends of the Bonita/Sunnyside Library, \$26,500 for the Bonita Historical Society and \$17,500 for Bonita Optimist Club projects.

The County has resources to help Seniors. We have 23,000 kids being raised by grandparents. The Supervisor pointed out an available handout for us-- "Handbook for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children". He also pointed out two workshops coming up: A symposium on October 17, 8:30-5:00pm at 590 K St. in Chula Vista, and one for "Caring for the Caregiver Workshop" September 23, 2015, 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. at Fredericka Manor, 183 Third Ave, Asbury Towers Garden Level Fellowship Hall in Chula Vista.

The free prescription discount cards are still available to us. There are over 60,000 pharmacies participating from coast to coast. This card also will save money on pet medications. All citizens require protection. Crimes against elders have increased, and Mr. Cox encouraged everyone to call the Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-800-510-2020 24 hrs/day if we see or suspect abuse. As just about everyone knows,

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the County has a new initiative to address Alzheimer's disease. The focus is on long term care facilities to make sure they are operating well. The County is working to develop a new facility rating system.

We always need homes for our County Foster Children. We have gone from 7,000 kids down to 3,000 kids needing foster homes. If anyone is interested in adopting, please call the County number 211. Often times, parents can be better educated about how to raise their children. This helps to get families back together. The County is averaging about 400 adoptions/year. The County program for adoptions is "Exceptional Families for Exceptional Children" and a pamphlet is also available to give us more information on adoptions.

Supervisor Cox reminded us that 211 is the County number for any problems and/or questions regarding graffiti, grandparents raising children, health and social services, discount drug prescription card program, information for all health and human services, emergency communications and disasters.

The County has supported 1,138 community programs last year. In our area, that includes matching funds awarded to Friends of the Library (\$7,400). We should all be proud of our museum and the excellent shows and displays available for us. The upcoming "Tip of the Hat" 50 Years of the Cowboy Artists of America opening on August 8 with a 5:00 p.m. BBQ, cost \$70/2.

Bonita Area Activities:

- Utility Undergrounding (including at Willow Street Bridge and Briarwood to Bonita Rd)
- 174 miles of County maintained roads are scheduled for resurfacing in 2015-2016
- Culvert repairs/replacements
- Flood Control Channel
- Willow St. bridge replacement scheduled for completion 2017 with 1 northbound lane, 1 northbound right turn lane, 2 southbound lanes. Cost--\$32,000,000
- Traffic calming issues/line of sight at San Miguel Road/Proctor Valley Rd. 3-way stop not approved, but could be possible if a horse trail crossed road at that intersection. Still a work in progress.
- Addressing speeding issue on Winnetka
- New school crosswalk at Bonnie Brae and Central
- Remodel and opening of Provence House for special occasions
- Worked with SDG&E to underground utilities and make substation more attractive (Allen School/Otay Lakes Rd) Completion expected by end of August

BE SURE TO CALL THE POTHOLE REPAIR LINE 1-877-684-8000 TO REPORT POTHOLES.

Trails Update:

- New trail from Western Gateway to Willow St. bridge
- Still working with Sweetwater Authority to build a complete loop trail around reservoir (N and NE are problematic)
- Segment 4 alternate route completed in April 2015

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- Southside trail, closed for a while last year because of vernal pools, still requires a permanent solution. County working with SWA and Federal Fish and Wildlife to this end.
- Still working with Glenn Abbey to get trail installed. Trail will require a retaining wall. This year County completed the design and engineering.
- With popularity of Chula Vista Golf Course trail, County did temporary repairs along south side of Sweetwater Road.
- Sweetwater River bikeway is done to connect to South Shore bikeway by Outback Steak House.
- 9 miles of new trails from Bay to Otay River Valley Regional Park is completed. Two Interpretive Centers are planned. New staging area built at Swiss Park
- 19 miles of beautiful new trails are now open in the Tijuana River Valley with 3 more miles to be completed after nesting season.

Bay Shore Bikeway:

The complete 24 mile route will be completed within the next five years. Project is fully funded, and County just waiting for environmental studies to be completed.

Supervisor Cox introduced Lt. Dave Brown, County Sheriff's Dept who told us crime in Bonita has decreased significantly from an average 25 crimes/mo in 2012 to 10 crimes/mo in 2015. Members of the Senior Volunteer Patrol were acknowledged and thanked for their service to the community.

General Announcements:

Twilight Parade September 18 at 6 p.m.

Bonitafest is September 19 th

38th Melodrama "Really Fast Food" will run from 9/23-26

The Supervisor's formal presentation was followed by a question and answer session. The following topics were addressed:

Will new bridge prevent water from backing up onto golf course?

Homeless and vagrants living in our open space

Large number of trash trucks (12/week)

Appreciation for Julio Garcia who comes to our SVCA meetings each month to review criminal activity

SVCA President Seiler gave some closing remarks, especially the importance of situational awareness as it pertains to our community. The SVCA provides an excellent venue for all of us to interact with elected and appointed officials, law enforcement, and emergency first responders to discuss and resolve issues directly related to our quality of life in the Sweetwater Valley Communities.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith A. Tieber, Secretary