

# 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 March 2, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library Community Room. He then 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: Mike Seiler, Tony Tieber, Stephen and Liz Stonehouse, Carol Freno, Jim Woodford, Tom Pocklington, and Judy Tieber

Members present: Irene Blacklock, Mark Kukuchek

Guests present: Officer Pete Thepkulchon, CHP; Jessica Mier, Rep. Susan Davis' Office;

**MINUTES:** Minutes from February 3, 2016 meeting. Steve Stonehouse moved to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup> Liz Stonehouse. Minutes approved as corrected.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Accepted as written.

Checking Account Balance:	\$1,141.23
Certificate of Deposit Balance:	\$3,451.73
Ending Balance:	\$4,592.96

Steve will be working on Federal and State Association Taxes this month.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

CHP: Officer Pete Thepkulchon told us the problem areas for speeding/running stop signs are the usual places. The CHP was short staffed this past month due to vacations and injuries. To further clarify his report (attached) Officer Thepkulchon told us DUIs were usually around 10 p.m. We discussed Winnetka speeding again. Stop signs are not allowed to be used as a means to curb speeding. Unjustified stop signs create a County liability. Never-the-less, those present suggested Schaumberg Pl/Winnetka Dr. as a good place for a stop sign, and tossed out using speed bumps or traffic calming devices. Officer Pete said, there is some good news: most of the people caught for speeding down Winnetka are non-residents like landscapers or pool maintenance contractors. On Monday and Tuesday mornings he generally tickets violators on Frisbee. Violations increase as it gets closer to 9 a.m.

Officer Thepkulchon shared with us that he may be getting a transfer to CA Department of Justice. Timeframe not known, but he would keep us informed. His new Captain, J. Nellis would like to attend and speak at an upcoming meeting of the SVCA.

Sheriff's Dept: No Report.

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### **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

**Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office:** Jessica Mier distributed "The Davis Dispatch" for March 2016. One section was devoted to closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Jessica was questioned about the numbers used to develop this report. She felt the numbers were correct because they came from official government sources. Susan believes Congress should lift the restrictions preventing President Obama's effort to close the facility and transfer inmates to the Judicial System for prosecution and incarceration. Rep. Davis has also been promoting a comprehensive reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) from 2006 which includes services such as Meals on Wheels, Family Caregiver Support, and other services that are set up to prevent the abuse, neglect and exploitation of older persons (over 60 years old). Finally she outlined where we could find tax resources from the IRS. Numerous "no cost" IRS websites are available to assist tax preparers.

Supervisor Cox' Office: Michael De La Rosa unable to attend.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

Website Update: Tony Tieber reported that the Website Subcommittee met just prior to this meeting. Since the new website administrator, Amanda Schoedel, gave an already low bid of \$4,500, the subcommittee felt an expanded bidding process was not necessary. The goal is to build an updated, easier to use site that authorized SVCA members (without Amanda's assistance) can update and maintain. This will save monthly maintenance fees. Requirements include an auto-interface with Facebook and Twitter, more graphics, easier site navigation, user friendly. We will build a detailed project budget plan that includes website design, build, training, sustainment and revisions. As this comes together, Tony will ensure Mike is copied on all documents and meeting discussions. Sharon Clayton has agreed to serve as SVCA member responsible for getting data onto the new website.

Carol Freno brought forth the previously discussed non-action item of having an SVCA memento to pass out at venues like BonitaFest . Mike Seiler will explore options and come back with some ideas. But he wants handouts to go only to those people who stop and talk to us and/or join the SVCA. Carol suggested we also have this handout at our upcoming State of Bonita address.

### **COMMUNITY FORUM:**

Fire Department: No formal report. However, Department is getting more medical-related calls as our community continues to age. Getting an average of 5 calls/day, so busy.

Membership: No new members.

Planning Group: Steve Stonehouse reported on March Sweetwater Community Planning Group meeting. Opening comments included a citizen asking for the Planning Group to reconsider re-opening Frisbee to two-way traffic (at least during certain hours) so local neighbors do not have to drive all the way around the block when returning from 7/11. An election of officers was held with no changes. Requests to remove trees and install an all way stop at Bonita Vista and Mesa Vista were tabled until County staff could attend meeting and discuss. There was a request to install three wireless repeaters along Corral Canyon. The cell tower on Jonel Way will be discussed at the April meeting. No work on Willow Street bridge project until after breeding season ends. Contractor has "finished" trail bridge



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behind the Driving Range on Bonita Rd. However, concern was expressed that without bolting the planks in place, the “homeless” will remove and use them to build themselves a new house.  
Roads: Tony Tieber reported that he had taken pictures of drainage ditch fence on Sweetwater Rd; and he sent to Murali with a request to investigate who it belongs to and who is responsible for a redesign that does not block traffic views. No response at this time. Discussion followed on the timeframe for repaving Sweetwater Road between Central and Briarwood. It is currently scheduled for 2017.

Senior Volunteer Patrol: Jim Woodford sent in his activity report and mentioned the two new Sr. Vol. Patrol officers are now on patrol. Everything is going great. He noted that no one has asked for YANA (You Are Not Alone) during all of last year. This is a wonderful service for older people who live alone. The Sr. Volunteer Patrol Officers would call the citizen every day to check on them. Kiwanis is selling raffle tickets for a 65” flat screen TV. Winning ticket will be picked at the Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Golf Tournament.

### February 2016

Hours on patrol	266
Number of Patrols	23
Number of Miles Driven	1,142
Vacation Checks	60
YANA Visits	None
Citizen Assists	7
Traffic Control	0

### Additional Notes:

Tom Pocklington is using a County Grant to get the Safety Center and Museum updated.  
Carol Freno reminded us that with the start of Fall classes at Southwestern, no neighborhood parking east of the campus.  
Liz Stonehouse is rewriting the docent manual for the museum.

### ADJOURNMENT:

Tony moved and Judy Tieber 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn. Approved, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted  
Judith A. Tieber, Secretary

Enclosures: CHP Activity Report February 2016