

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 BOARD MEETING April 6, 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, Sharon Coleman, Ken Pitney, Sharon Clayton, and Judy Tieber

Members present: Bill Coleman, Fran and Alan Cornell

Guests present: Officer Pete Thepkulchon, CHP; Michael De La Rosa; Julio Garcia, Sheriff's Dept.

MINUTES: No Minutes available for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Accepted as written.

Checking Account Balance: \$1,141.23

Certificate of Deposit Balance: \$3,451.78

Ending Balance: \$4,593.01

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

CHP: Officer Pete Thepkulchon told us he was on vacation for two weeks. He had nothing unusual to report. The CHP Information Systems Dept is still working to collect/report collision numbers, and he hopes to be in a position to report this statistic at some future meeting. He continued to work the problem areas for speeding/running stop signs/failure to obey signs at the usual places. Speeding enforcement on Winnetka is working. Most violators are non-residents such as gardeners and pool maintenance workers. The new "NO PARKING" signs on Linwood are working pretty well. The issue being too many cars parked on the narrow street. The Car Wash property does not contain adequate employee parking.

Sheriff's Dept: Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia, announced that, during March, three cars were stolen from Bonita properties. Compared to nine stolen cars in Imperial Beach, our Bonita neighborhoods experience the lowest crime level in the County. Mr. Garcia always talks to owners of stolen cars; and, now with new Sheriff's Dept program, he offers them an anti-theft club device. Graffiti is a problem just about everywhere in the County. We were encouraged to call the Sheriff's non-emergency phone number (858) 565-5200 to report graffiti. If on private property, the owner is highly encouraged to scrub off/paint over graffiti within three days. Otherwise additional taggers will start adding to the same space. The passage of Proposition 47 is having a negative effect on our communities because former felony-level non-violent crimes are now downward classified to misdemeanors and treated as such in the Judicial System. The Sheriff's Dept. is also working on a program called "Coffee with the Community". Mr. Garcia will let us know when the program is ready for our community.

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ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

Supervisor Cox' Office: Michael De La Rosa acknowledged the Community concern about the growing issue of homeless people living in our open space areas. The Supervisor will be prepared to talk about this at the upcoming State of Bonita address. The address/annual meeting date is still being worked out, but he thinks it will be mid- to late July. Mr. De La Rosa reported that the long-awaited trail bridge located between Willow and the Western Staging area is "complete" but not really complete. Planks need to be bolted down to prevent being stolen and railings are needed. As a follow-up to the Sweetwater Community Planning Group meeting, Kenton Jones, Secretary to the County Traffic Advisory Committee, will have a discussion with the new traffic engineer about the continuing problems with the San Miguel Road/Proctor Valley Road intersection to include the issue that Proctor Valley Road is a heavily-used and dangerous bike route because there is no road shoulder area for a bike path. The area equestrians are also very interested in a multi-use trail along the east side of Proctor Valley Rd. Jim Woodford asked about rules regarding posting banners on the chain-link fence at south end of Briarwood. The County official rule: "No sign posting" is in effect but generally not enforced unless County receives complaints. Same issue with the road-side vendors: some people like the rural atmosphere these vendors generate; others don't want to see the practice proliferate.

Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office: Jessica Mier unable to attend.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

After discussion, we determined that no one would be able to attend and man a booth to represent the SVCA at the Chili Cookoff. Tom Pocklington offered to set up the SVCA sign, but without someone there to keep an eye on it and retrieve it afterward, the idea did not move forward in terms of a motion to approve.

Mike Seiler and Steve Stonehouse attended a meeting to discuss potential improvements to the Chula Vista Municipal Golf Course. The golf course, in its current configuration, is generating insufficient revenue for the city." A study is currently underway to look at opportunities to improve the golf course, club house and restaurant in an effort to make it a more attractive destination and thus ensure it will have a better financial bottom line. The group is entertaining ideas such as a relocation of the Club House and golf cart operations to the Rohr Manor area, off Sweetwater Rd, selling the current building property that fronts Bonita Rd, and redesigning some holes and the practice range. Adequate parking and uninterrupted trail access will be important items to work out to everyone's satisfaction. Mr. Seiler understands this study group will be attending the next Sweetwater Community Planning Group Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 3rd, 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station Training Room. He noted that no funding has been allocated for any change. This is just an effort to gather ideas and gauge community support. Mr. Seiler noted there were things they could do now or in the near future to improve the existing site. Payback would be a lot faster if City did not make such drastic changes. It was a very cordial meeting to gather community input about changes to the golf course, and determine our

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community priorities/concerns as we attempt to preserve our rural character and move toward a best possible solution.

To follow-up on a previous discussion, Mike Seiler asked those present if he should move forward with a plan to purchase a "SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION" banner from an on-line source. Dimensions are 8 ft x 2.5 ft with cost of \$63 including grommets. Tom Pocklington moved and Liz Stonehouse seconded the motion to move forward with this purchase. Vote was unanimous.

Carol Freno asked about memento handouts to new members at venues like Bonitafest. Mike Seiler asked if anyone would like to take this project on and come back to us at next meeting with some ideas and costs. Sharon Coleman accepted the job.

Website Update: Tony Tieber reported that he has the County Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant application. He will start working on it this month.

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Fire Department: No formal report. Tom Pocklington said everything is going well. Some officers are nearing retirement so have to start thinking about bringing in new recruits. Station staff is hosting a pancake breakfast on May 22nd 8-11 a.m. to benefit the Burn Center. Community is invited to attend.

Membership: Liz Stonehouse reported the 2016-2017 Membership Drive will start the middle of May.

Planning Group: Steve Stonehouse reported on the April Sweetwater Community Planning Group (CPG) meeting. Discussions included a plan by Verizon to build a 60' cell tower on a ridge top facing onto Jonel Way. Neighbors complained that they did not want a cell tower on Jonel Way. One neighbor brought up the access issue that Verizon would not be allowed to use her driveway to access the proposed site. The CPG did not approve it. The County Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) is open for revision. Current restrictive language prevents the County from using land developer payments to build community trails. In order for the developers to get credit for their "contributions", the money they pay must be used to build actual parks. If a developer provides space for trails, the County PLDO does not recognize that action. Now that trails are a great community benefit, the Planning Group members felt strongly that a balancing act is needed between using money to build traditional parks and building trails, which are essentially long skinny parks. There must be clear trail specifications developed and put into the revised PLDO to make sure space dedicated to trails is appropriate and conducive to how trail will be used.

Roads: Tony Tieber added onto Steve Stonehouse' report by including the County intent to install all-way stops at the intersection of Mesa Vista and Bonita Vista. We have not yet heard back from Murali Pasumarthi regarding the vision obstruction on Sweetwater Road between Evergreen and Cresta Verde. He will follow up.

Senior Volunteer Patrol: Jim Woodford sent in his activity report and mentioned the Sr. Volunteers and Sheriff's deputies must now do a slow driving course including parking, backing up, turns, etc. Their new SUVs have cameras to help navigate. He noted the SUVs have blind spots.

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March 2016

Hours on patrol	244	Number of Patrols	21
Number of Miles Driven	1,122	Vacation Checks	64
YANA Visits	None	Citizen Assists	4
Traffic Control	0		

Additional Notes:

Bonita Optimists Book Sale is April 9 and 10 at the Museum. Museum is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

ADJOURNMENT:

Liz Stonehouse moved and Judy Tieber 2nd to adjourn. Approved, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Judith A. Tieber, Secretary

Enclosures: CHP Activity Report March 2016