

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
September 7, 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, Jim Woodford, Tom Pocklington, Sharon Coleman, Steve Stonehouse, Mary Ellen Phillips

Members present: Mike Ottombrino, Valerie G. Rios

Guests present: Michael De La Rosa, CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon, Jessica Mier

MINUTES: Motion by Tom Pocklington to approve July and August minutes, 2nd by Jim Woodford. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Accepted as written.

Checking Account Balance: \$1,692.92
County Grant Funds on Deposit: \$7,152.00
Certificate of Deposit Balance: \$3,452.07
Ending Balance: \$11,857.60
(Previous Balance was \$5,144.93)

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

CHP Officer Thepkulchon: Reviewed his report covering two months (July and August). He had a total of 71 citations for July, 88 for August. The citations for running stop signs (42 in July, 60 in August) were mostly on Corral Canyon. His current radar certificate was temporarily misplaced in Sacramento, but he's still active and on the scene. Mike Seiler noted that in the meantime, simply holding up the radar gun would be an effective deterrent. There was a DUI arrest on San Miguel Road by Proctor Valley Road and another on Sweetwater Road. He will have a traffic collision report next month. There was a complaint regarding motorists not yielding at a crosswalk on Central Avenue by Sunnyside but he did not observe any violations. He noted there are several complaints regarding a camper parked on San Miguel Road, as well as a damaged 5th wheel left at Sweetwater Summit Park. Although there are No Parking signs posted, the question was raised as to whether the Park Rangers, CHP or Sheriff should enforce. Michael De La Rosa will contact the traffic advisory committee and get a memorandum for the record as to the code number and who should enforce violations in those areas. Jim Woodward asked if the CHP has seen a motor home parked on Acacia near Central; Officer Thepkulchon said they have not, but he will check on that.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

Office of Supervisor Greg Cox: Michael De La Rosa confirmed they are actively engaged in the homeless issue and that efforts underway will be helpful. President Seiler brought up the recent articles in the Union Tribune (the writer was formerly homeless). The writer's perspective, after

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extensive research, is that there doesn't seem to be any single solution, and the numbers of homeless are increasing.

Office of Congresswoman Susan Davis: Jessica Mier reported that HUD (Housing and Urban Development) has opened the comment period to get more funding for homelessness prevention. San Diego is currently 23rd in funding, yet 4th in the country in homeless population. Mr. De La Rosa said we were designated as a 'rural county' rather than an 'urban city', so the current numbers aren't realistic and there is not enough funding coming in with that current formula. The deadline for comments to HUD is September 23 and they can be made via their website. Jessica Mier will email the link to Mike Seiler and Judy Tieber, who will provide it to members.

Congresswoman Davis had a 'Manufacturing Round Table' last month. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker (from Washington D.C.) and 13 local manufacturing companies attended. They talked about what the federal role would be in keeping local jobs local and creating a pipeline for apprenticeship programs to fill those jobs when they become vacant.

Congresswoman Davis is introducing legislation to rename the East Lake Post Office after fallen Officer Jonathan De Guzman.

Mike Seiler asked Ms. Mier to take the issue of ITT Tech's abrupt closure to someone on Congresswoman Davis' staff: can the accreditation process be modified so that it does not happen again? Thousands, including veterans on the G.I. Bill, are unable to graduate. Ms. Mier confirmed it is a big concern for Congresswoman Davis, and the issue is on the Educational Workforce Committee. Southwestern College has stepped up to transition credits, and on September 12th, will have a workshop on their campus for those who need help with the transition.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Mike Seiler and Michael De La Rosa confirmed that Ray Traynor, Manager, SR-125 toll road operations has been invited to the October 5 meeting. He also welcomed Mary Ellen Phillips as Organizational Director of Bonita Highlands HOA.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mike Seiler reviewed the spreadsheet of SVCA Officers, Honorary Community Directors, Organizational Directors, and Neighborhood Directors (Areas 1-12) from 2012 to the present. The SVCA Officers were reelected at the last meeting. Area 1 (near golf course and Sweetwater Reservoir) and Area 2 (between Central and San Miguel Road), Area 7, Area 10 (by CV golf course) are vacant. He welcomed anyone present to fill those vacancies and/or to talk amongst friends and neighbors who might wish to do so.

Motion by Tom Pocklington to carry forward Jim Woodford, Steve Stonehouse, Sharon Coleman and Tom Pocklington for Seats 3, 5, 9, 11, respectively, 2nd by Sharon Coleman.

The next item in new business was the SVCA/Philanthropic Organization invitation to two events: October 6 and November 17. The South County Economic Development Council formed to build a joint community non-profit organization. The idea is to share each other's ability to get funds. One

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organization may be able to help another. They're having a 12th annual South County Elected Officials Reception October 6, from 4-6:30 p.m. at the Imperial Beach Pier Plaza (940 Seacoast Drive). Admission is free. They would like to know of anyone who would like to represent SVCA. The second event is November 17—their normal SCEC meeting. They're lining up a grant provider to share information about accessing their funds. It will take place at the [Border View?] YMCA. Anyone interested in going should advise Mike Seiler or Judy Tieber.

Michael De La Rosa shared that the October 6 event is an excellent opportunity to have access to South County elected officials on a casual basis/open forum. There is a San Diego Regional Economic Development Organization downtown, and we have one in South County. Some of the things they do are: identify workforce labor that's needed from an education standpoint, do studies in terms of industries that might be advantageous for South County to pursue, and advocate as to why job growth is important in South County.

Mike Seiler will try to get the invitation out to the other directors. Jessica Mier noted that more than one SVCA member can attend.

Bonitafest September 17, 9AM-4PM: Tom Pocklington will be the Grand Marshall. Mike Seiler asked Treasurer Steve Stonehouse to submit a request to have a space and hopes to get the Sweetwater Women's Club to share it with the SVCA.

Mary Phillips motioned to spend \$50 to submit the request, 2nd by Jim Woodford. Mike Seiler will bring a canopy and set up/tear down but will email members, asking for additional volunteers (ideally 4).

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Fire Department: Tom Pocklington said 2 crews went to Los Angeles and Ventura Counties during the last 6 weeks for 5-6 days to give breaks and help with some of the cleanup. The Bonita Fire Department is in the process of looking for one new hire. There were 25-30 applicants who were already trained as paramedics. The Fire Chief will make the decision within the next month or two. Bonita Valley has 3 crews—normally 4 people per crew, for total of 12. AMR (American Medical Response) is on contract with the Fire Department and shares space with them.

Planning Group: Steve Stonehouse shared that they met yesterday and had another presentation by the ACE Self Storage people, who want to build a facility next to the fire station. There were many comments by residents for/against. It is zoned for storage, but most residents seemed opposed. There was an agreement that ACE will try to do some redesigning and move further from the residences.

The mountain bike proponents have approached the County regarding building a challenge course in proximity of the tree farm. There has been some positive response from the planning group, the community, and from Supervisor Cox. Michael De La Rosa says it's moving along but still in early stages, as they need to do site reviews, since the pinery has an existing lease. Many other details need to be worked out so that a challenge course does not interrupt the seasonal uses of the pinery. There is no conceptual design yet to share.

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Membership: Sharon Coleman, Membership Chair, reported that 5 memberships were added at the State of Bonita. The current count is 14 individuals, 27 families, 9 lifetime, and 8 organizations. There are still some outstanding renewals.

Mike Seiler noted that when he looked at the calendar, the Community Room has been booked next month, so we will have to meet in the museum (next door) in October. He confirmed that SVCA is still booked for the Community Room from November 2016 until August 2017.

Senior Volunteer Patrol (SVP): Jim Woodford reported that there are now enough volunteers to patrol 6 days per week, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday, using 12 patrollers. Last week there was an afternoon patrol as well. There are approximately 26 volunteers. They have 1 YANA (You Are Not Alone) who they call every morning at 10AM.

Jim Woodford added that when the volunteers were patrolling on Briarwood (opposite Bonita Woods Drive), they saw an unmarked pickup truck hooking up to a car parked on the street in broad daylight. As the patrollers turned around to make another pass, the truck unhooked the car and left.

Mike Seiler has been reading on the NextDoor.com website that there have been a series of break-ins (mailboxes, cars—some not locked). He emphasized that NextDoor.com is an excellent way for neighbors to keep each other informed and encouraged everyone to join up. Michael De La Rosa added that NextDoor.com is quite innovative and that messages among neighbors are instantaneous. Mary Phillips added that there have also been kids ringing doorbells and running away.

Sharon Coleman reported that there is a new off-track horse betting bar "58 Flat" connected to the bar/restaurant "Salucita" near the Wells Fargo Bank on Bonita Road. It was extremely difficult for her on a Wednesday to find a parking space for banking due to the number of patrons' cars at the bar/restaurant. Sharon found a video interview of the business owner on <https://ilovebonitablog.wordpress.com/>. Sharon will contact the blog writer and invite him to join SVCA since he posts Bonita related events, etc. on his site. Mike Seiler and Michael De La Rosa will make some calls to see if/how it was approved by the City Council, since the bar is in the City of Chula Vista.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Seiler adjourned the meeting at 8:18PM

Respectfully submitted
Valerie G. Rios (for Judith A. Tieber, Secretary)

Enclosures: CHP Activity Report July/August 2016
Treasurer's Report September 2016
SVCA Slate of Officers and Board Members