

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
October 5, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Museum and Cultural Center. 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, Steve Stonehouse, Mary Ellen Phillips, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Liz Stonehouse, Ken Pitney,
Members present: Mike Ottobrino, Valerie G. Rios, Mike Sampsel, Mike Pettit, Kathy Haldaway

Guests present: Michael De La Rosa, Jessica Mier, Barbara Coleman

MINUTES: Motion by Steve Stonehouse to approve minutes from September 7, 2016 meeting. Second by Liz Stonehouse. Approved with two abstentions.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Accepted as written.

Checking Account Balance: \$ 964.13
County Grant Funds on Deposit: \$ 7,152.00
Certificate of Deposit Balance: \$ 3,452.13
Ending Balance: \$11,568.26
(Previous Balance was \$11,857.60)

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

No law enforcement reports.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

Office of Congresswoman Susan Davis: Jessica Mier reported on activities conducted by our Representative, Susan Davis. Included were such items as \$1.7 million included in Continuing Resolution Budget to fight Zika virus. Representative Davis is also sponsoring a Veteran's "town Hall" day to share experiences and feelings related to military service. She is looking for veterans interested in participating. Location: Balboa Park Club 11-10-2016. Jessica announced she is going to Kenya and will miss the November SVCA meeting.

Office of Supervisor Greg Cox: Michael De La Rosa assured us that the County traffic engineers will meet with staff of SR 125 Toll road to share information and traffic volumes on roads affected by the SR125 toll avoidance traffic. We all understand that SANDAG has made many cost and traffic flow projections as part of their decision-making role to purchase the toll road. He is hopeful that as Chula Vista expands, the increased traffic will help offset any losses created by the toll avoidance traffic.

Michael assured us that County staff received many, many calls regarding the river bed fire west of Willow Street bridge. There is strong speculation it was caused by homeless. He reviewed County programs available to help in these situations, and he noted that some brush

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has been removed. We need to work with the Fire Marshall to get his feedback on how best to move forward. A fire does not give us the ability to overwrite the rules regarding brush removal as a means to reduce fire exposure. Residents were/are very concerned about the number of dead palm fronds that flared up and blew away.

On the homeless issue, the County does not have funds allocated specifically to fight growing vagrancy/homeless in the Bonita Valley. A recent UT article listed San Diego County as 7th in the nation for number of homeless, but 65th in funding support. Regional County Park Rangers have responsibility to manage the entire open space park area. When County park staff comes into an area and cleans it up, the homeless just move to another location. We can always call Michael De La Rosa to tell him about homeless encampments as well. Many expressed concern that County was not getting and staying on top this issue. (sic: there are at least 300 homeless/vagrants living in the Palm Canyon area of the valley, and the trash and excrement are over the top horrible) Michael agreed to let Judy Tieber know the best number citizens can use to call County.

Liz Stonehouse described an encounter on Blue Heron Trail with a homeless man and his dog that got loose and knocked Liz to the ground. Since no skin was broken, she could not call Animal Control.

Michael also announced the office of Supervisor Cox is receiving numerous calls from residents about the self-storage facility in the planning phase for Bonita Road east of the fire station. The County Project Manager for this is Mr. Ben Mills. The developer has the right to reach out to local citizens and the County neighborhood planning groups in order to gauge community support, use neighbors' input to determine what the facility will look like, etc. While people are concerned about bulk and size, the project has not yet been formally adopted. County has staff looking into all aspects of the project including safety and environmental concerns. If we want to be kept informed about this project, we can be on a notification list maintained by the County. President Seiler also suggested we keep the dialogue going on the social app "Next Door" as a way to broadcast the information. County contact info:

Benjamin.Mills@sdcounty.ca.gov. His phone number is 1-858-495-5234

Valerie Rios asked about a development of 14 homes planned for her neighborhood of Linwood Hills. There are currently only 75 homes in this area, and adding 14 seems like too many. Tom Pocklington suggested contacting either or both Pat Aguilar and John McCann from City of Chula Vista, and working with them to get and disseminate project information. There is no agreement in place that required the City of Chula Vista to notify the County of planned developments occurring within the city limits.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Mike Seiler reported a good time was had by all at the Bonitafest. As last year, we teamed with Sweetwater Valley Women's Club to share a booth. We got 4 new members, and had a great location near back side of stage. Our very own Tom Pocklington was the Grand Marshall this year. Thanks to Sharon Coleman and Judy Tieber for taking time to help "man" the booth.

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All proceeds from the event go to the Music Dept at Bonita Vista High School. While the income doesn't stay in Bonita, it will surely help the music department, and it will keep the event going each year. As a note: Max Brandscomb will no longer be in charge of Bonitafest. Tom Pocklington told us that over the years, his family has participated in every Bonitafest parade since the very beginning.

Tony Tieber then gave us an update on our website development contract and maintenance negotiations. Tony reminded us that the County awarded us funds sufficient to develop a new website and maintain it for 12 months while we work out any issues that may arise. First, Tony addressed the issue of current website maintenance while the new site is developed. The County agrees with us that the money should be spent locally and not used to pay a vendor relocated to the St. Louis area of MO. Tony moved that we terminate our existing month-to-month maintenance agreement with Amanda Schoedel, and re-assign the contract to a local company, Keep It Growing. Tom Pocklington seconded the motion. During discussion, Tony told us the maintenance cost will be exactly the same, \$100/mo. and we can expect the same level of service from Keep It Growing. It is much better to use a local vendor who understands our community, issues, and concerns. Amanda has been given a courtesy notice, and she is willing to assist in the transition. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the new website development contract, Tony received 3 bids and evaluated them all using the same nine metrics with a 1-5 rating on each metric. Metrics used: Bidder location, knowledge of our area, marketing and PR experience, back-up personnel, skill, maintenance mindset, cost, ability to meet contract requirements, and proven ability to work closely with people to design an attractive and functional website that is easy to use. Based on the 9 metrics and the rating system, the winner was Keep It Growing. Tony Tieber moved to have the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association award the contract for a new website to Keep It Growing. Liz Stonehouse seconded the motion. During discussion, Mike Seiler stated that he had reviewed Tony's evaluation criteria and rating system. He felt Tony did a great job putting the evaluation metrics and rating system together. Tom Pocklington asked about contract time frame. Is it in sections, so the next contract is awarded when the first project section is acceptable? Tony said, "No" the contract is for the entire project. Winning bid is for \$7,152 to build website.

The new website development should take about five months. The old website will be up and running, and maintained during this time. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the SR 125 toll avoidance issue, Judy Tieber explained that Ray Traynor has postponed his visit and discussion with us about this issue until our November 2 meeting. He requested the later date so he could discuss our concerns with County engineers familiar with the issue, and share numbers and information relevant to the problem. Ray did caution me that SANDAG does not have much leeway for operational changes because their toll road purchase decision was made based on volumes and income studies. They made financial assumptions that they must hold to. Michael De La Rosa mentioned that further growth and expansion of Chula Vista to the East may be a valuable consideration during these discussions.



NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was discussed.

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Barbara Coleman (no relation to our membership chair) told us about a planned Church Bazaar at Church of the Good Sheppard. They are planning to include craft and bake sales as a way to raise money for their church and raise awareness of their presence in the Bonita Valley. Judy Tieber offered to laminate some announcements and to meet Barbara at the Community Bulletin Board so she can post this announcement and others in the future.

Fire Department: Tom Pocklington announced that a new fire fighter, Brian, has been hired. His first day on the job was Bonitafest. He is very happy and loves his job. Tom reminded us that courtesy calls for help are always welcome. Citizens really appreciated Fire Dept. help clearing up the debris when a eucalyptus tree fell across Central.

Roads: Tony Tieber had nothing new to report.

Planning Group: Steve Stonehouse told us the Community Planning Group did not meet October 4th.

Membership: Sharon Coleman was not present.

Senior Volunteer Patrol (SVP): Jim Woodford reported that nothing of importance happened during the last month. Tony Tieber thanks Jim for vacation checks during our absence. Tony noted that it was difficult to find someone in the Safety Center on days and times posted. Jim told us that now it is more convenient to go to the Sheriff's website, print off the vacation check form, complete it and just slide under the Safety Center door.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol Activity for August 2016:

Hours on Patrol	322	Number of Patrols	27
Number of Miles Driven	1,296	Vacation Checks	143
YANA Visits	2	YANA Calls	14
Citizen Assists	8	Traffic Control	0
Number of Volunteers	19		

The issue was raised by some attendees about whether or not the SVCA will support the neighborhood concerns related to the proposed storage facility to be built just east of Fire Dept. along Bonita Road. After a brief discussion, President Seiler suggested that the Community Planning Group needs to also hear citizen concerns and take that into consideration at the appropriate time.

President Seiler adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Judith A. Tieber, Secretary