

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  
February 1, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Library Community Room. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Ms. Prudence Prince, and welcomed Guillermo Torres along with all meeting attendees. President Seiler 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, Tom Pocklington, Steve Stonehouse, Guillermo Torres, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Sharon Coleman, Ken Pitney,  
Members present: Mike Sampsel, Prudence Prince, Glenn Kopp, Bill Coleman  
Guests present: CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon, S.D. Sheriff's Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia, Jessica Mier Rep. Susan Davis' Office, Miki Yamamoto, Carl Yamamoto

**MINUTES:** Motion by Steve Stonehouse, second by Tony Tieber to approve meeting minutes of January 4, 2017. Motion passed.

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

Checking Account Balance:	\$ 455.13
County Grant Funds on Deposit:	\$ 5,752.00
Certificate of Deposit Balance:	\$ 3,452.36
Ending Balance:	\$ 9,659.49

(Previous Balance was \$9,743.43) Report accepted as written.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

Officer Thepkulchon reviewed statistics for CHP activities during January, 2017. He can now report volume of traffic collisions, both injury and non-injury. Another bit of good news, we now have traffic officers assigned to our area for both mornings and afternoons.

Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia reviewed San Diego County Sheriff's stats for our Sweetwater Valley areas. While ours continues to be a low crime area, burglaries are still occurring, specifically 3 thefts from motor vehicles during January. Our monthly reminder: Don't leave anything in your car. A burglar suspect was arrested after just a half an hour because the neighbors on San Miguel Road got involved. Also a man was robbed on Winnetka. He also discussed a current scam happening in Bonita Highlands. While a lady with a white van lures homeowners outside complaining that her van won't start, her accomplice goes in through the rear of the home to burglarize it.

Both Officer Thepkulchon and Specialist Garcia are members of the local task force charged with addressing the local homeless issue. Two of five homeless were cited this past month. Another sweep will occur in March 2017. More and more homeless are moving into our area. Even though services are offered, most homeless don't want to take advantage of social service help. They are happy with their situation. County Parks' staff is continuing to give citations and

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remove belongings and cleaning up trash left by the homeless. They are a very “fluid” population.

### **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Michael De La Rosa—Supervisor Greg Cox’ Office:  
Mr. De La Rosa was not available for this meeting.

Ms. Jessica Mier—Representative Susan Davis’ Office:

A lot has been going on during the first 12 days of the new administration. Susan Davis remains a ranking member of the Education Committee. She has reintroduced Resolution H.Res. 28 to preserve home mail delivery. She and several other House members understand that “cluster” mail boxes are not secure enough to prevent vandalism, are often well away from the residents’ homes, and result in much more difficult access for elderly people. Her focus also includes concerns about Russian Hacking/Cybersecurity, health insurance, and election transparency/reform.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

SVCA Website Update: Tony Tieber reviewed the status report of our website developer, Richelle Farley. The website home page has been developed and sent to our small committee for feedback. With a little tweaking, it does a great job of representing our community. Now moving on to the next part: Richelle used her own money to broadcast our information to 325 homes via Facebook. We received no new responses regarding our logo image so we would like to move forward with making it round and updating the colors. Tony “so moved” that we update the colors and change logo to a round version. Tom Pocklington seconded. Motion carried. Michael Seiler asked Tony to focus on getting the new community calendar set up and advising the community contacts when it is ready for use. Tony Tieber assumed responsibility for putting together the approved list of community group contacts who can post to the new calendar.

Ray Traynor, 125 Operations Manager, will return in April to follow-up on our November discussion with him regarding:

- Can SANDAG remove the toll from the San Miguel Ranch Rd/125 interchange to Highway 54?
- Can SANDAG reduce the toll for this travel?
- Explain how SANDAG can restructure the current “out-of-proportion” toll rate for the above.
- Also the growing pressure to complete the San Miguel Ranch interchange to the south and from northbound drivers wanting to exit at San Miguel Ranch Rd.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Bonita Historical Society and Museum is planning a September 9, 2017 “Bonita Blast” to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society and Museum. This is also an opportunity for our local community service organizations to come together and share information about the focus and/or purpose of each organization. We have been asked to sponsor a table at this dinner event to represent the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association. While there is no cost for the dinner/table, our Association would be expected to contribute an item(s) valued at \$100 that can be auctioned off as a fundraiser for the Society and Museum. After discussion, Sharon and Bill

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Coleman offered to put together a “Deluxe Coffee Basket” as our contribution. Tom Pocklington moved and Tony Tieber seconded a motion to sponsor a table and participate in the Bonita Blast. Passed unanimously.

## COMMUNITY FORUM:

Fire Department: Tom Pocklington discussed the Fire Dept significant involvement in the January 20<sup>th</sup> severe wind and rain storm. The plethora of falling trees resulted in hot electrical wires coming down dangerously close to people. We had fallen trees blocking roads, across cars in parking lots, and a lot of damage to the Chula Vista Golf Course and Rohr Park. Most neighborhoods experienced downed trees and fences. The lesson for us is to never pull our cars or stand under a tree for protection in a heavy storm. We are better off in a clearing. Tom also shared a story of a homeless man breaking into an empty rental unit and setting up housekeeping in this nice environment.

Roads: Tony Tieber filed a report asking for clean-up, restriping etc. on Proctor Valley Road. He received a call back from a County employee who described the stretch of road south of San Miguel to Chula Vista boundary as a “no-man’s land” due to speeding, vehicles crossing over the double yellow line (which is no longer visible at night), cell phone use, and inconsideration of his staff when they were trying to clean debris out of the bridge drain that feeds water into the creek. Every time a car whizzed by, the workers were hit by a tidal wave of water. County Roads staff feel this stretch of road is too dangerous to work on. Sharon Coleman brought up the situation in her neighborhood. Several eucalyptus trees went down near the intersection of Winnetka and Sweetwater Road. She filed a report with County. They did come out and cleared the street and replaced the stop sign. That was all they did. There is no active HOA for Bonita Downs so that resource was not available to help the neighbors.

Planning Group: Steve Stonehouse told us the Sweetwater Community Planning Group (SCPG) did not meet in February. In March he expected the CPG will hear about a planned remodel for La Finca de Adobe. There has been no action on the proposed Storage Facility along Bonita Road.

Membership: Sharon Coleman reviewed membership status. We currently have 12 golds, 30 families, 18 individuals, 8 organizations. She will get the most updated membership list to Judy soon. Sharon Coleman also told us about a new County App called “Tell Us Now” where we can report air pollution, road issues, or anything else we want to complain about. The best part is the ease to use this app and the fact that you can follow your complaint all the way through the process to resolution. Also if you find a stray dog, it is always best to take it to the Bonita Animal Shelter where it will be safe and cared for until the owners call or visit the shelter. The shelter should always be the first place to look for your lost dog.

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Senior Volunteer Patrol (SVP): Jim Woodford did not attend the meeting, but the Patrol activity is listed below for January:

Hours on Patrol	290	YANA Calls	21
Number of Patrols	27	Citizen Assists	2
Number of Miles Driven	1386	Traffic Control	0
Vacation Checks	46	Number of Volunteers	19
YANA Visits	1		

In the general forum, Mike Sampsel discussed Sweetwater Authority management's plan to replace old pipe. Now a majority of SWA Directors want to move forward on four major projects. Based on their discussions, it looks like we will be faced with at least a 6% rate increase next year and another 6% increase the following year. Tom Pocklington also talked with Jim Smyth about the previously discussed plan to replace the old 36" pipe running through the Bonita Valley. If that pipe failed, we would have a real catastrophe.

President Seiler adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Judith A. Tieber, Secretary