

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  
June 7, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Flag Ceremony attendees gathered at 5:40 p.m. at the Bonita Library outside plaza flag pole. Tom Pocklington gave a short talk about our American flag, how to take it down, handling protocol, and how to raise the new flag. The Girl Scouts of Troops 6888 and 613, including Daisy's and Brownies assisted in the flag replacement ceremony. Our thanks to Julie Faurote and Elisa Hilliard, co-leaders, for their help to organize this event. A Girl Scout then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country. We then took a short break to get the chairs and tables set up in the Community Room and wait for additional meeting attendees to arrive.

President Michael Seiler called our meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. He welcomed our guests: District 5 Sweetwater Authority Representative Josie Calderon-Scott, Margaret Welsh a former District 5 Representative, and extended a welcome to Chief Tim Isbell, Bonita Sunnyside Fire Dept. President Seiler noted that the flag ceremony went well, and we will continue to do this each year.

Directors present: Mike Seiler, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Ken Pitney, Sharon Coleman

Members present: Glenn Kopp, Bill Coleman, Prudence Prince, Mark Kukuchek, Kathy Holdaway, Mike Sampsel, Patrick McCarville, Guillermo Torres, Margaret Welsh, Valerie Gerken-Rios

Guests present: Chief Tim Isbell (Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Station), Jamie Tobitt, Josie Calderon-Scott, Jim Smyth, Julio Garcia, Crime Prevention Specialist (SDSD)

**MINUTES:** Sharon Coleman updated Judy with corrected member numbers, Mike Seiler gave a brief overview of the Ray Traynor Presentation. Ken Pitney moved to accept the minutes, with corrections as noted; and Sharon Coleman 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes were then approved as corrected.

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

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Checking Account Balance:       | \$ 191.29   |
| County Grant Funds on Deposit:  | \$ 940.68   |
| Certificate of Deposit Balance: | \$ 3,452.59 |
| Ending Balance:                 | \$ 4,584.56 |

(Previous Balance was \$5,326.48)

**LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon was on vacation so no CHP report.

Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia reviewed crime in the Bonita Area. We had a residential burglary and two motor vehicle thefts with items in plain view. Mr. Garcia reminded us he is available for residential and for neighborhood watch consultations. While he is busy



most of the time, he will always make these requests a high priority. Always close and lock windows and keep valuables out of sight. Last month the Bonita area produced 230 calls for service. All calls were handled. Mr. Garcia told us that Bonita used to be very actively engaged in the Neighborhood Watch programs. Lately not so much. It has been over 2 years since the last time he was asked to attend a Neighborhood Watch Meeting. His job is to make recommendations. He discussed some of the area trouble spots. Most notably, shots fired over by Valley Vista Elementary School during the night. SVCA member Valerie Rios encouraged everyone to take advantage of his services. He does a very thorough job. If you think something is suspicious, please call and let the Sheriff determine the course of action. Neighborhood Director Guillermo Torres called in the "shots fired" for the above incident and expressed concern for the response time. Mr. Garcia suggested we go to County Board of Supervisors and request a third Sheriff be assigned to Bonita-Sunnyside.

### **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

Victor Avina – Supervisor Cox's Office

Mr. Avina recognized Fire Chief Tim Isbell for the great turnout at the pancake breakfast. Mr. Avina reported the 35 mph speed limit signs were installed along Central—One at Dawsonia, one near Corral Canyon. Public Works is looking at the issues associated with crosswalk installation at Central and Bonita Road. The County is currently looking at places to install the "No Camping," and "No Trespassing" signs. They also want to change out the pedestrian crosswalk lights for more up-to-date ones. Victor also reported that all curbs in the Robinwood-area have been painted red. He then talked about the County budget currently being developed for next fiscal year. Some area highlights of the \$5.69 Billion budget include:

- Additional funds for dispatchers
- Funds to expand the children's area of the Bonita-Sunnyside Library.
- Funds to finish the Glen Abby trail.
- Horse crossing at Summit Park
- A line-of-site study will be done by Bonita Meadows along Proctor Valley Road.

Tony Tieber asked about how the budget will address our area homeless people. Victor replied that Project One for All will look at providing housing units for the homeless. He also told us the trail bridge repair is still in the works. Road repairs on Sweetwater Road between Central and Briarwood are on schedule to be resolved with this summer's planned resurfacing project. Additionally on Sweetwater Rd west of Rohr Park, we need a curb to keep the walking trail from washing out in future rain storms.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

SVCA Website Update: Tony Tieber reviewed the website status. We are up and running the new site. [www.sweetwatervalleyca.com](http://www.sweetwatervalleyca.com). Tony asked everyone to go in and use it. We have one month to send our comments to the webmaster and let her know what we don't like. The website is "final" in 30 days. The greatest challenge is still the community calendar. It is going slow because most groups are not specific about their dates. However, we have a link to the other calendars so easy to stay informed.

President Seiler discussed plans for the State of Bonita on August 2<sup>nd</sup> with Supervisor Cox. We will have an abbreviated business meeting with election of officers. He reminded us we will be "dark" in July (no meeting).



## NEW BUSINESS:

President Seiler welcomed our special guest, Jose Calderon-Scott. She introduced herself, and told us she used to be a member of the SVCA. She hopes to attend more meetings in the future. She introduced Jim Smyth, General Manager of SWA. He was there to help answer any questions. Ms. Calderon-Scott is a 30 year Bonita resident and resides on a large lot. At one time she had 37 eucalyptus trees; but like many of us, she is now working to make her property drought tolerant. She belonged and belongs to several organizations such as Bonita museum, Bonita Optimists, worked diligently to build and protect our trails, and participated in the organized effort to keep State Route 125 out of our neighborhoods. She appreciates Bonita, and she knows it well. She is retired from an infrastructure-related projects career. She decided to run for the District 5 seat because she felt effective leadership was missing.

Her priorities are:

- Maintain infrastructure
- Keep a lean organization
- Support competitive salaries
- Provide low water rates
- Use rate-payer funds wisely

The SWA Board has been involved in the budget process with a June 14<sup>th</sup> budget adoption meeting date. Under discussion for inclusion/exclusion are costly infrastructure projects and the consequences of delay. Should we add \$1 to everyone's monthly bill to help raise funds to address these costly issues. Should we do a 2% across-the-board increase to fund needed infrastructure? Employee salaries and benefits are other important issues. Salaries must be competitive to retain our talented workers. A recent 3<sup>rd</sup> party salary review study was completed and is under review at this time. Healthcare and other benefits to which employees contribute are also being reviewed. So, much discussion goes into the development and acceptance of an annual SWA operating budget. Tony Tieber asked about the status of the large 36" pipeline built in the 1920's that runs through the middle of the valley. That was scheduled but then we never heard anymore about it. Ms. Calderon-Scott explained that the cost to do that 3 miles is \$18 million. The organization is still pursuing that project funding. It costs \$300,000/yr to maintain the Sweetwater Dam. The dam needs work, do we delay and add to cost even more in the future? These infrastructure repairs/replacements will cause traffic issues and other inconveniences but we need to get these done. She told us the Board is planning to float a \$22 million bond to fix pipelines and build a new water tank at Loveland Dam.

Mike Seiler asked about the "Readiness to Serve" fee and whether it would continue or change back to a fee established a few years ago. No definitive answer was provided. The primary message at this time is to review the budget and make comments. Mark Kukuchek raised the issue of building the trail all the way around the reservoir. This has been a Board/County issue since 2002. At this time there is no meeting of the minds between the two entities. Latest issue is County's lack of commitment to maintain the trail if, indeed, it ever gets built. Supervisors Cox and Jacob are working on a solution via letter to Board that will address project maintenance in addition to actual trail construction. Both Ms. Calderon-Scott and Mr. Jim Smyth were thanked for their attendance and information sharing.



**COMMUNITY FORUM:**

Fire Dept: Chief Isbell reported Dept received 159 calls/incidents last month. The Dept. served 450 people at the pancake breakfast. Money raised from breakfast and demolition derby (at Fair) all goes to the Burn Institute. This year’s donation totaled \$77,000. Chief Isbell also discussed the importance of CPR training and use. For every minute without CPR a person’s chances of survival diminish by 10-15%. The Chief also talked about the multi-agency Coastal Warrior Project going on in conjunction with a terrorist event. Crews will be out working on brush suppression. Our area is already experiencing fires, and fire officials expect this year will be the worst fire season in So. California, since Northern California burned last year. We (as a community) do need to help each other remove as many dead trees as possible. We all know tree mortality is way up in So. California, but peak tree mortality is in the Sierras. Cal Fire will also be working in East Bonita area.

Roads: Tony Tieber told us intermittent Willow Street bridge closures. He thanked Victor for his assistance in getting the double yellow lines painted on Proctor Valley Road. He did ask about the need for new center line reflectors. The current lane reflectors are so worn down as to be of no help to drivers. He also announced that several street corner curbs have been redone.

Planning Group: Steve Stonehouse reported the Sweetwater Community Planning Group will not meet again until August 1<sup>st</sup>. He told us a new scoping letter related to the storage facility plan did go out.

Membership: Sharon Coleman reminded us that our fiscal year ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. It is time to renew our memberships. She encouraged all non-member meeting attendees to consider joining the SVCA. It is inexpensive, easy, and now possible to join on-line through our website: [www.sweetwatervalleyca.org](http://www.sweetwatervalleyca.org). All area homeowners, clubs and HOAs are welcome.

Senior Volunteer Patrol (SVP): Jim Woodford told us all members of the SVP are now trained to use the AED (automated external defibrillator) machines. He acknowledged and thanked the Fire Department for providing this training. He reviewed patrol times and activities including vacation checks, YANA calls, keeping an eye on improper use of handicapped parking spaces. Vacation check request forms are available on-line at [www.sdsheriff.net](http://www.sdsheriff.net).

June Activity

|                        |       |                      |    |
|------------------------|-------|----------------------|----|
| Hours on Patrol        | 246   | YANA Calls           | 17 |
| Number of Patrols      | 21    | Citizen Assists      | 10 |
| Number of Miles Driven | 1,067 | Traffic Control      | 0  |
| Vacation Checks        | 91    | Number of Volunteers | 19 |
| YANA Visits            | 2     |                      |    |

General Announcements:

President Seiler reviewed assignments for the Bonita Blast event: Photos showing what SVCA does, including State of Bonita, will be put together by Sharon Coleman and Sharon Clayton. Tony will provide a jpeg of our new Logo, Sharon and Bill

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Coleman will do the coffee basket. Mike Seiler is working up a 150 word SVCA history statement.

Mike Seiler sent a letter, on behalf of the SVCA, to the Superior Officer of Officer Pete Thepkulchon, acknowledging his valuable input and attendance at our monthly meetings. His interest and involvement in our community are much appreciated.

Glen Kopp told us the 127 acres of plant growth in the Bonita Highlands open space are currently being cut down. It is going slower than expected because weeds are very tall. The workers are augmenting the tractor cutting with weed whackers.

Mike Seiler reviewed officers scheduled for re-election at the annual meeting, and asked anyone who is interested in running to please notify Judy Tieber. Neighborhood directors will be assigned/reconfirmed at our next regular meeting in September.

Jamie Tobitt introduced himself as the Nextdoor Neighborhood Road Representative.

President Seiler adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

For more information and to stay up-to-date on our Sweetwater Valley Community, visit [www.sweetwatervalleyca.org](http://www.sweetwatervalleyca.org)

Respectfully submitted

Judith A. Tieber, Secretary