

**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  
MARCH 7, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Library Community Room. This meeting is dedicated to the memory of Don Scovel, a long-time Bonita resident and advocate for our community. Mr. Scovel passed on February 5, 2018. President Seiler welcomed everyone to the meeting, and gave a special welcome to Chula Vista City Council Woman Patricia Aguilar who represents the N.W. section of Chula Vista. Everyone was invited to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country followed by a moment of silence to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals

Directors Present: Michael Seiler, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Sharon Coleman

Members Present: Glenn Kopp, Mark Kukuchek, Sharon Clayton, Mike Clowers, Tom Pocklington, Guillermo Torres, Sylvia Robledo, Jim Woodford, Lisa Martin Goodsell.

Guests Present: Donna Hodge, County Supervisor Cox representative Victor Avina, Jim Groth, Patricia Aguilar, Samantha Trickey.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Tony Tieber moved, Sharon Coleman 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the February 7, 2018 meeting minutes, no discussion, unanimous approval.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Steve Stonehouse presented the February 2018 Financial report.

Checking	\$1,421.12
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,453.11
Ending Balance	\$4,874.23

Report accepted as presented.

**Law Enforcement Reports:**  
No law enforcement reports.

**Elected Representative Reports:**

Supervisor Greg Cox Office: Victor Avina told us County Supervisor Cox has met with Scott Pruitt regarding the Tijuana River Valley Sewage problem. Victor is planning to bring engineering staff from Public Works Dept to April meeting to discuss San Miguel Road traffic issues. To prepare for April meeting, County needs to do a speed survey and not a traffic count survey. Mr. Avina told us that a speed survey could result in County upping the official speed limit to 35 mph, rather than the current 25 mph. President Seiler said, "We hear you, but we can/will partition directly to the Supervisor to forget the warrants, and do as the residents wish." If we can make the commuters' travel onerous, perhaps they will decide to take the toll road. We

have to keep consistent, and constant pressure on the County to resolve this traffic issue once and for all. Patricia Aguilar suggested we pressure SANDAG to lower the toll between SR 54 and San Miguel Ranch Road. She did put in a call to Greg Cox to discuss. Guillermo Torres suggested having Chula Vista partially cover the toll cost for this northern stretch. Developers pay a Traffic Impact Fee (TIF). This would be a great use for it.

Tony Tieber discussed the history of working with CAC, the County Traffic Advisory Committee, regarding the intersection of Proctor Valley Rd and San Miguel Rd. Also we have talked extensively with Ray Traynor, Operations Manager for the toll road. He assures us the toll prices are not going to be reduced anymore than what was already done when SANDAG took over the toll road. Toll rates and income are directly tied to their refinance obligations. The SANDAG plan is to not raise fees so over time, with inflation, the “true cost” will be less.

Another attendee voiced great concern about the continued speeding on Winnetka. She feels the County has done little to address this issue. The best way forward on Winnetka is to tell Officer Pete Thepkulchon we need additional patrol officers on that road. Mike Seiler thanked the attendee for sharing her concerns. Jim Woodford did take a few minutes to review what has been done on Winnetka to reduce speed. President Seiler is planning to have a County Roads Engineer at our April meeting and we will invite Ray Traynor back for the May meeting. Mike Seiler will address issue with Chula Vista to determine how Chula Vista can help pay for tolls of the Chula Vista residents. Back to San Miguel Road, an attendee suggested the reduced speed was necessary based on road narrowness. Mr. Avina told us the road width did not play a role in setting speed limits. Visibility is the most frequently used criteria. A short discussion followed about possible traffic calming options in those SM road sections wide enough to support them.

### **Continuing Business:**

As continuing business, President Seiler received the requested signed and dated letter from the Chula Vista City Council (Patricia Aguilar) stating there is no plan to develop the Chula Vista golf course. The new course operator is doing a great job so the financial picture looks better. Patricia Aguilar noted that over the long-term, such as the last 5-10 years, golf has been losing its popularity. That trend may well continue, and at some point, there may not be a need for a golf course. The course wouldn't be condos, but it may be opened up for additional parkland. Ms. Aguilar will notify Mike Seiler when this issue comes up for discussion at a Chula Vista Council meeting.

Regarding the problem with all the dead and/or untrimmed palms in the Sweetwater Valley, Tom Pocklington reported the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department does not have jurisdiction to establish an ordinance addressing fire safety issues related to dead and/or untrimmed palms. Victor Avina did give us good news that County Parks has plans to remove 50 dead palms in the riverbed. Additionally, the Parks Department is getting a grant to remove another 200. Unfortunately, the palm removal timeframe has not been established.

### **New Business:**

Mike Clowers brought up the need for speed limit signs along Proctor Valley Road. At this time, there are no speed limit signs, just one advisory 25 MPH heading south into the blind curves.

## Community Forum:

Fire—Tom Pocklington reported the fire fighters are busy with training during March and April. Chief Isbell is retiring December 1, 2018; and everyone wants a promotion.

Bonita Alliance—Lisa Martin Goodsell reported completion of two exercises in the group structuring process. Using the top five community problems and assets, the group began identifying the vision residents have for our Bonita community. Quality of life along with a safe, family-oriented environment marked the unanimous outcome. This provides direction to achieve the vision and goals for the community. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Feb 21 meeting opened the discussion of the Chula Vista Golf Course. Lisa Martin Goodsell proposed an Agenda for an additional Bonita Alliance (BA) meeting specific to addressing the concerns over the golf course. The golf course meeting took place on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

During the Feb 28<sup>th</sup> meeting re: golf course, an action plan was agreed upon that established steps to be taken, which include:

verifying the current status of the course/property via meetings with two key City of Chula Vista employees, survey the area of topic, agree on a set standard list of questions to use at the meetings with city employees, discussion of the City Statement Re CV Golf Course, report back to Lisa to compile findings for the March 29 Bonita Alliance meeting. During the Mar 29 meeting, the group will make a determination on what other steps and effort should be taken. The golf course general manager, Chris Gilfillen attended the Feb 28 meeting which made for lively conversation that was informative and positive. Attendees expressed a desire to have an open, rural, village feel to Bonita.

A golf course-related meeting will be scheduled with City of Chula Vista employees. The proposed questions are as follows:

1. Please offer insight on the current golf course Management Agreement.
2. Please share the City's goals, plans and ideas for the golf course property, including the course, the club house, Rohr Manor, Rohr Park, the walking and horse trails, rail road, and Sunnyside Arena.
3. From the City issued Nov. Statement Regarding the CV Golf Course, please clarify: the ideas in place for "relocating the club house," "expansion of Rohr Park," "refurbish/relocate the clubhouse," "reinvest in the golf course," ideas about "adding a boutique hotel to the property," and "access into the park from Bonita Rd."
4. Is the City already working with or aware of other committees related to the golf course project?
5. ~~Bonita Alliance would like to offer ideas/solutions for use and improved financial state. Are you open to this?~~
6. Bonita Alliance wants to have a voice in the decision-making as a representative on behalf of the Bonita community. How do we obtain authorization and notice to be part of meetings? Bonita Alliance contact is: Lisa Martin Goodsell [LisaColetteArt@cox.net](mailto:LisaColetteArt@cox.net)

7. Who would be the point of contact for Bonita Alliance pertaining to changes, improvements, and redevelopment of the property at issue?

8. Is there any plan in place, or for the future regarding adding a water diversion pipeline through the Bonita valley? If yes, who has authority and oversight of such a project?

9. You will receive a recap of today's meeting via email. Please confirm receipt of the email and the accuracy of the contents for our record.

Lisa M. Goodsell moved the SVCA members present approve these Bonita Alliance activities and plans. Guillermo Torres seconded. Discussion followed. Tony Tieber and Tom Pocklington were not exactly sure what we were voting to do. Tom Pocklington did not feel he had enough understanding to move forward with a vote. Mike Seiler provided a summary and recap of the proposed action. Basically, Bonita Alliance will talk with City of Chula Vista staff to reach an understanding of the golf course issues, get concurrence, and address quality of life issues. Yes, Bonita Alliance participants who meet with City staff should be members of the SVCA. Many of them are. Our membership has increased considerably, and that is a good thing. Mike reiterated that this proposed meeting was only to gather information. After further discussion, all agreed to remove question #5 (above) and to change the language to state the BA members work under auspices of the SVCA. Discussion followed about how the BA fits into the Bylaws. Mike Seiler reported that it falls under Article VII Committees as a standing committee. Tom Pocklington moved to "Make Bonita Alliance a committee of the SVCA and Lisa Martin Goodsell is the Committee Chair." Tony Tieber provided the second. Under discussion, Sharon Clayton felt this community involvement is great. Motion passed with the understanding that any BA committee and any BA subcommittee members can vote as long as they are SVCA members. Sharon Coleman restated the original motion as "SVCA approves the BA action plan to gather information as identified in their March 7, 2018, meeting items 1-9 excluding 5." Second by Judy Tieber. Motion passed.

Traffic and Roads—Tony Tieber requested larger and brighter school crosswalk lighting on Central. In the afternoon sun, it is nearly impossible to see these small embedded lights.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group—Steve Stonehouse reported on a plot plan to build 7 houses, each on a ½ acre lot at 4753 Sweetwater Rd just west of Central. Most of the discussion centered on the storm water drainage plan and the need for a wall of some kind along the eastern front of the property. No action was taken pending receipt of the County scoping letter. There is no new information on the proposed AutoZone store.

Membership—Sharon Coleman reported we have new members, and she does have application forms for any interested meeting attendees. Currently we have:

Individual members	26	Gold	13
Family	31	Silver	3
Organizations	7		

Annual membership cost is very reasonable at: \$15 Individual, \$25 Family, \$50 Organization, \$100 Silver, and \$250 for Gold.

Senior Volunteer Patrol—Jim Woodford told us that Sr. Vol. Patrol Officer Ron Foster passed away. Mr. Foster was a Navy pilot and docent on the Midway. There is now an opening on the

Sr. Vol. Patrol if anyone is interested. The speed trailer has been out and about the valley including on Winnetka, Sweetwater near Valley, Acacia and Corral Canyon.

February 2018 Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities:

Hours on Patrol	238	Number of Patrols	21
Number Miles Driven	1,062	Vacation Checks	32
YANA Visits	2	YANA calls	19
Citizen Assists	3	Traffic Control	0
Number of Volunteers	20		

Trails—Mark Kukuchek, Trails Rep for Bonita Horsemen, gave the following updates: The next scheduled clean up is 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on April 21<sup>st</sup> sponsored by I Love a Clean San Diego. Location: at the end of Conduit under the 125 bridge near the creek. There are three homeless encampments in the riverbed that need to be cleaned up before we get any heavy rain. We can register at I Love a Clean San Diego website. Mark reported we still need to find operating officer/volunteers to manage the recently approved Community Garden. The Glen Abbey trail construction quote has gone out for bids, and trail building should start within a few months. Trail construction should be completed this year. Judy will resend the trails issue list since most could not open it. There is new management at Summit Park, but Mark has not yet met them. They need to be brought up to speed on the 3 homeless camps in the Sweetwater river bed and be active in removing them. Judy Tieber asked Mark where he gets needed trail repair materials such as DG and gravel. Answer: a variety of places. The County provides some, some they get free, and some come as donations to the Bonita Valley Horsemen. The Sweetwater Bike Park upcoming meeting/workshop is scheduled for Wednesday March 14 at 6:00 p.m. Mark provided additional information on dead palm removal in riverbed. Originally, the District 1 grant was to remove invasive plants from the river bottom. Now that money will all go toward dead palm removal.

**Round Table:**

President Seiler is interested in getting back on track with the direct mailing idea at our next meeting. He extended a special thanks to Council Member Patricia Aguilar and Assistant to Council Member John McCann, Samantha Trickey for their meeting attendance.

President Seiler adjourned meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tieber  
Secretary, SVCA

Next meeting: April 4, 2018

**Mission Statement:** The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association is the direct conduit to local County elected and appointed officials, law enforcement and emergency first responders to discuss and resolve issues directly related to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.