

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 April 4, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Library Community Room. President Seiler welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited us 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, Mike Clowers, Sharon Clayton, Jim Woodford

Members Present: Prudence Prince, Susan Heavilin, Wendy Wilson-Gibson, Barbara Scott, Susie Murphy, Andria Elam, Donna Hodge, Parisa and Jake Hill, James Carter, Alan and Fran Cornell, Hal and Sheri Todus, Mark Kukuchek, Jim Groth, Sylvia Robledo

Guests Present: Congress Woman Susan Davis representative Jessica Mier, County Supervisor Cox representative Victor Avina, Chula Vista Councilman John McCann representative Samantha Trickey, CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon, CHP Public Relations Officer Jake Sanchez, SD County Sheriff's Dept Julio Garcia, Murali Pasumarthi County Roads Engineer, Kenton Jones Traffic Advisory Committee, and Ernie Barkley County Roads Engineer, And many Guests from the Bonita/Sunnyside neighborhoods

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sharon Clayton moved, Judy Tieber 2nd to approve March 7, 2018 meeting minutes, no discussion, unanimous approval.

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

Checking	\$1,259.21
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,453.16
Ending Balance	\$4,712.37

Report accepted as presented.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon presented the traffic citation report for February and March, 2018. He recorded 64 citations in February and 40 in March. In both months, drivers were cited for not using seatbelts, using cell phones, speeding and running stop signs. The greatest number of citations was for failure to obey signs, and faulty equipment. We had 1 injury collision in both February and March: one on Briarwood and one on Bonita Rd. There was one DUI arrest.

Officer Thepkulchon introduced CHP Public Relations Officer Jake Sanchez who described several free services offered by the CHP including safe driving for seniors, a teen driving program and an adult distracted drivers program. He told us most teen deaths are from traffic

accidents, and admonished us to be careful with our cars, not leaving valuables in view etc. so we do not become a target. He is also the CHP media representative to news organizations.

Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia reviewed the Sheriff's Dept. stats for our area. While crime is still low, we did have some activity: two unlocked cars parked at Glen Abbey had belongings stolen, a car parked on Briarwood was broken into, and we had two grand theft/larceny, and one residential burglary. We were admonished again to keep valuables out of sight, our homes' doors and windows locked. He is available for free home and business safety inspections and will provide assistance to neighborhood watch program start-ups.

Elected Representative Reports:

Congress woman Susan Davis representative, Jessica Mier reviewed the Congress woman's Washington D.C. activities including work to include crucial programs and adequate funding in the omnibus appropriations bill to cover defense and non-defense priorities through September 30, 2018, the end of the government fiscal year. She co-sponsored HR 3261: North Korea Follow the Money Act and HR 3207: Zero Tolerance for Domestic Abusers Act. Susan is also an active participant in the Cross-Border Sewage Issue, and participated in an Education Committee forum on school safety. Jessica also announced the upcoming 2018 Congressional Art Competition for high school students. Winning pieces will be displayed in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capital Building. All artwork for this year's competition are due in her office by Thursday, April 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Chula Vista Councilmember John McCann representative, Samantha Trickey did not have a report, but was available for any questions. She told us Councilmember McCann will be at our May meeting. Samantha can be reached by email at: stickey@chulavistaca.gov. Mike Seiler gave her a letter for Councilmember McCann. It identified a major issue of vehicular traffic generated by East Chula Vista neighborhoods, the failure of the South Bay Expressway (SBX) toll road to handle this traffic, and the SANDAG financial obligations. SVCA Board President Seiler is suggested that Chula Vista should subsidize the toll in both directions between the SR 54/SR125 connector and the northernmost on/off ramps at San Miguel Ranch Road. The letter requested Councilmember McCann present the letter to the Chula Vista City Council to start a dialog on the issue.

Supervisor Greg Cox Office: Victor Avina told us the letter and requested actions were a great segway into his part of the meeting. The SVCA is the perfect venue for the "what do we do in the meantime" action plan. He understands the crescendo of frustration and concern regarding excessive traffic in the Proctor Valley/San Miguel Road neighborhood. He brought three County professionals with him to help sort this out: Murali Pasumarthi, Kenton Jones, and Ernie Barkley. Mr. Pasumarthi took the lectern and acknowledged the problem. He also specifically acknowledged the Sunnyside Elementary School Safety Patrol. They work hard to keep their friends safe.

In 2003, 1100 cars/day used San Miguel Road.

In 2008, 7700 cars/day used San Miguel Road.

Traffic continues to increase to this day. Band-Aid type fixes have been applied but more are needed. Murali said he wanted to hear from us and asked for ideas. He understood that we need more/better stop signs for the school crossings, but we have to comply with State law (warrants) that require a balance of traffic coming from different directions. He stated that it takes 8 weeks to study and develop traffic reports.

The 60 or so residents present at the meeting made it very clear that we don't have 8 weeks to wait for a formal report. Specifically:

- *We have significant and long-standing safety issues related to the school crosswalks.
- *Traffic is all day long (24 hours/day), not just commuter traffic.
- *Traffic needs to go away.
- *Residents cannot get out of their driveways.
- *Cyclists constantly run stop signs.
- *Make San Miguel Rd. a toll road.
- *Need stop signs installed now! (Mr. Pasumarthi reminded us that we need to follow current law to avoid frivolous law suits)
- *The huge volume of traffic is destroying our rural life style.
- *For 15 years, this problem has been getting worse, and no one will do anything to help us. We need to talk to whoever will make decisions to help us!
- *Our families are being greatly impacted with the traffic and the pollution it brings. We have to keep our windows closed.
- *This traffic is also bringing crime to our neighborhood
- *The San Miguel/Proctor Valley Roads should be made a traffic calming area with appropriate signage.
- *Set us up like Frisbee. Cars can only go one way depending on time of day.
- *We need daily police presence at crosswalk between 7:15-7:30 a.m.
- *We need speed bumps. (Fire Chief Isbell says "No" to speed bumps because they "Slow down emergency vehicle response time).
- *We need to stop/prevent passing on the right in the wide part of San Miguel Road. This is a huge problem all hours of the day and night. You can drop some K-rails tomorrow and stop the passing on the right.
- *Cars often traveling too fast and don't bother to stop for red light at San Miguel and Bonita Rd.
- *Supervisor Cox needs to start representing us through discussions with Supervisors Jacob and Horn to put pressure on SANDAG to reduce toll from San Miguel Ranch Rd. to SR 54. Supervisor Cox needs to hold Chula Vista accountable for all their traffic associated with unlimited development. The toll road must accommodate this East Chula Vista traffic!

Children from the Sunnyside School Safety Patrol, who were present, also offered suggestions:

- *Put LED lights on the stop signs they hold because speeders don't pay attention to current signs.
- *Sometimes the current crosswalk lights in roadway do not work so need other more visible lighting.
- *They see many distracted drivers fiddling with radios, cell phones, etc. which puts them and their friends in danger.
- *Many drivers are angry with the kids stopping traffic because they are late for work and don't want to stop.

Mr. Pasumarthi stated that he will order the new stop signs the next day, but that it takes a few weeks to receive them.

Mr. Pasumarthi's final comments:

The County cannot stop the traffic

We can do more to enforce the rules.

We will certify the road at 25 MPH so CHP can use radar and make speeding tickets stick.

Regarding wide San Miguel Road, we will work with residents to develop a satisfactory plan. He feels rumble strips, curbs, and school parking would be the best.

He will put up more speed limit signs on both sides of the street.
He will improve cross-walk lighting at school on both San Miguel and Central.

President Seiler told Mr. Pasumarthi that a traffic task force has been put together and these residents would like to work with him to put a plan together. He also reiterated the need to get County Supervisors working together with the City of Chula Vista to revamp or eliminate the existing toll on the northern section of the toll road because the root cause of the traffic problem was that there were commuters on the San Miguel and Proctor Valley roads that should be using the SBX toll road and not surface streets. But they don't because they want to avoid the toll fees.

New Business:

The State of Bonita is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, 2018, here in the Library Community Room. No other information is available regarding start time, etc.

Tony Tieber made a suggestion to hold our annual elections of officers early this year, in June. That way the board is set and can more responsively prepare for the State of Bonita evening with Supervisor Cox.

Community Forum:

Fire— Chief Isbell told us the department had 154 calls in March. Sixty eight calls were for medical aid. As a follow-up to the March meeting regarding deal and untrimmed palms in our area, Chief Isbell will work with his peers to include this important issue in the new San Diego Consolidated Fire Code which is due for revision this summer.

Traffic/Roads—No report.

Membership—No report.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol—Jim Woodford told us the speed trailer is out/has been out 7/24 all around the valley. Stats will be in the May minutes.

Trails—Mark Kukuchek reminded us that “A Clean San Diego” is sponsoring a cleanup at the end of Conduit under the overpass on Saturday morning April 21st. We can register online. He will open up the road so volunteers can drive in and park closer to the cleanup site.

Bonita Alliance (BA)--Lisa Martin-Goodsell reported that the planned golf course meeting with Chula Vista City representatives went very well. Another meeting will take place with the City in April to learn about the city's parameters for our idea brainstorming efforts. A meeting recap has been confirmed back from the city rep (Eric Crockett). Ultimately, Eric Crockett and Kelly Broughton were open to our BA ideas and welcomed input from our group going forward. It was a very positive way to open the door to a working relationship between the City of Chula Vista and Bonita Alliance for all issues affecting Bonita as a whole. As we forge rapport, the aim is to foster a strengthened relationship between City and Sweetwater Valley Civic Association. Next Bonita Alliance meetings on the golf course property will be April 23 and May 9th.

On another matter, Lisa Martin-Goodsell moved to authorize Bonita Alliance, on behalf of the SVCA, to discuss roads/traffic—specifically how Chula Vista traffic impacts our community and what can be done about it. Sharon Clayton provided the second. During discussion, President Seiler stated that he felt the SVCA should use BA as the “fact-finder service” to help put more citizen effort into understanding and resolving problems that affect our community. After further discussion, the motion passed. The following SVCA member residents were identified to address the traffic corridor of San Miguel Road/Proctor Valley Road: Teresa Martinez, Donna Hodge, Mike Clowers and Jim Groth.

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.

President Seiler adjourned meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tieber
Secretary, SVCA

Next meeting: May 2, 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.