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P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
July 3, 2019
Draft

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Library Community Room. President Seiler welcomed members and guests who may be contemplating membership in the SVCA. We were 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, Jim Woodford, Mike Clowers, Glenn Kopp, Sharon Coleman, Sharmane Estolano

Members Present: Donna Hodge, David Corcoran

Guests Present: CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon, Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims, LaNelle Kidd, Danika Bowers, Mitchell Byrd, CHP, Jessica Mier Congresswoman Susan Davis' office, Marvin Mayorga, Supervisor Greg Cox's Office

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Steve Stonehouse moved to approve, Jim Woodford second. During discussion, Jim asked if the June minutes could be amended to include the late Sr. Volunteer Patrol stats or if they should be put into the July minutes? Judy agreed to add to June minutes. Minutes approved as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse reporting.

Checking	\$ 559.22
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,454.02
Ending Balance	\$4,013.24

Report accepted as presented.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon introduced his new partner, Mitchell Byrd, who will be working in Bonita on a regular basis. Officer Thepkulchon has been educating him on our area trouble spots. He was happy to report the CHP gave out 52 citations last month, 33 were for speeding. Most tickets given in the usual locations: Proctor Valley/San Miguel failure to stop, etc. He mentioned Bonita had three accidents (a hit and run on Briarwood, one at Blacksmith/Country Trails, and at Doral Way at Sweetwater Rd). Sharon Coleman also told us about a bad one at Sweetwater Rd/Winnetka where a car went over the road and down the hill toward the ball fields. Officer Thepkulchon also visited the area homeless and gave out one ticket for possession of a meth pipe

Julio Garcia, Unable to attend.

Chula Vista Police Officer Jeff Pace not available.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims reported the Bonita Fire Dept handled 146 calls in May. 32 were medical related. Now that our weather is warming up, they are starting to get calls for snakes. Rattlesnakes, they kill due to liability issues. Non-poisonous snakes get relocated. A surprise retirement sped up the start of the next new hire to August, and still planning for an additional retirement in June 2020. Michael Seiler thanked the Chief for a medical call to his home. The Chief reported the pancake breakfast was a success. They feed 500 people and raised \$1,100 after expenses.

Elected Representative Reports:

Jessica Mier, Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office introduced Sammy, a work associate visiting here from the DC office. Mike Seiler told us how much he appreciated Rep. Susan Davis' presence at Stand Down. She worked with the Marines to iron out issues and resources to make sure we had a stand down this year. We were told the Congress woman has been busy working on issues and bills related to helping our military families through the National Defense Authorization Act to include tracking absentee ballots for overseas service members, early wildfire detection by satellites, family leave for military parents, child care and mental health care, and a study on the impact of Tijuana River sewage runoff to military readiness, and a provision to protect the rights of sexual assault survivors. About 500 people attended the latest Global Policy Series discussion on Climate. The next hot topic may be on Iran.

Marvin Mayorga, from Supervisor Greg Cox's office, told us plans are well underway for the August 7th State of Bonita. Marvin is taking over for Marshall Anderson, who resigned from County employment. We had a renewed discussion about the large construction trucks continuing to block the view to the south at the Bonita Post Office exits. This is an issue that needs to be addressed. (as an aside, Harriet Taylor from our Sweetwater Community Planning Group plans to talk with the Pastor of the Presbyterian Church to ascertain if the congregation has any issues with County installing "No Commercial Vehicle Parking" signs along the stretch of Central in front of the Church). We also heard about the Community Garden ribbon cutting ceremony and Supervisor Cox is looking for enhancement funds to make needed improvements. Plots will cost \$150/yr for a 10' x 10' plot, and \$300/yr for a 20' x 20' plot. Information available at RCDSanDiego.org Mr. Mayorga will look into the RV business that parks RVs along Corral Canyon near Central. Also, the 0.6 miles Glen Abbey Trail link is completed. It heads south along the cemetery and hooks up to Chula Vista trails. There is no staging area but you can park your car in the small lot just east of the entrance to Glen Abbey. Mike Clowers suggested to Marvin that it would be really nice to get an update on the SANDAG SR 125 Promotion Plan during State of Bonita.

Samantha Trickey not available

New Business: Election of Officers:

President: Mike Seiler
Vice President: Tony Tieber
Secretary: Judy Tieber
Treasurer: Stephen Stonehouse

Area Directors:

- Seat 1: Mike Clowers
- Seat 2: Stephen Stonehouse
- Seat 3: Jim Woodford
- Seat 4: Vacant (Area near 805 on Bonita Rd)
- Seat 5: Stephen Stonehouse
- Seat 6: Guillermo Torres
- Seat 7: Vacant
- Seat 8: Sharmane Estolano
- Seat 9: Sharon Coleman
- Seat 10: Vacant
- Seat 11: Tom Pocklington
- Seat 12: Sharon Clayton

Community Forum:

Bonita Alliance: No report

Traffic/Roads – Tony Tieber told us about neighbors on Linwood complaining about Soapy Joe’s. The City of Chula Vista told business to get into compliance or get shut down. Changes in business practices have brought some relief to the traffic congestion.

Planning Group - Steve Stonehouse reported that last evening’s meeting included a County presentation on plans to install a sidewalk along the north side of San Miguel Rd. between Bonita Rd and the school crossing for Sunnyside Elementary. The work is planned for completion next year. Kenton Jones was also present to discuss the updated County ordinance related to Special Events. The plan is to start charging cost recovery fees based upon the size of the event. Currently, he is going around to all the County Planning Groups to tell them about the ordinance update including the related charges. Kenton is seeking feedback on this ordinance. The County is still working on all the responses received regarding the ACE Storage facility. Michelle Chan has left County employment; and her replacement has been hired, and is getting up to speed on this project.

Membership—Sharon Coleman reported membership numbers and told us that annual renewals are coming in. She reviewed membership costs: Family \$25, Individual \$15, Gold \$250, Silver \$100, and organizations are \$50. Current membership numbers: Individuals 24, Family 38, Silver 2, Gold 12, Organizations 8.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol - Jim Woodford told us several of the volunteers have been on vacation so they don’t have as many patrols as they would like. The new car still lacks a trailer hitch so cannot move the speed trailer around. He assured us that when school starts up again in September, the Sr. Volunteer Patrol will be present with lights blinking.

Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities, July, 2019

Hours on patrol	154	Number of patrols	13
Number of miles driven	615	Vacation checks	28
YANA visits	0	YANA calls	13
Citizen assists	3	Traffic control	1
Number of volunteers	16		

Trails –Mark Kukuchek reported that both the Community Garden ribbon cutting ceremony and the opening of the Glen Abbey trail had resulted in an eventful and fun day. He also described the less-than-ideal trail resulting from the “fairy shrimp” work-around. The trail runs next to San Miguel Road, crosses over the highway and turns down and around toward the SDG&E Substation. It takes riders, hikers and bikers well away from the reservoir, and pretty well shuts down the long-awaited hope for a trail around the Sweetwater reservoir. LaNelle Kidd asked about the new boundary chain put up to separate the Sweetwater Open Space/Morrison Pond area trail from Sweetwater Road. It now prevents her and others in her neighborhood from riding down Margaret St. and crossing the road in order to access the trail. Mark suggested she contact Brian Albright to discuss. Brian should be present at State of Bonita. The problem is lack of a formal trail along that route.

Updates:

Scott from Chula Vista Steamers announced their upcoming 45th anniversary celebration will be held over the Labor Day weekend. He invited everyone to come over to Rohr Park and join in the fun. Everyone, young and old, big and small, is welcome to ride a train.

Glenn Kopp reported that the 127 acres of Bonita Highlands open space has been mowed. Following the mowing, the next task will be working to groom the trails.

President Seiler thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Tieber
Secretary, SVCA

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.