



**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  
September 4, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:36 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, especially to Sharmane Estolano. While Sharmane is a relatively new member, she has joined our Board of Directors. 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, Sharon Clayton

Members Present: Mark Kukuchek, Prudence Prince

Guests Present: CHP Officer Mitchell Byrd, Victor Avina Supervisor Greg Cox's Office, Julio Garcia Crime Prevention Specialist County of San Diego

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Steve Stonehouse moved to approve the July minutes, Tony Tieber second. Minutes approved

We had a short summary discussion about the August State of Bonita meeting with Supervisor Cox. Next year (his last State of Bonita), our thoughts were along the line of more focus on Bonita-Sweetwater Valley, fewer introductions of County staff, and a longer question and answer session.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Stephen Stonehouse reported for both:

	August	September.
Checking	\$ 409.22	\$ 705.72
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,454.08	\$3,454.14
Ending Balance	\$3,863.30	\$4,159.86

Reports accepted as presented with discussion that website rates get pretty high when we post too much stuff. Maybe we should try to find a high school student needing community service hours to help us. Prudence Prince offered to help. Tony will talk to "Keep it Growing" about rates.

**Law Enforcement Reports:**

**CHP Officer Mitchell Byrd** reported that Officer Thepkulchon was unable to be here due to other commitments, and that his duty assignment was switching over to address the homeless situation. Officer Hale has also been re-assigned. Officer Byrd told us that two overtime units have been working in Bonita. That has helped bump up the activity numbers rather nicely. He has no report to hand out because the CHP Office is in the process of relocating from current Pacific Highway Offices to a new location at 5902 Kearney Villa Road. However, Officer

Thepkulchon had previously sent a report to Judy. For July CHP issued 124 citations in Bonita. Most were for speeding (76) and for stop signs/sign violations (42). We had four traffic collisions and 33 verbal warnings. The overtime personnel grant will continue through November. Members present thanked Officers Byrd, Thepkulchon and Hale for all their efforts to make Bonita a safer place to live, work and recreate. If we need to reach Officer Byrd by email, his address is: [mbyrd@chp.ca.gov](mailto:mbyrd@chp.ca.gov)  
At our request, Officer Byrd will try to watch traffic turning right from San Miguel Road onto Bonita Rd. during the red lights since most drivers never slow down, much less stop before turning right.

**Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia** reported that “Ring” is helping the Sheriff’s Dept solve crime. He recommends having it. After a quick review of area criminal activity, Mr. Garcia reminded us that he is available for security consultations. He highly recommended that we set up neighborhood Watch systems, and he would be happy to come and help us get them started.

**Chula Vista Police Officer:** No representative present.

**Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims** was not available, but Tony Tieber read his report. Call volumes were nearly identical to last month. Our Engine Team functioned as part of Strike Team 6440A to fight a pallet yard fire a few weeks ago. The team was committed for eight hours, and was instrumental in keeping a large propane tank from exploding. They also rescued a feral kitten so a good night’s work by your Bonita firefighters. He noted that a backfill crew is called in to staff the reserve engine whenever the primary crew is committed to another emergency expected to last more than four hours. That way Bonita is always covered. Chief Sims is also working with CALFIRE to further mitigate some of the heaviest growth along Proctor Valley Rd. as an annual maintenance project. He will have more to report on this at our next meeting.

#### **Elected Representative Reports:**

**Jessica Mier** not available, but Tony Tieber reported that Congresswoman Susan Davis’ Office announced that, after 20 years, Susan Davis is not planning to seek re-election.

**Victor Avina**, from Supervisor Greg Cox’s office, told us the Supervisors will be having Council meetings at 5520 Overland Ave for the next few months while the current chamber is under reconstruction. It looks like the Community Choice electricity plan is moving forward now that Chula Vista has voted to make the change, and the County Board of Supervisors is considering a change to join other communities making the switch from SDG&E. It was noted that since SDG&E makes no profit from selling electricity, they may stop altogether. He reported that National City and the County will work together to address the unsavory issues along Bonita Plaza Rd. Regarding commercial vehicles parking along Central, we were told that we cannot prohibit just commercial parking along there because the adjacent properties are zoned commercial. So we would have to request the Sweetwater Community Planning Group review the situation and forward a recommendation for “No Parking” that would apply to everyone. The concern is that adjacent property owners may not agree and they would have to agree before County moved forward with painting the curb red. So, next step is up to us/our community. Also, President Seiler suggested that County consider adding "No Parking Overnight" signage to the area, which would effectively remove the commercial trucks, which always park overnight. Mr. Avina said that he would discuss the idea with applicable parties at County.

Regarding the commercial RV parking on Corral Canyon, he did not yet have anything to report. This situation is currently being reviewed/investigated by Code Compliance. Tony Tieber asked about what happens to our recycled materials now that we can no longer send much of it to China? We are required to use and pay for a recycle service; but, in reality how much actually gets recycled and how much ends up in the landfill? Since the County has an ordinance on this topic, he wondered how it is monitored for compliance and actual recycling.

Tony Tieber also asked about County policy on cutting down trees, but not removing the material from our open space. He pointed to all the cut trees still stacked around in the Morrison Pond area months, if not years after being cut down. Mark Kukuchek responded that the CCC team that did that clearing was reassigned elsewhere. He will address this issue with his contacts in the County Parks Department and ask them to remove or chip the trees/cut brush.

**Samantha Trickey**, from C.V. Council Member John McCann's office reported that he was happy to attend the State of Bonita meeting in August. Ms. Trickey will have a booth at Bonitafest to represent the Council Member's constituents in the Bonita area. She gave us an update on the Rohr Dog Park project. Planned completion will be by end of the year, maybe sooner. Contracts have been let for the chain link fencing and decomposed granite. Staff still need to select a contractor to build/install benches. The neighbors are all happy with the proposed 35 ft. setback from homes along that west side of the park. It will be a very nice dog park when completed. She noted that it will be available only during park hours. There will be no lights in that area.

Ms. Trickey told us about her attendance at an HOA meeting in Eastlake to discuss setting up a Neighborhood Watch program. She offered the CV Police as a resource to establish Neighborhood Watch programs in the Chula Vista areas of Bonita/Sweetwater Valley. In conjunction with the Port Authority, ground breaking for a new Sweetwater Park and trail is scheduled for 10 a.m. on 9-26-19. Tony Tieber asked what was going on with the old ranger station in Rohr Park. It is now surrounded with chain link. She will get information and tell us at our next meeting.

### **Continuing Business:**

President Seiler asked Ms. Trickey if she could help us find a suitable location for our upcoming meetings since September is the last month we can use the Community Room. She responded in the affirmative. Several options exist like the CV Library at 4<sup>th</sup> & F, the Otay Ranch Center Library, or the Police Department Community Room at 3<sup>rd</sup> & F. Mike Seiler mentioned that we would need a safe parking area adjacent to where we meet. We hope to continue our meetings on the first Wednesday of every month. We were told the Golf Course would not be an option unless Samantha Trickey can talk to and convince the Events Coordinator to figure out a way for us to use one of their rooms.

Mike Clowers told us about his discussion with the Principal at Sunnyside Elementary in which it might be possible to meet in the school cafeteria. Mike will explore it more and get back to us.

Bonitafest: We will again share a booth space with the Sweetwater Women's Club. Sharon Coleman and Judy Tieber volunteered to attend and help.

President Seiler asked members if we should “go dark” in January 2020 since the first Wednesday is January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Years Day. Glenn Kopp moved to go dark in January, and Sharon Clayton provided the 2<sup>nd</sup>. All agreed.

**New Business:** None

**Community Forum:**

**Bonita Alliance:** No report

**Traffic/Roads** – Tony Tieber told us that Winnetka and Corral Canyon were added to the resurfacing schedule for next summer. We hope that includes fixing up the traffic calming divides.

**Planning Group** - Steve Stonehouse told us there was no meeting.

**Membership**—Sharon Coleman reported she worked hard to get membership renewals, but the numbers are down for this year: individuals 25, families 37, organizations 7, silver 2, gold 14. She has membership forms with her this evening if anyone present wants to renew. Sharmane Estolano suggested we go low-tech and contact neighbors/residents by letter on official SVCA letterhead to let them know about SVCA. Sharon Coleman was concerned about the cost of making color copies, but was willing to try it. Judy or Mike will send the letterhead to Sharmane.

**Sr. Volunteer Patrol** - Jim Woodford reported his hope to get a “new” car next week. This car will have a trailer hitch so they can, once again, move the “speed” trailer around to different community locations. They have been about a month without a car, but this one is definitely coming to us from County Transportation Dispatch and will have a new paint job.

Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities, July, 2019

Hours on patrol	120	Number of patrols	10
Number of miles driven	545	Vacation checks	17
YANA visits	0	YANA calls	22
Citizen assists	3	Traffic control	3
Number of volunteers	17		

Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities, August, 2019

Hours on patrol	48	Number of patrols	4
Number of miles driven	193	Vacation checks	2
YANA visits	0	YANA calls	25
Citizen assists	5	Traffic control	0
Number of volunteers	17	Safety Center hours	65
Safety Center personnel	3		

**Trails** –**Mark Kukuchek** reported that September 21, 9a.m.-noon will be an “I Love A Clean San Diego” sponsored clean up around Morrison Pond. The interior trail on the Bonita Rd. side had some tree trimming/removal work done. The Community Garden is going great with 70 plot applicants so far. County installed a brand new chain link fence and planted 10-12 new trees to replace the poplars that got cut down. The parking lot has been resurfaced. The bike park is moving along nicely and should be open by end of the year.

He also discussed the continued illegal dumping along Proctor Valley Rd. He feels strongly that we need to revisit the idea of closing Proctor Valley Rd after the second stop sign heading south and on the Chula Vista side closing road before it passes under SR 125. The Bonitafest Twilight Trail parade is coming up on 9-20-19 starting at the Sunnyside Saddle Club Arena in Rohr Park. A program of trick ropers and drill team riders will begin at 5:30, parade starts at 6 p.m.

President Seiler thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:19 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.