



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 January 6, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Mike Seiler via Zoom. He welcomed everyone to our first Zoom meeting. He followed with a moment of silence to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals.

Directors Present: Mike Seiler, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Jim Woodford, Tom Pocklington, Sharon Coleman, Sharmane Estolano

Members Present: Harriet Taylor, Mark Kukuchek, Lisa M. Goodsell, Prudence Prince, Daryl Hern, Elizabeth Merton, Greg Ward

Guests Present: Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Chief Michael Sims, Chula Vista Council Member John McCann, Samantha Trickey, Matt ?

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve the March 4, 2020 minutes, Mark Kukuchek provided the second. Motion passed, minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse reported the March 2020 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>March</u>
Checking	\$2,435.68
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,463.97
Ending Balance	\$4,899.65

Stephen told us he transferred \$1,000 from the CD into checking and received dues of \$1,565. Expenses from last March to present were about \$500.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP: no representation at meeting. However please call this phone number to report problems and/or concerns with traffic violations in your area: **1-858-293-6000**

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia not available to attend.

Chula Vista Police Officer: No officer present.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims reported they have been busy with Covid illness, everyone is okay, only the Chief may have had a possible exposure for which he quarantined. The station is at full staffing with its first female fire fighter who has integrated very well into station operations. Planned projects to get trees trimmed/cut down has fallen off the radar due to Covid-19. That said, the Proctor Valley Rd tree trimming looks good. He announced that a former chief, Tom Miles, recently passed away. We were reminded that palm fronds need to be trimmed because they are a significant fire danger.

Elected Representative Reports:

Council Member John McCann, reported that he worked with FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. as part of a White House Task Force to fix the PPE supply chain and ensure ventilators were sent to areas of greatest need. He reported the Chula Vista City 15% financial reserve is available to help small businesses and citizens affected by Covid-19. The City is now working to get residents vaccinated during the next few months. We were thanked for our Rohr Dog Park input during the design and location discussions. Mr. McCann reported that it has been/is a great success. The City plans to build more dog parks as funding allows. Tony Tieber asked if the worn, faded and tattered flag currently flying at San Miguel Community Park could please be replaced. CM McCann said he would take care of that.

Mike Seiler asked if the SVCA could please have a Chula Vista Police Dept. representative attend our meetings on a regular basis. That might be more doable with our meetings held on video teleconference VTC-Zoom. CM McCann said he would try to make that happen.

Sharmane Estolano brought up the continuing dilapidation of the old wooden shopping center on south side of Bonita Road as you enter Bonita.. It is both a blighted eye sore and a set of very unsafe, fire-prone buildings. This has been going on for years. We see major code violations with only minor fixes. Why can't the City either shut this operation down or force owner to correct code violations? CM McCann told us the City Code Enforcement is working on this and has definitely reached out to the property owner. It seems to us that Chula Vista City staff should be particularly concerned about the food handling businesses.

Sharmane reported that she alerted Belle Bonnie Brae Shopping Center management about Economic Development grant funds available to help them maintain/improve their center. After that she noticed that some painting has been done. Perhaps the owner of the dilapidated shopping center could also access these funds.

Harriet Taylor voiced the opinion that this shopping center is right at the entry to Bonita and does not represent our community as a nice place to live. The owner ignores all efforts to reach out and repair the buildings. It is a tinderbox and creates significant fire safety issues for the homes just to the south of this property. At this point, his focus must be on safety and maybe looks will follow. Sharon Coleman reminded us that the owner, came to one of our meetings years ago to tell us about his grand plans to tear down the old buildings, re-grade and rebuild the shopping center and thus, bringing it up to code. He felt he had the financing to do this, but nothing ever happened.

Sharon Coleman asked Mr. McCann about Cares Act grant availability money for small Chula Vista-based businesses. She was able to get this type funding last year for her small business and was hoping for this lifeline again this year. Congress did pass another Cares Act so hoping funds become available soon. CM McCann acknowledged the hardships currently facing small businesses and restaurants.

Continuing Business: None

New Business: None

Community Forum:

Bonita Alliance—Lisa Martin Goodsell did reach out to Rosie Vasquez, Community through Hope, to ascertain her organization was still operating in the face of Covid-19. Answer is “yes”. She will have further discussions about ways our members might be of assistance. She also needs to meet with CV Hot Team to get an update on their progress with the homeless and find out what works and what doesn’t work.

Traffic/Roads –Tony Tieber lead a discussion about recent significant traffic congestion and confusion along Sweetwater Road. With no warning and bad traffic pattern planning, it appears the construction was to replace high pressure gas lines, per a conversation Mike Seiler had with County. Tony then turned the remainder of his time over to Judy Tieber to bring us up to speed on the status of Proctor Valley Rd improvements. The Focus Group meet one time with County staff, but received no response to our suggested list of safety improvements. Harriet Taylor also sent a letter to County advising Brian Albright of our identified major PV Rd.safety concerns, along with our suggestions for improvements. There has been no response to date. New plan would be sending a copy of this letter to Nora Vargas, District 1 Supervisor.

Another long-awaited project to build a new sidewalk on the north side of San Miguel Rd across from Sunnyside School is underway. This project includes the installation of a modified traffic light specific to school crossings. When the Sweetwater Community Planning Group reviewed the County project plans, no mention was made of a planned “bulb-out” at the school crossing to minimize the time children/pedestrians were actually in the roadway. When the contractor started planning this phase of the project, alarm was raised that it was too dangerous. Rather than trying to mitigate concerns, Harriet Taylor issued a cease-and-desist letter to County to stop this part of the project until a traffic engineering study was conducted to look into feasibility of a left turn lane into school. Judy consequently called Murali Pasumarthi (County Traffic Engineer) to find out what was happening. She was told the “bulb-out” was a dead deal, there would be no additional traffic studies since these were done prior to road restriping and installation of the bike lanes and candlesticks. Judy feels we lost the opportunity to slow down the traffic and mitigate the current crosswalk safety issues. As we will remember, it took the fire department trucks and the Sheriff Sr. Patrol working together to slow and consolidate traffic to allow safe crossing. A modified “bulb-out” would have allowed these resources to meet other urgent community needs. We can only hope Chief Sims will allow Fire Department resources to help out again when the school reopens.

Corral Canyon is now on the 2020-2021 summer schedule for resurfacing. Central from Dawsonia to Country Trails also needs to be done. We need to keep an eye on the schedule. Tony asked about the school crossing red light installation on Central at Belle Bonnie Brae. (Judy checked with Murali about that and, no we are not getting a light. County plans to install black backings to the strobe lights to make them more visible).

Finally, we learned from Supervisor Cox’s last State of Bonita that utility undergrounding is planned along Bonita Rd from Frisbee to San Miguel Rd. during the 20-21 FY. In fiscal 2021-2022 utility undergrounding will be done along San Miguel Rd.

Tony reminded us to please call for pothole repairs, graffiti, and burned out street lights.

	County:	Chula Vista:
Pothole repairs, graffiti removal,	(877) 684-8000	(619) 397-6000
Burned-out streetlights:		

Planning Group - Steve Stonehouse told us the County made a presentation regarding updates to the County General Plan Elements: Land Use, Circulation (mobility), Housing (new), Conservation, Open Space, Noise Safety (new) and Environmental Justice (new). The Group also approved Harriet's cease and desist letter to County regarding San Miguel Rd. "bulb-out".

Membership—Sharon Coleman reported our current membership: Family-19, Family Silver-7, Individual Silver-2; Organizations-5, Gold 16. We have 19 outstanding renewals. Sharon will let these 19 know the meetings are now on Zoom so easier for them to attend.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol - Jim Woodford reported his group has been put on hold since March because of Covid-19. He is not sure if/when they will start up again due to age and that they have very few active members.

Trails —**Mark Kukuchek** reported that our Bonita trails are being used more than ever. There has not been an organized trail clean-up/maintenance since last March. Small groups are working on trails here and there as needed. County Parks is working with County officials to design and build trail 45 through the new Carriage Hills Development up through County Animal Shelter property over to connect to Degen Rd. The environmental review for Tieber trail repairs is in process. Another PLDO priority is to build a permanent bathroom at the bike park. Mark emphasized we need improvements to Proctor Valley Rd. to include bike lanes. The Bonita Highlands trails are designated county trails so maybe we could get future County help to maintain them. That said, Mark pointed out these trails are currently in better shape than most County maintained trails.

President Seiler reported that, per our plan, he presented Greg Cox with a certificate of appreciation and a life-time membership to the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association. He hopes this keeps our organization in mind if Mr. Cox decides to get involved in future endeavors that might impact Bonita. President Seiler also reminded us the Bonita Library—Bonita Museum and Cultural Center complex has been named the Greg Cox Community Center.

The Dave's Wholesale Warehouse proposal will be an informational only item on the next Sweetwater Community Planning Group meeting agenda (February 2, 2021)

President Seiler thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

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.