

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
October 6, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Judy Tieber via an in-person meeting at The Bonita Library Community Room. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Judy asked a moment of silence to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals. And an appreciation of those currently serving to protect us, including Health Care workers and Teaching Professionals.

Judy expressed happiness for the first in person meeting in a long time. She also thanked Prudence Prince for all the Zoom meetings she set up and hosted. She then welcomed all the new members and personally recognized them by name. New members were Barbara Davies, Nicole Torcellini, Lauren Jachimowicz, and Briana Palacio. Judy also recognized the guests present and all elected officials and their representatives

**Directors Present:** Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Sharmane Estolano, Tony Tieber, Mike Clowers, and Sharon Coleman.

**Members Present:** Prudence Prince, Mark Kukuchek, Gustavo Reynosa, Nicole Torcellini, Briana Palacio, Daryl Hern, Harriet Taylor, and Mike Samsel.

**Guests Present:** Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Chief Michael Sims, Andrew Harvey from Supervisor District 1, Nora Vargas' Office, Christopher Franz from Representative Sara Jacobs Office, Julio Garcia from the San Diego County Sheriff's Office, and Joseph Perez from Chula Vista John McCann's Office, and Claire Moss from San Diego County.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Judy asked for a motion to approve minutes. Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve, Sharmane Estolono provided the second. Minutes approved as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Stephen Stonehouse reported the October 2021 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>October</u>
Checking	\$1,920.65
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,464.34
Ending Balance	\$4,384.99

His report was accepted as presented.

**Climate Action Plan:** Claire Moss, a Land Use, Environmental planner for San Diego County, made a special presentation regarding the county's Climate Action Plan (CAP). She notified us that the Bonita meeting will be on October 26, 2021, from 5:30 to 7:30 at Provence house. Claire indicated by attending you will get to meet the writers of the CAP and tell the writers what the community wants. She indicated that as the CAP process proceeds, she will keep us informed and send us information as it becomes available. Judy indicated that all our members would be notified of the date and time of the CAP meeting at Provence House.

**Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims:** The Chief indicated that call volume was down this month. Their fire truck and crew have now spent 6 weeks at the Dixie Fire, which is an extended time from the original plan. All Fire Departments that sent crews have been extended.

The Chief reminded us that about 6 months ago, the Bonita/Sunnyside Fire department switched to EMS transport, with Chula Vista, from AMR which had been their previous transport. There appears to be no downside with this new arrangement and EMS is in 95% compliance. Chula Vista is receptive and open to input from his department.

The department is in a 4-part leadership program, and they are about half way through the program.

The Chief notified us that the grant he applied for to CalFire was turned down again. However, in a recent meeting with Supervisor Vargas, when she visited the fire station, she encouraged the Chief to apply for a grant from the County. Judy thought that if the Chief applied for the grant that the SVCA should send a letter of support to the county.

Mike Clowers talked to the Chief about the EMS transport units going through Bonita to Chula Vista via the San Miguel/Proctor Valley road corridor, something he had not noticed when AMR had the contract. The Chief was not exactly sure why that was happening but suggested the possibility that the EMS supply station was in Chula Vista and that was the shortest route.

**Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative:** Andrew indicated that the Supervisor was working to find funding in support of the projects that her team had identified in the Sweetwater Valley. He reiterated that the Vargas team had a good visit with the chief at the Fire Station.

Andrew commented on the meeting that was supposed to occur at the Bike Park but had to be cancelled because of rain. Supervisor Vargas still has plans for a get-together but is also considering that it takes place at the Bonita Garden. No decisions have been made yet. Sharmane suggested that the Supervisor also consider Summit Park for the meeting.

Andrew briefly touched on County grants and indicated that they are working through proposals submitted by citizen groups. He also indicated that he is still trying to get information on the trails that we had requested his help on. Lastly, he notified us that Supervisor Vargas is looking to sponsor a budget "Pop up" meeting to get citizen input but that the date and time have not yet been finalized.

## **Law Enforcement Reports:**

**CHP:** Not present.

**Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia:** We welcomed Julio back after a long absence because of the pandemic and he indicated that he was happy to be back. He provided his usual crime map for Bonita; this one was for September 2021 showing a small number of crimes that had been committed and he noted that the crime rate was low for the Sweetwater Valley. He told us about a Break-in on Winnetka and noted that there was little of information collected, some of which was misinformation. He noted that there has been an increase in domestic violence because of the pandemic and everyone staying at home.

Julio notified people that they could track crime on crimemapping.com. Using a zip code, a person can find out all the crime being committed in that Zip code. The site is a comprehensive list of all agencies in San Diego County.

Julio notified us of a gun buy-back program on Saturday October 9, 2021

Julio had a number of handouts including: "Protect Your Vehicle", "Fraud and Identity Theft", "Personal Safety", "When to Call 9-1-1 and the Sheriff's Non-Emergency Line".

A short question and answer session was held after the presentation.

**Chula Vista Police Officer:** Not represent.

## **Elected Representative Reports:**

**House of Representatives Sara Jacobs' Office Christopher Franz** was in attendance. This was his first meeting, so he introduced himself.

He noted that Sara Jacobs had attended "Academy Night" 43 perspective officers were in attendance and each gave a small speech. Also, that Representative Jacobs was involved in trying to find humanitarian help for people of Ethiopia, who were caught in the middle of a civil war. She is extremely concerned about the genocide.

Since October is Fire Awareness month, Representative Jacobs will interface with Fire Departments within her district to determine their needs and provide support where appropriate.

A question arose about the potential shutdown of MCRD. Christopher said he had no current information regarding that but indicated the possibility that this was just a rumor.

**Council Member John McCann Representative Joseph Perez.** Joseph was replacing Samantha Trickey. He discussed the Chula Vista Golf course and the upgrade planned using Capital Improvement funds. He indicated that the Dog Park Inside Rohr park is being well used and it has the most use of any Dog Park in Chula Vista.

He alluded to an uptick in crime in the City and noted that Chula Vista will add two officers to their traffic enforcement unit.

A discussion arose about the potential downsize of the Chula Vista Golf Course. This has been a point of discussion for a long time. The discussion centered around the downsize possibility and whether a Recreation center could be built and utilized at the course. There was no resolution to this proposal.

Another question arose about the container restaurant planned in Rohr Park. Joseph indicated that he had no current information but would check into that plan and forward an email to us regarding the plan.

### **Continuing Business:**

**Logo Replacement:** The SVCA still needs to contact Bob Chicca about replacing our old SVCA logo with the new one on the Community Organization structure on Bonita Road.

**County Grant Proposal:** Tony reported on the Neighborhood Grant Proposal forwarded to the County. He thanked Stephen for the financial assistance and Judy for her thoughts regarding the text and the editing of the same. He also thanked all reviewers and the SVCA officers who were required to sign the proposal. He indicated that the online form was not adaptable to some of the information that the SVCA wanted to supply to the county, so he did the best he could with the form and sent it to the county. To cover all the bases, he and Judy created a hard copy of the proposal and delivered that to the county. The county was notified that the proposal had been submitted.

**Neighborhood Directors:** Judy reported on her perusal of the Neighborhood Directors duties and noted the number of open positions. She convened a small informal meeting at Rohr Park with a small number of members to discuss the Neighborhood Director's program. As a result of her study and the feedback from the small get-together in Rohr Park, she made the following comments regarding potential changes:

- Neighborhood Directors bring issues to the monthly meeting, which is then used to take action, such as requesting the Senior Volunteer patrol to locate their "Speed Wagon" in a particular area.
- Neighborhood Directors are a direct link to the people in their assigned area and often provide them with important items such as a list of emergency phone numbers.
- Judy referenced the Directors map and the unfiled Director positions.
- Judy indicated she needs everybody's ideas and that these ideas would be discussed at the November meeting. She cited several ideas people had suggested such as a presence on Next Door, a welcoming committee, and attendance at events where sign up for the SVCA is possible.

### **New Business.**

**Boy Scouts:** Judy referenced an opportunity that presented itself during the BonitaFest car parade regarding a local Boy Scout troop. That troop would be willing to participate in our activities. Judy thought that we could enlist them in a clean up effort in the Sweetwater Valley or some other projects. A suggestion to use the Scouts to deliver SVCA Flyers was made.

**Honda Community Involvement Team:** Judy indicated that she had become aware of this organization who tries to make wishes come true and that they were looking for projects in which to participate. They are interested in performing community service.

**Special November Meeting:** Judy talked about a special “Welcome Back” meeting to be held in November. This meeting was presented as both a celebration and marketing opportunity. Small refreshments would be served such as soda, water, and coffee and the meeting would be held in such a way as to keep all people safe. Sharmane Estolono and Sharon Coleman expressed their thoughts about approaching local businesses such as Starbucks and Hans and Harry to see if they would provide coffee and desserts in exchange for our acknowledging their generosity. Judy reminded us that the library requires us to clean up and ensure that there are no lasting odors or trash lying about.

**Member at Large.** Sharmane Estolano presented an idea which would be an apparent change to SVCA bylaws. In addition to the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, a new member would be added to the board. The reason for the “at Large” member would be used to break ties among the board members. Sharmane felt that Judy, as president and Tony, as secretary, being of the same family might carry too much weight if a vote of the board was required. Tony disagreed with the recommendation noting that all members get to vote on any action item not just the board, which seldom if ever votes as just the four members. Judy read the by-laws section pertaining to the president. We already have the potential for 16 board members if all the Neighborhood Director positions are filled. We need to concentrate on filling those positions. Action on this item will be delayed until a future date.

### **Community Forum:**

**Bonita Alliance**—Lisa Martin Goodsell was unable to attend.

**Traffic/Roads** – Mike Clowers provided the following Report. Mike was concerned that we no longer have the CHP at our meetings but noted that he had talked to several officers on patrol in his neighborhood. He reiterated the requirement that a road had to be certified for that road to be patrolled and radar used. He did not think that TIM, Acacia, or Winnetka were certified but that San Miguel was certified. A certification can only be made by the County Traffic Advisory Committee, so normally, someone has to appear before that committee with a recommendation.

Mike discussed the weeds and debris along Proctor Valley Road and more specifically where the county maintenance ends, and Chula Vista maintenance starts. He indicates that it takes time to contact each of the agencies and get clean-up action to occur. Mike reminded us that Supervisor Vargas is trying to obtain funding for improvement of Proctor Valley Road and that the county road repair project has a five-year plan. There was a discussion regarding Ice plant growing on the sidewalk, street signs that need replacing, APPs that can be used to get action, and even

appearing before the Chula Vista City Council. The County is in the process of changing the speed on Corral Canyon Road from 35 mpg to 30 mph. Now that the leak has been repaired, the road stripping has been completed and several of the signs have been changed to 30 mph. Road marking with 30 mph is still in process.

<b>Pothole repairs, graffiti removal,</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Chula Vista:</b>
<b>Burned-out streetlights:</b>	<b>(877) 684-8000</b>	<b>(619) 397-6000</b>
<b>Illegal dumping:</b>	<b>(858) 694-2212</b>	<b>(619) 397-6000</b>

**Planning Group** – Steve reported that the planning group had received a presentation from the County planner regarding “Green Streets”. This plan which is currently being vetted would try to absorb water at the source versus letting it run off.

The Ace Storage plan was rejected by the Planning Group which will recommend to the Planning Commission that the project not go forward. The Planning group will alert people as to when this will happen and for any other action that the Planning group may take.

There was some discussion about whether the SVCA should take action regarding the ACE Storage project with some thinking it should and others thinking it shouldn't. There was no decision at the meeting.

**(Membership** – Sharon gave us an update on what the SVCA did during the BonitaFest. Judy participated in the walk and Tony and Sharon set up a membership table by the library with water and candy for anyone who wanted to partake. After the walk, Sharon, Judy, and Tony met with perspective members. In addition, Sharon and Judy participated in the car parade using Judy's truck with several banners on it including the SVCA banner. It was a fun two days.

Sharon also talked about the SVCA Flyer and the need to update same. Judy indicated she was aware of the update need and would take responsibility for making that happen.

Sharon also gave a membership update:  
GOLD/ORG - 1, GOLD- 19, ORG/PROFIT- 4, ORG/NON PROFIT-2 (4 ORG ARE STILL NOT RENEWED-- DOING MY BEST- BONITA HORSEMEN SAYS THE CHECKS COMING), INDIVIDUALS- 12, FAMILY- 15,FAMILY SILVER- 1

**Sr. Volunteer Patrol** - Jim Woodford was not available but did send the following report

SEPTEMBER 2021 SHERIFF SR. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	96
Number of Patrols	8
Number of Miles Driven	551
Vacation Checks	3
YANA Visits	0
YANA Calls	30
Citizen Assists	3
Traffic Control	0
Front counter Safety Center	28
Number of Volunteers	11

**Trails:** No report was available.

**Community Forum:** Mike Samsel persevered through the entire meeting to provide the following information regarding the Sweetwater Authority water rates. Mike is a member of the Sweetwater Ratepayers Association and has been working to keep our water rates as low as possible. Sweetwater Authority buys water from San Diego County Water Authority, and rate payers pay the pass-through charges from San Diego County Water Authority. Several Water Districts sued the San Diego County Water Authority regarding these pass-through charges. The suit was just settled, and the Sweetwater Authority will receive a rebate. However, these rebates to Sweetwater Customers will be offset by a rise in water rates from the Sweetwater Authority. Bottom Line, Customers are unlikely to notice the rebate.

Daryl Hern reported that the Bonita Museum is an important part of our community. They have a number of exhibitions which change periodically, and they have lots of presentations. It is important that we support the museum.

The meeting was adjourned at XXXXXXXX 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Anthony P. 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 related directly to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.