

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
December 1, 2021**

Draft

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 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 welcomed all the members and recognized our guests and all elected officials and their representatives.

Directors Present: Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Tony Tieber, Mike Clowers, and Sharon Coleman

Members Present: Mark Kukuchek, Daryl Hern, Harriet Taylor, Jim Woodford, Prudence Prince, Mike Sampsel, Jamie Tobitt, and Steve & Bobbie Minton.

Guests Present: Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Chief Michael Sims, Andrew Harvey from Supervisor District 1, Nora Vargas' Office, Christopher Frantz from Representative Sara Jacobs Office, and Julio Garcia from the San Diego County Sheriff's Office, and Jose Contreras.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Judy asked for a motion to approve minutes. Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve; Mike Clowers provided the second. Minutes approved as written.

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

	<u>December</u>
Checking	\$1,708.09
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,464.42
Ending Balance	\$4,172.51

His report was accepted as presented.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: The Chief indicated that they made 197 calls this past month and that these were at 97.3% compliance with EMS. Chief Sims talked about their Annual Toy Drive in coordination with the Salvation Army. El Cajon Station 6 is the assembly point. They will accept toys up to a few days before Christmas, and donations will be accepted at the Bonita Fire Station lobby between the hours of 8:00 and 4:30. Chief Sims reminded us that they no longer participate in "Toys for Tots" program.

Chief Sims has submitted a Grant Application to the County. He also indicated that all Fire Dept personnel passed the yearly test including a skills test, and they took time to celebrate.

The Chief talked about the flyers that he placed on the entry table that addressed Smoke Alarms for Seniors. The Alarms are free to anyone 62 years of age or older and are provided by the Burn Institute whose number is 858-541-2277 and whose email is smokealarm@burninstitute.org. With regard to the firefighting Services provide for the wildfires in Northern California, the Chief told us they had just completed the paperwork that documents how much the state needs to reimburse the Bonita/Sunnyside Fire Department for their assistance, and the amount appears to be \$380,000.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP, Officer Salvador Castro: The CHP officer was not available for this meeting.

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia: Julio reported that crime had increased this last month, especially related to “Crash and Steal”. There was vandalism related to cars, especially when the car owner left something of value in the car. The thieves don’t care how much damage they do to a car if they can get to the valuable items inside.

Specialist Castro reminded everyone that the Sheriff’s department provides free residential security consultation. Just call him to schedule. Julio notified us that he will be staffing a Public Awareness both related to safety during the holidays on December 8, 2021, in Bonita. He handed out a flyer related to this event which will be held from 9:30-1:30 at 5035 Centra Avenue.

He handed out brochures called “Personal Safety” and reminded everyone to beware of thieves when coming out of stores with packages. He provided a printout labeled “Holiday Safety Tips” which showed steps to take when using your car for shopping. He reminded us that package stealing can also occur when a person has packages delivered to their home. He provided a printout called “Delivery Confirmation” that show safety tips when packages are scheduled for home delivery.

Officer Castro provided us with a crime map for the Bonita/Sunnyside area which showed the type of crimes that were committed in our neighborhoods. He wanted us to know about programs supported by the Sheriff’s department, and some additional information we need to know. He handed out brochures for these programs and information, including the “Neighborhood Watch Program”, “You are not Alone”, “Reporting Suspicious Activity”, “Fraud and Identity Theft”, “Prescription Drug Disposal”, “Protecting Your Vehicle”, “Crime prevention for Senior Citizens” and “When to call 911 or the Non-Emergency Number”.

Chula Vista Police Officer: Not represent.

Elected Representative Reports:

House of Representatives Sara Jacobs’ Office Christopher Frantz: Christopher reported that Representative Jacobs and her office were heavily involved in Veterans Affairs, and were involved in a lot of activities specifically related to Veterans Day. There were activities at MCRD and the VA Hospital. She has a particular interest in a PTSD program that is now available on the West Coast. She supports the “Build Back Better Act” because of the effect it will have on infrastructure, Climate Change, Broadband expansion, and Airport modernization. Representative Jacobs is looking to attend events around the community, and that the office staff is actively working on year-end financial data and reports.

Representative Jacobs does put out a monthly newsletter that appears on her web site and is available in printed form. Christopher indicated that he would be bringing printed copies of that newsletter to the SVCA meetings.

Council Member John McCann Representative Amanda Angulo: No representative was available from Councilmember John McCann's office.

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: Andrew reported on the flyers with important telephone numbers that he is working to complete. He indicated that this is still a work in progress. The Supervisor has received the application by the Bonita/Sunnyside Fire Department for a Neighborhood grant, and that request was being processed.

The Supervisor realizes that small businesses have had a hard time during the Covid Pandemic and is planning to hold a Small Business Round Table to discuss the issues and come up with solutions for small businesses. Similarly, Supervisor Vargas realizes that everyone has had hard times during the pandemic, and she is in the process of setting up an Office of Economic Prosperity to provide assistance. Regarding roads, Supervisor Vargas has made Proctor Valley Road a priority and is working on issues related to this road. Several items came up for discussion from the SVCA members. Harriet Taylor requested that the Planning Group member for the Bonita Area, come to Bonita for a tour. Tony asked Andrew to investigate an excavation that was occurring on Central Avenue. Judy thanked Andrew for helping Sergio with issues regarding his Bonita Store expansion.

New Business. Guest Speaker. Judy introduced Jamie Tobitt and Jose Contreras to talk about the web site known as "Nextdoor". Neither is an employee of the site, and they are not here to promote the site but to provide information on how to use the site. Jamie indicated that Nextdoor is a social media experiment but dedicated to specific neighborhoods. Jamie noted that if you sign up as a member of a neighborhood, you must prove that you live in that neighborhood. Jamie said that he is the Lead Nextdoor representative for the Bonita Road section from 805 to Surrey.

Jose supported Jamie and noted that you can see all area posts if you want, or you can limit what you see to a particular area. They noted there are Guidelines, and in particular, posts have to be respectful; there is no racial discrimination and no business promotion. If the Guidelines are violated, there is a process in place where certain "leaders" will vote to remove the post. Jamie indicated that the site works best when everyone adheres to the rules.

Jose indicated that he is the lead for the Bonita Highlands and there is a forum for that area. The presenters went into some specific actions people can take. For example, if you don't want to view a particular response or someone who is making a comment, there is a way to mute the person or the discussion or even to mute certain topics that you are not interested in receiving. If you believe that someone is "trolling", you can report that and have action taken against the Troll. With Covid, the site has instituted certain guidelines to prevent erroneous information from being communicated.

In answer to questions related to information on the site never being deleted, repetitive messaging, and entries just "moving down", the presenters suggested using keywords to only get the information that you want. Members suggested that we ensure that the site recognizes the keywords "SVCA", "Sweetwater", and "Bonita". Jamie indicated that there is no current way to get "analytics" which will show how many people view your posts. Tony indicated this is important if we are trying to use the site to reach members of an organization or to attract new members.

Office of Sheriff. Judy posed a question in the agenda on whether to ask the three candidates running for office to make presentations to the SVCA. There seemed to be agreement among the members that this was a good idea, and Judy was asked to make it happen. The key issue was

the date at which each speaker would attend or whether all three would attend at the same time. Judy agreed to work out the details.

Continuing Business: SVCA Flyer: Judy indicated that the flyer is now available for distribution. Harriet Taylor reminded us the name of the Planning Group is the Sweetwater Community Planning Group and that the flyer has Sweetwater Valley Community Planning Group. Judy will make sure this is fixed before more copies are made.

Updated Community Contact List. Judy again reminded Andrew that the two of them needed to complete the telephone list of important numbers. This was also discussed earlier when Andrew made his county presentation.

Election of Stephen Stonehouse to Area Director Seat 2: Tony moved and Harriet Taylor seconded to move Stephen into Area Director Seat 2 which is the neighborhood where he lives. The motion carried unanimously. Congratulations to Stephen.

Community Forum:

Bonita Alliance—Lisa Martin Goodsell was unable to attend.

Traffic/Roads – Mike Clowers provided the following report on the Hawk Beacon that will be located at Sunnyside Elementary school. He indicated that Jim Bolz will present this signal installation plan to the Sweetwater Community Planning Group at their next meeting which is next Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 7:00 at the Bonita Fire station. Regarding the signal, Mike indicated that when a person pushes the “walk” button, the signal will flash yellow and then go to red. Thus, it works similarly to a normal traffic signal.

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

Planning Group – Steve Stonehouse reported that the District Redistricting Committee would hold a meeting on December 2, 2021, to discuss the proposed final maps. This will be both an in-person and a virtual meeting. This meeting will be on Linda Vista Road. Harriet Taylor talked about some of the pitfalls in the redistricting maps, especially in Area 2 and Area 3. Regarding the next Planning Meeting, it was announced that this area Planning’s Commission member will be in attendance and that the Quarry Road Storage facility would be discussed at the January Meeting. The Quarry Road Storage facility will be a presentation only, not an action item.

Membership – Sharon Coleman gave a membership update
Org/Profit Partner - 4, Org/Non-Profit Partner- 6 (includes 1 Gold), Silver/Family- 1 Family- 18, Individuals- 10, Gold- 19. She also mentioned the various costs associated with membership: Gold \$250, Silver \$100, Family \$25, and Individual \$15.
She also briefly discussed marketing, indicating that for her “door to door” is best because you need to make connections. She has started doing this on the street where she lives. The new SVCA flyer is good and will help our recruitment efforts. The marketing effort is never done. You must always look for the next opportunity.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol - Jim Woodford. The Senior Patrol is managing 2-3 patrols per week. The Chief Administrator will retire at the end of the year, and so far no one has stepped up to take his place. This event will present a challenge to the group. Jim indicated that he does not want the job. Jim asked about our process of providing the medallion graphic to the Kiwanis club for display on Bonita Road. Judy indicated that we were in the process of sending the graphics file.

Jim emailed the following statistics:

November 2021 SHERIFF SR. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	144
Number of Patrols	12
Number of Miles Driven	817
Vacation Checks	5
YANA Visits	0
YANA Calls	30
Citizen Assists	3
Traffic Control	9
Front counter Safety Center	32
Number of Volunteers	11

Trails: Mike Kukuchek. Mark was in attendance but had no updates not even for Tieber Trail.

Community Forum: Harriet Taylor talked about “Community Through Hope” and their separation from the city of Chula Vista over a dispute about funding. She also referenced a CarMax facility that will be built in National City. This facility will displace several homeless people, and groups are working with the displaced homeless to find them lodging. Harriet mentioned an “Open House” to be held at the Grant House located in Carriage Hills Estates from 1:00-4:00 on December 12, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 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.