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

**SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
February 3, 2021
DRAFT**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice President Tony Tieber via Zoom. He welcomed everyone to our second Zoom meeting. Tony asked a moment of silence to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals, as well as our front-line essential workers.

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

Members Present: Harriet Taylor, Mark Kukuchek, Lisa M. Goodsell, Prudence Prince, Greg Ward, Susie Murphy, Jessie Jovel, German Gonzalez

Guests Present: Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Chief Michael Sims, Chula Vista Council Member Representative Samantha Trickey, Jessica Mier from House of Representatives Sara Jacobs Office, CHP Officer Salvador Castro, CHP Captain Taylor Cooper, Rosa Olascoaga and Andrew Harvey from Supervisor District 1, Nora Vargas' Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tony asked three times if there were any corrections to the minutes. No corrections offered so minutes were accepted as written.

Tony welcomed Andrew Harvey and Rosa Olascoaga from Supervisor Nora Vargas' Office, Captain Taylor Cooper and Officer Salvador Castro from the CHP and new member Jessie Jovel to our meeting.

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

	<u>February</u>
Checking	\$2,135.68
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,464.01
Ending Balance	\$4,599.69

Stephen told us he has \$105 in new memberships and he has reactivated the Keep It Growing account for SVCA digital services to include our website/Facebook. His report was accepted as presented.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP: **Captain Taylor Cooper** introduced himself and **Officer Salvador Castro** who will serve as our Public Service Officer. Captain Taylor expressed appreciation for our on-going CHP support for their service to our community. Officer Castro told us he plans to be patrolling in Bonita two days a week. We can report our concerns with traffic violations to him at the main CHP Office: **1-858-293-6000** or by email: Salvador.Castro@CHP.CA.gov. For January, he

reported 9 speeding tickets, 6 collisions, and 1 DUI arrest. He will be focusing on our main traffic arteries of San Miguel Road, Corral Canyon, busy intersections and where we have a lot of bicycle/car traffic. Presently, there is a lot of concern about pedestrians-bicycles and the current climate of cars speeding through intersections. He reminded us that a yellow light means to prepare to stop—not step on the gas. He offered to send a monthly report to Judy to be included in our meeting minutes. Steve Stonehouse alerted Officer Castro to the ever-increasing problem of motorists ignoring signs and barricade at Frisbee St. Sharon Coleman mentioned the on-going problem of significant speeding on Winnetka. Mike Clowers expressed appreciation for CHP service because it really does make a difference. Prudence Prince and Mark Kukuchek also asked for CHP presence on Acacia St. also for speeding, especially early mornings, 6-8 am. Officer Castro will take these areas under advisement and incorporate into his areas of focus.

We also learned that the CHP is setting up a “Coffee with a Cop” at Donny’s Café for an upcoming Saturday morning in March. Judy will send out more specific information when available.

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 continue to be busy with 160 calls last month. Two officers are working 14 day shifts to help give Covid vaccines. One officer does in-house testing with a 6-hr. turn-around time. He was pleased to report that all officers have been vaccinated so 100% compliant with CDC guidelines. We learned that the CCC (CA Conservation Corp) has been busy doing a lot of work cleaning up the open spaces off Sweetwater Rd. near Briarwood and along Bonita Road open space areas. Chief Sims is still hoping to get grant funding to allow them to have a tree cutting training day here and there. In the meantime, he is working with Park Rangers to identify and remove dead trees as resources allow.

Elected Representative Reports:

Council Member John McCann Representative, Samantha Trickey, reported on a meeting with Bob Strahl to discuss issues and problems with the Chula Vista Golf Course. This will be followed up with a zoom meeting to address identified concerns. Tony Tieber reported that the new flag at San Miguel Community Park is missing. Ms. Trickey had no updates on the status of code enforcement related to the dilapidated wood shopping center.

Supervisor Nora Vargas Representatives, Andrew Harvey and Rosa Olascoaga Introduced themselves. Andrew serves as the Community Representative to District 1, and Rosa serves as Policy Advisor in the areas of housing, transportation, and land use. Rosa talked briefly about the current status of the Tijuana Riverbed as an area of public health crisis and told us about plans to work with UCSD to develop a regional goal of zero carbon emissions. Harriet Taylor wanted to talk about the recent Nathan Fletcher/Nora Vargas letter to Supervisors about Cannabis business establishment in San Diego County. A main concern was the statement about on-site consumption. Rosa told us the County is just beginning to figure out how to establish legal cannabis business that complies with the will of the people to have such services in the State of California.

This is being considered a:

- social justice issue as many people had convictions for possession of marijuana which is now legal,
- good way to stop illegal shops,
- pathway to obtaining licenses and operating legally,
- gain a source for tax income

This letter represents the beginning of this lengthy process, and there will be many opportunities to engage the public and hear our concerns. We hope the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association will be a conduit to the public to help spread the word about meetings, announcements, etc.

Andrew will let Harriet Taylor know the name of our new District 1 Planning Commissioner. Susie Murphy and Mike Kukuchek expressed their desire to show off our trails either by walking, biking, or horseback riding to our new supervisor and her staff. It is important for them to understand and appreciate this local resource.

House of Representatives Sara Jacobs' Office Jessica Mier gave us a brief update on what our new Representative has been doing. Rep. Sara Jacobs has been in office for one month, and hit the ground running with committee assignments to House Services and Foreign Affairs. In addition to the January 6th insurrection, impeachment and inauguration activities, her priority is on development of the Covid-19 Relief Bill to include small business help, childcare, schools reopening safely, food insecurity, etc. Jessica is working to develop an electronic newsletter which should be available soon. Jessica told us she is now Deputy Chief of staff for Rep. Jacobs and is now in charge of staff located in Washington D.C. as well as San Diego.

Continuing Business: Dilapidated Shopping Center—more complaints are being made. Neighbors have “had it” with the continuing non-response to code violations. Something has to get done. Chula Vista has to take charge of this dangerous situation. Chief Sims confirmed his concerns about the wooden structures including the wood shake shingles. This place is a serious fire hazard, but his hands are tied because this is within Chula Vista city limits. His suggestion is to take it before the City Council and demand action. We were told that an arson fire did take place behind the Sushi restaurant and Bonita Fire did respond. John Taylor said the best way to move forward is to go to a Chula Vista City Council Meeting, Tuesdays 5-7 p.m. and to e-comment on the CV website.

New Business: The website fees have been paid, and we are up and running. Minutes and agendas are now being posted as we get back on track with our meetings. As a reminder, minutes are not posted until approved at the following month's meeting. Lisa Goodsell stated that it is important to have this information online as it serves as an electronic library for our actions. After some discussion, Tony told us that no one volunteered to learn how to post documents, so we will have Keep It Growing continue to provide that service. Regarding on-line payments for both new and continuing members, that project is being reactivated now that meetings have been restarted. Tony reminded us that the original funding for our website came from a County grant. Now, it is up to SVCA to continue to cover on-going costs for maintenance and upgrades.

We are pleased to have new member Jesse Jovel join us and volunteer to serve as Area 7 Director. Stephen Stonehouse moved and Sharmane Estolano seconded a motion to appoint Jesse Jovel to be the Area 7 Director. Motion passed and we expressed our appreciation for his interest and willingness to step up.

Community Forum:

Bonita Alliance—Lisa Martin Goodsell did talk to Rosy Vasquez, Community Through Hope, to find out how her organization was fairing. Rosy told her they are working to help homeless people get IDs so they can continue on a path to recovery. It is not an easy task. Lisa reported the Chula Vista Hot Team, South Bay Community Services, and San Diego County are all working on the homeless issue, but legal action can only be taken if they break the law. We question why creating significant pollution is not against the law. The problem continues that chronic homeless people do not want to conform to societal rules. Community through Hope gives them a lot of support to help them change, but many just cannot do it. Lisa suggested that there are organizations in place working hard on the homelessness problems, some with more success over others. It makes more sense to strengthen the efforts of those with a proven track record (like CTH) versus creating yet another group through SVCA. Any SVCA members who would like to volunteer with Community Through Hope, please give Lisa your name and contact information via email LisaColetteArt@cox.net or go directly through CTH to identify which function is best suited to you to take part in volunteering. www.CommunityThroughHope.org.

Judy Tieber brought up the article in the UT regarding the San Diego River Park Foundation joining with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) to get grant funding to move homeless out of the riverbed and into permanent housing. Would we, as an organization, like to explore this avenue to address our homeless problem? We could partner with Community through Hope or another organization working to resolve this issue. Everyone seemed agreeable, and Jesse Jovel told us he has experience helping homeless, and will send information to Judy. Lisa Martin Goodsell agreed that obtaining a grant is a good idea, but that we need to vote on how the grant money would be used. Currently there is a problem of misappropriated funds within City/County/State monies spent on the homelessness community.

Traffic/Roads –Tony turned this part of the meeting over to Mike Clowers to update us on Proctor Valley Rd. issues. Anthony Berry, from County Public Works did an on-site review of the totally inadequate storm drain issue along Proctor Valley Rd. Steve Croft, also from Public Works was also there. Steve directs the County efforts to clean out the drainage ditch so he is well aware of the problems. Anthony developed a drainage flow chart as a first step to address the problem. Mike did tell him about all our various concerns and ongoing efforts to improve the safety of this stretch of roadway, and suggested Anthony coordinate proposed solutions with Murali Pasumarthi. Mike also reported the sidewalk and retaining wall on the north side of San Miguel Rd near the school is finished and looks great. No parking signs are still not up along San Miguel Road east of Proctor Valley Rd. No information on why County is not moving forward with this Planning Group approved project. Everyone is happy with how the No Overnight Parking signs are working along Central by the Belle Bonnie Brae shopping center.

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

**Pothole repairs, graffiti removal,
Burned-out streetlights:**

County:
(877) 684-8000

Chula Vista:
(619) 397-6000

Planning Group - Steve Stonehouse told us the Planning Group had a general discussion about the Cannabis letter discussed earlier in our meeting. A modification request to add 5-G capacity to the cell tower near the animal control property was reviewed and approved.

Membership—Sharon Coleman reported our current membership: Individual—9, Family-21, Family Silver-2, Individual Silver-1, Organizations-7, Gold 17. We have several outstanding renewals and a few new membership requests. Sharon will let these people know the meetings are now on Zoom so easier for them to attend. She also reviewed the various membership costs which have not changed. Sharon expressed her desire for an on-line solution because the current process is pretty labor intensive.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol - Jim Woodford reported his group has been put on hold since March 2020 because of Covid-19. He is not sure if/when they will start up again, but reported members are getting vaccinated against Covid and would like to resume patrol duties.

Trails –Mark Kukuchek reported that our Bonita trails continue to be well used. He again offered to take our new Supervisor, Nora Vargas on a tour of our trails. County Parks is continuing to work 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 still in process. We are still on track to build a permanent bathroom at the bike park.

At 8:20 pm Lisa Martin-Goodsell moved to adjourn, Steve Stonehouse provided the second. Approved w/o objection. Vice President Tieber 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 related directly to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.