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

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING June 2, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Mike Seiler via Zoom. He welcomed everyone to our meeting. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike 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 serving to protect us.

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

Members Present: Prudence Prince, Greg Ward, Mark Kukuchek, Harriet Taylor, Tom Pocklington, Darin Kuite, Lisa Martin-Goodsell, Elizabeth Stonehouse.

Guests Present: Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Chief Michael Sims, Andrew Harvey from Supervisor District 1, Nora Vargas' Office,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mike asked for a motion to approve minutes. Tony Tieber moved to approve, Sharmane Estolano provided the second. Minutes approved as written.

We welcomed a new member, Darin Kuite.

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

	<u>June</u>
Checking	\$1,721.04
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,464.17
Ending Balance	\$4,195.21

His report was accepted as presented. We thank everyone who has renewed their membership for the 2021-22 year. Your support is much appreciated.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP: Not present. We can contact Officer Castro by phone or email: CHP Office: **1-858-293-6000** or Salvador.Castro@CHP.CA.gov.

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia not available to attend. But we do hope to have him back at future meetings.

Chula Vista Police Officer: No representation.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims reported activity was slightly down from previous months with calls numbering 127. One notable call was to rescue a hiker. This rescue was conducted in conjunction with a rescue helicopter, San Diego Fire, and San Miguel fire teams. It all worked out well; and it was an interesting rescue for those team members involved.

We may notice the Mourning Flag is out to honor the recent shooting victims from La Costa. The Chief continues discussion with Chula Vista Fire regarding the deteriorating condition of the Berdeski Shopping Center. Chief Sims will keep working at this, but we also must stay on our public officials to address this problem. We have a new fire department candidate currently attending the academy, another just passed probation. The new ambulance service is working great, still addressing some operational kinks as a work in progress.

Elected Representative Reports:

Council Member John McCann Representative, Samantha Trickey, unable to attend.

House of Representatives Sara Jacobs' Office Jessica Mier unable to attend.

Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative, Andrew Harvey gave us an update on the County vaccination program. We are seeing good compliance, and residents are taking advantage of the vaccine availability. We were also told that the Supervisor is holding “pop up” meetings on June 5 to discuss the County Budget and obtain citizen input before the budget gets finalized. Our Bonita meeting will be at 11:30 at the Bonita Museum and Cultural Center. They are holding attendance to around 35 so everyone has an opportunity to speak.

Supervisor Vargas is interested in continuing our long tradition of the annual State of Bonita presentation. We will be working to have this scheduled in August. President Seiler suggested we could give her an SVCA pen as a thank you.

Sharmane Estolano asked Andrew about getting some much-needed grant funding for the SVCA. We know new Neighborhood Reinvestment funds will not be available until December. Tony Tieber explained briefly how the grant funds are requested via an application, and that our organization would be working on that in the near future.

Continuing Business:

Tony Tieber updated us on the effort to establish online dues payments through PayPal. All our forms and information have been accepted. Currently Tony and Keep It Growing (KIG) are conducting tests for both renewal and new on-line memberships. This is a coordinated effort between Sharon Coleman (Membership), Stephen Stonehouse (Treasurer), Tony and KIG. When the on-line membership form is completed, copies go directly to Sharon and Stephen. Stephen can then transfer payments directly to our SVCA checking account so much easier and less labor intensive. If more comfortable for members, they may still print out the form and send in with a check.

Community Forum:

Bonita Alliance—Lisa Martin Goodsell has started a new career and is talking with a few others to see if they can step in to help us work on the homeless problem. She would still like to be involved in addressing the Berdeski property issues.

Traffic/Roads –Tony Tieber mentioned how nice Corral Canyon looks after the repaving. Unfortunately, a water pipe was cracked in the process along Corral Canyon near Steeplechase. Evidently there is discussion about which entity should be responsible for repairs.

Another issue for discussion is the lack of paint on the existing traffic calming islands. They are extremely faded and unsightly. They need to be painted either white or reflective yellow. Mike Seiler agreed to take that as an action item.

Regarding the continuing traffic along San Miguel Rd, Sharmane Estolano asked Andrew Harvey to please discuss with Supervisor Nora Vargas the option of a six-month trial to eliminate the 125 toll fee between the San Miguel Ranch interchange and highway 54. We have to do something to move this toll avoidance traffic off our neighborhood streets. We were reminded that the toll road loan will not be paid off until 2044. We cannot let this neighborhood destruction continue. Either County or Chula Vista, or possible new federal infrastructure funding has to step up and backfill the revenue loss associated with toll elimination for this stretch of roadway.

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:		
Illegal dumping:	(858) 694-2212	(619) 397-6000

Planning Group - Steve Stonehouse told us they had a long meeting with lots of discussion about two agenda items:

- 1) Approval of an encroachment into open space along Timrick Ln. This wasn't approved. Open space must remain open space.
- 2) A new group wants to construct a storage facility at the corner of Sweetwater Rd and Quarry. This was a first-time presentation to present a general concept and obtain feedback from the group. Nearby residents and CPG members asked a lot of questions and provided a lot of feedback. Part of their plan is to donate about 5 acres back to the Parks Dept. Currently they have an option to purchase the property. It would consist of 3 levels, with first level being a basement. Much of it would be constructed at a lower grade as the property angles down away from Sweetwater. They would protect and enhance existing trail easements, use architectural amenities that would blend into our environment, and seemed eager to take our comments back to the "drawing board" for further consideration.

Membership - Sharon Coleman gave the membership update: 11 Individuals, 24 Family, 1 individual silver, 2 Family Silver, 17 Gold, 5 organizations (and one new business membership). Renewal reminders will go out next month. Tony mentioned that membership renewals can be done from a smart phone, an iPad, or a desktop. Mike Seiler thanked Tony for all the website work. He did a great job and this is a wonderful accomplishment. The new logo stickers will be sent out to new and renewal memberships along with their membership card. Everyone is encouraged to affix the sticker in your car windows so our organization name gets out there. Tony also briefly addressed a glitch that was fixed in our effort to support our local business entities that wish to post a business card on our site.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol - Jim Woodford reported his group has been happy to start patrols again. The new member is busy working on patrol 2 x week. Per County Sheriff, the Safety Center is not yet open. The group will start up vacation checks. If we desire this service, we can print off the form, complete it, and slide under the Safety Center door; and they will get it. Mike Seiler still intends to contact Bob Chicca about replacing our old SVCA logo with the new one on the Community Organization structure on Bonita Road. Sharmane brought up the problem of

increased prowlers in Bonita. They are not committing crimes so the Sheriff will not send a unit to investigate, but this is very unnerving. Residents are seeing this increase on their security systems between midnight and 4 a.m. She expressed concern that we do not have adequate police protection because Bonita and Lincoln Acres are covered by only two officers. We should not hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious activities. Tom Pocklington mentioned that Chula Vista Police and CHP are also available to provide backup.

May 2021 Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities:

Hours on patrol	144	Number of patrols	12
Miles driven	791	Vacation checks	1
YANA visits*	0	YANA calls	31
Citizen assists	1	Traffic control	0
Number of volunteers	14		

*You are not alone.

Trails – Mark Kukuchek reported that all the leaky water pipe connections at the new Community Garden have been fixed. Evidently people drove cars over the pipes and broke them. He is continuing to be involved in discussions between a home owner at the end of Wild Oats and the County Trails Coordinator, Lizzy Bendrick to construct a new and much safer trail connection to the County Trails system. There is still no word about the environmental study being conducted on Tieber Trail.

New Business:

We had discussion about our ongoing tradition to “go dark” in either July or August. Stephen Stonehouse moved to be dark in July. Tom Pocklington provided the second. Motion passed. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 4th, most likely, on Zoom. As things open up, we will be in contact with the Library about Community Room availability.

Next order of new business is election of officers:

Mike Seiler and Judy Tieber both resign their respective positions of President and Secretary.

Nominations:

Tony Tieber nominated Judy to be President, seconded by Tom Pocklington.

There were no other nominees. Motion passed.

Stephen Stonehouse nominated Sharmane Estolano to be Vice President, seconded by Lisa Martin-Goodsell. There were no other nominees. Motion passed.

Lisa Martin-Goodsell nominated Stephen Stonehouse to continue as Treasurer. Unsure who provided the second, but vote to approve was unanimous.

In her first act as President, Judy appointed Liz Stonehouse to serve as temporary Secretary until we find someone. We thank Liz for agreeing to step up and assume this responsibility. We all thanked Mike Seiler for his many years of service and dedication to the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association.

With that, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 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 related directly to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.