



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
August 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Judy Tieber via Zoom. She welcomed everyone to our 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.

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

Members Present: Prudence Prince, Mike Seiler, Harriet Taylor, Tom Pocklington, Darin Kuite, Jim Groth.

Guests Present: Randy Cavin (Bonita Resident), Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Chief Michael Sims, Andrew Harvey from Supervisor District 1, Nora Vargas' Office, Paola Guzman from Representative Sara Jacobs Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Judy asked for a motion to approve minutes. Tom Pockington moved to approve, Jim Woodford provided the second. Minutes approved as written.

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

	<u>August</u>
Checking	\$1,933.39
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,464.25
Ending Balance	\$4,397.64

His report, which was posted on the video screen, was accepted as presented and displayed. We thank everyone who has renewed their membership for the 2021-22 year. Your support is much appreciated.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP: Not present.

Judy reported that the CHP is working to try and re-instate our neighborhood CHP representative.

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia not available to attend. Judy reported that Supervisor Vargas staff is working with the Sheriff's department to get Julio Garcia to attend the SVCA meetings in the future.

Chula Vista Police Officer: No representation.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims reported activity was slightly up from previous months with calls numbering 149 with less than 70 of those calls responding to medical emergencies. Mike reported this was the first month with 100% EMS compliance (i.e. the responses occurred within the allotted time).

One notable call was to rescue a seriously injured rock climber who had fallen. This rescue was conducted in conjunction with other Fire department agencies including San Diego Fire, San Miguel fire, and Chula Vista fire. Other agencies involved were CAL Fire, San Diego County Sheriff and Mercy Air. This rescue involved 3 cooperating helicopters. It all worked out well; and it was an interesting rescue for those involved team members.

Our new fire department employee just completed her four-month academy training. She will begin touring the station to familiarize herself with the operational procedures. She will receive a special award for being the top performer and lead recruit at the academy. This makes the Bonita Fire Department fully staffed.

The chief still awaits information from the state regarding the \$50K grant to cut the dead palm trees in the riverbed. It is a slow and expensive process because the cutting will generate biomass which will be disposed of at the Miramar Land Fill.

CalFire is funding a grant for the trees along Proctor Valley Road. The plan is to use the California Conservation Corps to do the work.

The chief announced that the Bonita Fire Department Community Room is now open. He also announced that he had attended an open house sponsored by Supervisor Vargas at The County Administration building. The plan is for Supervisor Vargas to tour the fire house later in August.

The chief also announced that he is sending an engine and a crew to the Dixie Fire for two weeks. If CalFire requests a longer stay, the engine will stay but the current crew will be replaced by another Bonita crew.

The chief discussed available AARP funds, fire districts were ineligible to directly apply for. After discussions with County Supervisors they have agreed to allocate \$4M of this source of funding to the fire districts.

Elected Representative Reports:

Council Member John McCann Representative, Samantha Trickey notified us that Councilman John McCann was at the Bonita Museum on June 25 for a fundraiser. The Museum exhibit was "Permission to Come Aboard". Councilman McCann expressed appreciation for all attendees including those who participated in the Golf tournament and the gala.

She also told us about a Café planned in Rohr Park. She was not prepared to give us any details about the Café but promised to do so at the next SVCA meeting, if the details are available and possibly have Councilman McCann make the presentation.

She announced that the City of Chula Vista will sponsor a Lemon Fest on August 14th along 3rd Avenue.

Judy and Samantha briefly discussed an idea Judy had about banners that she had shared previously with Samantha. Samantha indicated that the idea was expensive, and they agreed to discuss this again.

A discussion occurred about the Bonita Fest and that the Bonita Vista High School parking lot would not be used this year. The discussion revealed that this year the Fest will be curtailed because of Covid and will only include a car parade and a trail walk. There will be no melodrama Performance.

House of Representatives Sara Jacobs' Office Paola Guzman who is replacing Jessica Mier was in attendance until she was called to another meeting. She supplied the following written report for Sara Jacobs Monthly update.

Sara Jacobs Work in Washington:

Appointed to House Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth

- This Select Committee, which will focus on the widening wealth and income disparity in the United States.
- Congresswoman Jacobs will be “focusing on the future of work with both a family and a global perspective” in addition to her wider work on the committee.
- Voted to repeal the 2002 Authorization of Military Force (AUMF) that authorized the war in Iraq
- Wrote a [letter](#) to the White House calling for the swift implementation of the Global Fragility Act (GFA), bipartisan legislation passed in December 2019 designed to improve interagency coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the U.S. response to conflict abroad.

Legislation introduced:

- On July 1, filed the first piece of legislation, [H.R. 4420](#) The United States Commitment to Peacekeeping Act
 - Permanently repeals the cap on U.S. contributions to the UN’s Peacekeeping operations, which was established by Congress in 1994
 - purpose of bill is to ensure the United States pays its share for United Nations Peacekeeping missions, to bolster U.S. credibility and influence at the UN, and to boost efforts to strengthen and reform peacekeeping operations

Funding for district:

- Included \$25 million in federal funding for the Central Mobility Hub in San Diego in H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act
 - San Diego is the only major city in the United States without a quick and convenient connection between the airport and public transportation. The Central Mobility Hub would correct this problem and connect the airport with the rail corridor that is home to Amtrak, Coaster Commuter Trains, and the San Diego trolley.
- Secured \$1 million in federal funding for the County of San Diego Child Care Expansion Fund in the Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Subcommittee Appropriations bill.
- Secured \$2 million in federal funding for three local projects included in the Fiscal Year 2022 House Appropriations bill.
 - \$500,000 for the Linda Vista Branch Library Outdoor Early Learning Patio Project
 - \$1,000,000 in funding for renovations to the City Heights Multimedia IDEA LAB and Performance Annex at the City Heights/Weingart Library

- \$500,000 for Balboa Park Starlight Bowl ADA facility enhancements.

Events in district:

- On July 15th, joined the South Bay Family YMCA to mark the first monthly payments of the Child Tax Credit and spread awareness about the newly expanded benefits
- On July 26th, attended the Spirit of Stonewall Rally as part of San Diego's pride week
- On July 17th, the first anniversary of the late Congressman John Lewis' passing, Congresswoman Sara Jacobs – San Diego's sole representative on the House Armed Services Committee – joined a congressional delegation to christen the USNS John Lewis at San Diego's General Dynamics-NASSCO Shipyard.
- On July 31st, Congresswoman Jacobs hosted a virtual #CA53 town hall, where she shared some updates about her work in Washington and took lots of questions from constituents, both live and pre-submitted.

Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative, Andrew Harvey: reported that Supervisor Vargas is working on a response to the homeless population and has targeted \$12M to that effort. Andrew further vindicated indicated that Supervisor Vargas is a sitting member of the Homeless Project, and she is aware that citizens want to expand the homeless mobile response units.

She is also working with the CHP and the Sheriff to get them to attend our meetings and to have more representation in the Sweetwater Valley.

Regarding the relocation of the Bonita Animal shelter, Supervisor Vargas understands that the community was not notified before this item was placed on the County agenda, She realizes that the new location in Santee is a good distance from the Sweetwater Valley. Although this move is approximately 2 years into the future, Supervisor Vargas is addressing the issue by inquiring why the move should occur at all. Andrew indicated that there will be more hearings where this project will be discussed.

Andrew Harvey informed us that the State of Bonita will not occur until next year so as to coincide with when it was always conducted. However, Judy reminded Andrew that Supervisor Vargas has committed to come to our September meeting to discuss the SVCA priorities. Andrew and Judy are pursuing this.

The Cannabis issue comes before the Board of Supervisors in October and safety concerns within the county will be addressed, according to Andrew.

Prudence Prince thanked Andrew and the County for addressing a homeless issue on Acacia..

Jim Growth had contacted the county about a "no Parking" sign by his house that needed to be moved. Andrew indicated that Murali Pasumarthi had responded regarding that sign movement and that Jim should have an email about his requested.

Continuing Business:

None.

Community Forum:

Bonita Alliance—Lisa Martin Goodsell was unable to attend.

Traffic/Roads – Mike Clowers, in his role as an SVCA Neighborhood Director took Andrew Harvey on a tour of the eastern part of the Sweetwater Valley. Mike showed Andrew the condition of Proctor Valley and the traffic corridor from Proctor Valley connecting with San Miguel Road. Mike reported that they discussed the major issues associated with this corridor, including the delay of the Hawk Beacon by Sunnyside Elementary School. Included in the tour were Jonel Way and Bonita Meadows as they intersect Proctor Valley (PV) as well as the drainage problem on PV. Along San Miguel Road, they visited the bike park and noticed the “no parking signs” along that road to eliminate the parking of RVs.

As part of the tour, Mike reported that the traffic on the corridor was very heavy and discussed the 125 option to alleviate the traffic passing over Proctor Valley Road and then onto San Miguel Road. This included a visit to San Miguel Ranch Road off the 125 and viewed the overpass of 125 where people are dumping refuse under that overpass. Their last stop was on Quarry Road to view the location where a new storage facility is being considered.

Mike reported that at the intersection of San Miguel and Bonita Road, where Bonita Road proceeds across the bridge, that the timing on the electrical signals needs to be recalibrated now that school has started. Traffic jams have been occurring at those intersections. In addition, the pedestrian crossing Flashing Lights are off timing and need to be reset.

A discussion regarding the water leak on Corral Canyon Road, at the intersection with Steeplechase Road was discussed. The leak has been ongoing for approximately 2 months since the completion of the repaving on Corral Canyon. The Sweetwater Authority appears to have the responsibility to fix the leak, but there is some concern that another agency may actually have some responsibility. In addition, several of the sewer lids are recessed too far after the repaving and need to be raised to eliminate the current bumpy ride. Tony asked Andrew Harvey to address this at the county.

The following number can be called 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 was having audio visual problems with his Zoom feed, so Harriet Taylor, the co-chair of the Planning group gave the report. Harriet reported that the Planning Group had discussed a list of Capital Improvement Projects that they wanted funded. That list will be supplied to the county since the county requested the list.

Harriet notified the group about the redistricting Meeting at the Library at 6:00 on August 18, 2021.

Harriet informed the group that at the September 7, 2021 planning group meeting that two groups will present information for their tentative plans to build storage facilities in the Sweetwater Valley. The meeting will be at the Bonita Valley Community Church on Bonita Road and not at the Bonita Fire Station. The presentations will be by ACE Storage facility which has plans for a facility on Bonita Road. Another builder will provide a presentation for the Quarry Road Storage facility on Quarry Road. This is the projected agenda. Sharmane wanted to know if Ace had ever answered all questions from a previous meeting. Harriet indicated she had not heard back from the county regarding the responses.

(Membership - Sharon also gave a membership update: 9 Individuals, 8 Family, 1 individual silver, 2 Family Silver, 17 Gold, 5 organizations (and one new business membership).

Sharon brought up the State of Bonita and how that event was a great time to recruit new members. Judy and Sharon both concurred that the State of Bonita brings the community together and promotes community cohesiveness.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol - Jim Woodford reported that the Safety Center is now open and is staffed by Senior patrol Members on Mondays and Wednesdays. He also reported that as more members come back, they are beginning to have patrols three to four days a week with a goal of patrolling every day if scheduling permits. In addition, Vacation and YANA services are starting again.

The Senior patrol is assisting with school crossings, especially on Central Avenue. In answer to a question, Jim reported they are not assisting on San Miguel Road. He indicated that adults are doing the patrolling and the student patrols are still being formed. He indicated that the Senior Patrol is looking to perform their normal patrol on San Miguel road in cooperation with the fire department.

In further response to a question about the school crossing on San Miguel Road, Mike Clowers reported that he had talked to Sunnyside Elementary school. They plan for the school patrol to be on the road soon, Maybe the week of August 9, 2021. There is a completely new staff, so all brand-new people will be handling the student patrol.

The Senior patrol will again have monthly meetings on the second Friday of each month and he will send the Activity Statistics.

July 2021 Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities:

Hours on patrol	156	Number of patrols	13
Miles driven	807	Vacation checks	14
YANA visits*	0	YANA calls	31
Citizen assists	3	Traffic control	3
Number of volunteers	12		

*You are not alone.

Trails – Mark Kukuchek was unable to attend.

Old Business:

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

Tony Tieber updated the group on the condition of Corral Canyon after the repaving. Unfortunately, the water pipe is still cracked and leaking. There was no update on the condition of the paint reflectors on the traffic islands, but it was assumed that Mike Seiler was still addressing this issue. Tony mentioned that many of the sewer lids were too low and not at the level of the new asphalt. Andrew Harvey agreed to take this for action.

New Business:

President Judy Tieber presented the SVCA priority list that she had previously sent to all members. She itemized the list as follows:

1. Community impact of State route 125, its cost, and the traffic generated by the traffic in Bonita which avoids the use of the 125.
2. The dangerous conditions and amount of traffic using Protocol Valley Road.
3. The Effort to get more CHP presence in Bonita and the presence of a CHP representative at our meetings.
4. The effect of homelessness on the open space in all parts of the Sweetwater Valley.
5. Fire conditions in the open space.

A discussion followed in which many ideas were promoted with everyone agreeing with the priorities. Several details were explored. The State Route issue 125 will probably needs to include presentations and discussions with SANDAG. Andrew Harvey informed us that Supervisor Vargas was having discussions with SANDAG. The traffic issue in Bonita may involve the Association of Governments since they have a mandate to eliminate greenhouse gasses and traffic generates greenhouse gases. During the discussion of fire conditions in the open space, members discussed Palm trees. There are many dead palm trees, but even alive untrimmed Palm trees are hazardous in a fire. Chief Sims indicated that Palm trees were not addressed in the last rewrite of the fire code, but he is hopeful it will be addressed in the next rewrite. There was no consensus on which of the items on the list had the highest priority.

The state of Bonita was discussed. Supervisor Vargas wants to do this but perhaps not in the same format as was done in previous years but probably in July 2022. The consensus was that the Supervisor Vargas would attend the September meeting to address the priorities agreed on by the members. Judy volunteered to continue to work with Andrew Harvey to get supervisor Vargas to the September meeting. For this September meeting, various venues were discussed including Outdoor venues. Mike Seiler volunteered to approach the Bonita Highlands Homeowners association board about use of the Horse ring in Bonita Highlands. Judy agreed to get back to Mike about that use.

Community Forum: Jim Groth talked about a building being erected on the Bonita Golf course near the 13th hole that appeared to create an environmental hazard if the river should flood. He contacted the County Code Enforcement who went to view the site. Apparently, the issue was resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

Mike Seiler discussed a Neighborhood Director position with potential interest in Seat 4 or 5 and the homelessness in those areas. President Judy Tieber indicated she had not put this item on the agenda and wanted to first research the "Expectation of Neighborhood Directors" before making a decision. Mike suggested that the SVCA bylaws might help with her research. Mike told Judy to think about his interest and get back to him. Judy agreed.

With that, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony P. Tieber
Interim 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.

