



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
September 1, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Judy Tieber via Zoom. 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, especially the members killed recently in Afghanistan, 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, Jim Woodford, and Sharon Coleman.

Members Present: Prudence Prince, Mark Kukuchek, Jim Growth, Jesse Connor, Andria Elam, and Greg Ward.

Guests Present: Supervisor Nora Vargas, Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Chief Michael Sims, Andrew Harvey from Supervisor District 1, Nora Vargas’ Office, and David Vance from Representative Sara Jacobs Office.

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

Sharon Coleman welcomed new members and sponsoring businesses.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse reported the September 2021 Treasurer’s Report.

	<u>September</u>
Checking	\$1,853.09
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,464.30
Ending Balance	\$4,317.39

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.

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia was not available to attend.

Chula Vista Police Officer: Not present.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims reported on the fires in Northern California where a Bonita Fire engine and crew are working. He will be sending a relief crew as he has been requested to stay longer than the original two-week assignment. It now looks like the crew and the engine will be in Northern California a total of 6 weeks, but no longer than that, since San Diego County is entering its prime fire season. The chief indicated that he is in contact with his crew every other day and they did report that the windshield of the truck had been broken and replaced, else the broken windshield would constitute a safety hazard.

The chief indicated that the Bonita Sunnyside call volume was down this month from the previous month.

Elected Representative Reports:

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

House of Representatives Sara Jacobs' Office David Vance was in attendance. He supplied the following written report for Sara Jacobs Monthly update.

- Over the past couple of weeks, as the humanitarian crisis has unfolded in Afghanistan, our office has been working tirelessly to help evacuate as many of our allies as possible. Our team personally assisted with handling hundreds of cases for our Afghan allies who were trying to acquire expedited visas and leave Afghanistan.
- Congresswoman Jacobs supported the Biden administration's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan by August 31, but is deeply concerned about the execution of the evacuation process and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.
- Official statements from the Congresswoman on both the evacuation process in Afghanistan as well as the terrorist attack that occurred at the Kabul airport can be found here:
<https://sarajacobs.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=337>
<https://sarajacobs.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=335>
- This morning, the House Armed Services Committee will begin markup of H.R. 4350 – the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022. Congresswoman Jacobs - a member of the Military Personnel Subcommittee and the Sea power and Projection Forces Subcommittee - partnered with her colleagues on a number of key provisions which have been included in the initial base text of the resolution, including measures to improve child care access for military families and military housing. The full press release with more information can be found here:
<https://sarajacobs.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=338>
- Congresswoman Jacobs participated in a press conference with Protect Our Care focused on reducing the price of prescription drugs and expanding healthcare access for Americans.
- On September 3, 2021, Congresswoman Jacobs participated in a roundtable discussion with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) about the Child Tax Credit and childcare for people experiencing homelessness.

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: reported that he has been making trips into the Sweetwater Valley area to familiarize himself with all facets of the area. He will accompany Supervisor Vargas on a trip to the Bonita/Sunnyside fire station later this month.

Judy and Jesse Connor reminded Andrew about the condition of Proctor Valley Road.

Several members thanked Andrew for a determined effort to understand the requirements of the people of the Sweetwater Valley.

Supervisor Nora Vargas was in attendance on the Zoom and reported that she has been working on mitigating Covid and the effects it has on the South County communities including businesses. For businesses, she is working on an economic recovery plan and that additional money is being allocated for business recovery. She reported that 95% of the eligible population in the South County has been vaccinated at least once.

Supervisor Vargas reported that she is addressing the toll on the 125 tollway and has met with SANDAG and Mayor Salas of Chula Vista. The supervisor is the county representative to SANDAG.

She has created a “families and communities first” plan. She has an emphasis on neighborhoods from a holistic perspective, including job training.

The Supervisor indicated that she has drawn up a plan which will be used to assess the requirements and needs to encourage art and culture.

She told us that recently she attended the opening of a new library in Chula Vista.

For Proctor Valley Road, she has been working with County staff who are looking at using capital improvement money, as well as other alternatives, to solve the issues related to the Road.

For public safety, she has been talking with the CHP about more traffic enforcement in the area, especially those where we have the most concern, like Proctor Valley Road and San Miguel Road, as well as other streets and roads.

She reported that she is working to obtain homeless services and to that end has obtained an allocation of \$12,000,000, which will be used for a quick response task force.

Finally, she reminded us that she is the vice chair of the Board of Supervisors and the co-chair for the Covid response, and is looking forward to working with us.

During a question-and-answer session, Chief Sims thanked Supervisor Vargas for procuring \$4,000,000 for the local fire departments. In thanking Chief Sims for his appreciation, she also reminded him that she would visit the Bonita-Sunnyside station soon.

Sharmane Estolano commented about moving the County Animal shelter from Bonita and wondered if there was a way to keep it here. If not, what are the plans for the parcel on which the shelter now stands? Supervisor Vargas responded that the move to Santee was already approved. However, she has asked her staff for recommendations, especially regarding horses, and that she will report on this at a later date, including future uses of the property.

Judy Tieber postulated that the Capital Improvement idea for Proctor Valley Road was a great plan. However, she wanted to know what happened to the short-term solutions that the SVCA had proposed such as stop signs, a wall, and shared road signs. She indicated that the county never got back to us on those proposals. Supervisor Vargas responded that she would follow up with County staff and get back to us.

A question arose about the 125 and the expense to travel on certain parts of the toll road verses the expense on other parts and that the fare from the 54 to the San Miguel Ranch Road was unfair, particularly from a consumer price protection perspective. During this discussion, it was revealed that SANDAG is looking to institute more toll roads and it is possible that tolls might be more expensive during peak hours of use. The supervisor commented that a quick and reliable rapid transit system is also needed as well. She indicated that SANDAG is working on a marketing plan which is intended to increase the use of the 125. Supervisor Vargas again iterated that she was working on the 125-toll issue.

Jim Growth was thankful for the work that the county was doing on San Miguel Road and their intervention on the building on the Bonita Golf course. Jim commented that if people would be more civil, disagreements could be ironed out easier. He said he heard a rumor that Chula Vista had petitioned SANDAG for lower costs on the 125. Lastly, Jim said he was working with county staff to move the sign by his house, but the sign has still not been moved. He also commented that he had attended meetings in the past with SANDAG where they planned to start a marketing plan to get more use on the 125, but that plan never materialized.

At this point Supervisor Vargas had to sign off to attend another meeting but before leaving she reminded us that October is Fire Awareness month

Continuing Business:

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.

New Business.

An election for Secretary of the SVCA was conducted. The president, Judy Tieber, asked for nominations but only Tony Tieber was nominated so Tony was elected Secretary.

Community Forum:

Bonita Alliance—Lisa Martin Goodsell was unable to attend, but Greg Ward was there. He indicated that Lisa would attend the October meeting.

Traffic/Roads – Mike Clowers was out of town but forwarded Tony the following report.

On August 12th Andrew was available for his 2nd tour of Bonita. Andrew sent out an email inviting Steve Stonehouse, Harriet Taylor, and Judy Tieber to join us at 10 am at Starbucks for the tour, if they were available, but no one responded, Andrew asked me to show him where the Homeless concerns were.

We went to the areas around Plaza Bonita, specifically Plaza Bonita Road from 805/Bonita Road to Sweetwater Road. I showed Andrew the bike path that runs adjacent to all the homeless camps. Andrew took some pictures of these areas.

We checked out the Western Staging Area and I pointed out the massage parlors on Bonita Road.

We went thru Bonita Mesa. Went along Sweetwater Road to see the upgrade to the walking path from Willow Street to the Dog Park.

We went to the Bonita Highlands to see the issues with the manhole covers on Corral Canyon Road.

To finish the tour, we looked at the shopping center on Bonita Road starting at Willow. We drove thru the parking lot, got an up-close look at the conditions.

The tour lasted about 1.5 hours

Good news, the manhole covers have been fixed along Corral Canyon Road in the Bonita Highlands.

On August 18th the Board of Supervisors had the opportunity on agenda item 10 to reduce the speed limit on Corral Canyon Road to 30 MPH as recommended by the Traffic Advisory Committee. The reduced speed limit was approved.

Judy Tieber and Prudence Prince discussed road certification and the needs for certification to be in place before radar can be used. Tim street was the street that was being discussed and that it may not be certified. Prudence was concerned about the horse trail and the horses that use that trail and the speeding on the street. Steve Stonehouse indicated that for a street to be certified an application must be made to the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC). If the TAC approves the road and the County supervisors also agree, then radar can be used.

	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 that the August Planning group meeting was held at the Bonita Valley Community Church because the Ace Storage facility and the Quarry Road storage facility were both on the agenda and a large crowd was expected at the meeting.

The last time the Ace storage facility, planned next to the fire house on Bonita Road, was on the agenda was in 2018. The Planning Group recommended, then, that the project not be approved. He also indicated that in 2018, that the county issued a negative declaration on the Environmental Impact report. Ace storage has now downsized their plan. There was a discussion about the new plan. Since this was an informational meeting only, a vote on the revised project will be held later, possibly in October. The Planning Group did vote to have a hearing on the plan again because of the downsizing.

The Quarry Road storage facility was also discussed.

(Membership - Sharon also gave a membership update:

Current new and renewed members:

Gold/Org- 1, Gold-19, Non Profit Org- 2, For Profit Org- 4, Family- 9, Individuals- 10, Silver Family – 1.

Sharon welcomed new members by name. She also indicated that several prior members have not responded to her requests to renew.

Tony indicated that he had been discussing a marketing plan for new members with Keep-it-Growing. He indicated that he now wanted to involve Sharon in these discussions now that she has returned home.

Sharmane Estolano recommended that member solicitation via email contain a link for action (i. e. a link to the sign-up page on the web site) to either become a member or to renew a membership. Members thought that was a good idea. Tony said that he would get the link and send it to Sharon Coleman.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol - Jim Woodford reported that they will staff the safety center from 10-2 on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Jim noted that they are looking for a new leader as the current lead will step down on December 31, 2021.

Currently, the Senior Patrol has 6-8 members patrolling, so they are not able to patrol every day but they do get out 3 days a week.

There were no vacation checks this reporting period and only 1 YANA.

On September 1, 2021, they group patrolled Summit Park where they encountered many animals.

Steve Stonehouse inquired about the new car supplied to the Patrol and asked if it was electric. Jim replied that it was not. It was gasoline powered.

There was a discussion about patrolling and partnering with the Fire department on San Miguel Road and potential Central Avenue with flashing lights when children are present.

The following are Statistics supplied by Jim Woodford:

AUGUST 2021 SHERIFF SR. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	168
Number of Patrols	14
Number of Miles Driven	986
Vacation Checks	16
YANA Visits	0
YANA Calls	31
Citizen Assists	5
Traffic Control	12
Front counter Safety Center	28
Number of Volunteers	10

Trails – Mark Kukuchek was back from vacation and indicated he will be talking with the county about trails.

Community Forum: Judy Tieber talked about making the October meeting our annual meeting to discuss Neighborhood Directors. She indicated she had reviewed the bylaws and any changes needed discussion. She indicated that she was not comfortable that we were meeting the intentions of the bylaws by appointing neighborhood representatives/directors for areas other than their own neighborhoods. Judy will meet with interested members to discuss this and bring to a future meeting. Any bylaw changes would be voted on at the November meeting.

Sharmane Estolono wanted to ensure that new members or guests attending meetings be warmly greeted and that the atmosphere in the meeting be an inviting one. Mike Sims commented that this is exactly what other organizations do. Sharmane suggested that members bring a guest to the meeting.

Prudence Prince talked about several unpleasant events she has encountered recently. She said she is an avid runner and has been harassed 3 times in the last week. She indicated that this has never happened before. She was hoping the sheriff was on the Zoom so she could alert the sheriff about the incidents. Judy Tieber said she would take Action to get Julio Garcia, the representative for the sheriff's department, back for the next meeting. Judy also said that she would contact the CHP.

Tony closed the meeting noting that a section of the nearly 100-year-old water pipe, that is being replaced, is now on display at the Bonita Museum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 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.