

**Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.**

**P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 [www.sweetwatervalleyca.org](http://www.sweetwatervalleyca.org)**



**SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
October 5, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:33 by President Judy Tieber at the Library Community room. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Judy asked for 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, Tony Tieber, and Sharmane Estalono

**Members Present:** Prudence Prince, Sharon Coleman, Jim Groth, Harriet Taylor, John Taylor, Mike Sampsel, Mark Kukuchek

**Guests Present** Fire Chief Mike Sims, Amanda Angulo from Councilmember John McCann's Office, and CHP Public Information Officer Jesse Matias Other Guests present were Neil Garcia, Rosemary Garcia, Edgar Almeida

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Judy asked for a motion to approve minutes. Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve; Sharon Coleman provided the second. Minutes approved .

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Stephen Stonehouse reported the June 2022 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>August 2022</u>
Checking	\$ 1,618.68
Grant	\$ 1,350.45
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 1,429.82
Ending Balance	\$ 4,398.95

Previous Balance was \$5,487.83

There were grant charges to KIG for web site fees and Tony Tieber for web fees.. Also, \$373.57 in membership dues were received.

The report was accepted as written.

**Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims:** Chief Sims reported that the Pancake breakfast was a huge success, and that they served over 330 people. He thanked everyone who came out and supported the community event. He said the fire fighters love meeting the people they serve under non-emergency conditions.

The Fire Department opened the Time Capsule. The capsule had been buried for 30 years to the time the station was founded. Former Bonita Fire Director Scott shared history and introduced family members of those involved with the planting of the capsule. The buried container took some

dusty grinding to open but once it was cracked open the contents were revealed and spread out on tables for all to see. The container and its contents will eventually be displayed at the Bonita Museum. The Fire Department plans to for a new Time Capsule which they intend to stay buried for 40-50 years.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been contacted about the amount of brush that has regrown in between Proctor Valley Road and their preserve to see if they will be able to mitigate as appropriate. If not, the FD will seek other ways to manage the brush before it gets too large.

Chief Sims said that the FD is looking for a new commercial tenant for the old fire station next to the Jack in the Box. Any interested parties can call the station at (619) 479-2346.

Chief Sims also reported that the FD's only remaining Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic (Halley Schmiz) will be taking her 2-year test in November to complete the probationary period. The FD expects that she will pass with excellence. The chief wished her good luck.

In answer to a question about cutting more dead palm trees in the riverbed, Chief Sims said that the work would continue when they are at full staff.

Sharmane Estolano commented about a water drop for a fire along Plaza Bonita Road. She noted that a car went off the road causing the fire.

#### **Law Enforcement Reports:**

**Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia:** Not in attendance.

**CHP Public Information Officer, Jesse Matias.** The Public Information Officer (PIO) started by telling us that areas, everywhere, need attention. He has started filling out reports since briefings didn't seem to work. He has now created a Traffic Report Log that contains actions to be taken. He has a goal of getting a CHP traffic officer to Bonita between the hours of 6-9 and 4-7, but right now the CHP is still "short Handed".

Attendees talked with PIO Matias about a traffic issue along Sweetwater Road near the Animal Shelter & by Carriage Hills Estates. This discussion involved blind curves, speeding, and dangerous conditions entering Sweetwater Road or accessing trails in that area. PIO Matias said he knew about that area and that he would take as an action item to get a CHP traffic officer to that area as soon as he could.

Stephen Stonehouse talked about motorists illegally using Frisbee Street. PIO Matias added this to his list of action items.

Chief Sims indicated that he had observed a Sheriff doing traffic enforcement. Residents noted that they had previously asked the sheriff if their agency could help with traffic enforcement. PIO Matias indicated he appreciated all the help he could get, since the San Diego CHP Station is down to 4 or 5 motor officers, but 11 new motor officers will be coming out of training soon.

Jim Groth talked about San Miguel Road where Sunnyside Elementary School is located. Jim said it would be nice if an officer could be at that site because traffic is heavy with motorists avoiding the 125 toll road. Jim noted that there is excessive speeding in this area.

Judy Tieber talked about the traffic on Sweetwater Road in the vicinity of Valley Vista Elementary School. Sharon Coleman talked about speeding on Winnetka Drive. Other people talked about Homeless Encampments, Speed Bumps, having direct contact with the CHP, saturation enforcement of traffic regulations and available grants to fund additional enforcement hours.

### **Elected Representative Reports:**

**U.S. House of Representatives Sara Jacobs Office Representative Kathleen Dang.** Kathleen Dang was unable to attend the meeting, but she did thank Judy for seeing her at the Bonitafest. She submitted this report from Sara Jacobs.

The past few weeks in Washington have been pretty busy! I introduced new legislation - the *End Veteran Hunger Act of 2022* to address the gap in veterans' access to federal food and nutrition programs. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a representative of San Diego, the country's largest military community, I know how important it is to live up to the promises made to our service members and veterans. But unfortunately, more than 1 in 4 veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan struggle to put food on the table. It's our duty to ensure those who protected and served our country have enough to eat when they return home and I'm fighting to make sure we do that.

Since the leak of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn the constitutional right to an abortion, I've continued to fight for comprehensive reproductive rights, including the right to an abortion, in the House. In June, I introduced the *My Body, My Data* to create a new national standard for protecting reproductive and sexual health data. And now I'm proud to co-lead the *MARCH for Servicemembers Act* and be an original cosponsor of the *Access to Reproductive Care for Servicemembers Act*. Both bills will protect service members' access to abortion care, regardless of where they are stationed.

I also voted to pass the continuing resolution to fund the federal government through December 16th. Funding the government is Congress' most basic responsibility, so I'm glad we could get it done and avoid a government shutdown. Although this bill is only a temporary stop-gap until December, it continues funding vital federal agencies and programs, like early childhood education, nutrition assistance, veterans' support, and housing that's affordable. It also reduces families' costs, helps small businesses and communities recover from natural disasters, and provides more than \$12 billion in funding for Ukraine to defend itself against Russia.

My colleagues and I also created the Protection of Civilians in Conflict Caucus, which I'll co-chair, that seeks to conduct oversight and advance policies to prevent civilian harm resulting from U.S. conflict. Civilian harm never has been and never will be an acceptable cost of war, so I hope our caucus will help shine a light on this important issue.

Finishing up the month in Washington, I had the honor of celebrating the Jewish New Year at the White House with President Biden, the First Lady, Vice President Harris, the Second Gentleman, and my Jewish colleagues. And in San Diego, I've joined many community events like the Adams Avenue Street Fair, the Miramar Air Show, the 28th Annual Pacific Islander Festival, and the Japanese American Citizens League Gala. I love being out in the community, meeting constituents like you, and learning what's most important to you.

Thank you again for your message to send a report. I'm so grateful to people like you who reach out and advocate for our community and the future of our country — our democracy only works when everyone gets involved! If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to

call my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 22-2040 or my San Diego office at (619) 280-5353. You can also subscribe to receive my newsletter or send me another message at [sarajacobs.house.gov](http://sarajacobs.house.gov). Thanks for keeping in touch!

**Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative:** Andrew was unable to attend the meeting.

**Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo.** Amanda report that there is a new outdoor fitness course in Rohr Park that has different levels for fitness training. She noted that Bonitafest was great and very enjoyable.

She noted that there has been changes in the Chula Vista Police Department because a number of people have retired and others have been promoted.

Amanda noted about an event on October 7, 2022, called "Coffee with the Supervisor"., and on October 22, 2022, called "Beatify Chula Vista that would be held at the City Hall and in Otoy at a place to be determined.

**Continuing Business.** President Judy Tieber presented talked about the "At Large" position and open Neighborhood Ambassador position, addressing the need for volunteers for those positions Daryl asked about a map showing the locations where these ambassador positions are located. Tony said that he would bring the map to the next SVCA meeting.

**New Business.** Judy Provided an update on the Elementary School Art Contest being conducted in 3 schools. Judy said that the Allen School art supplies have been delivered and the art drawings are in progress. She said that several Allen school classes are participating, and that eventually all created drawings will be displayed on the SVCA web site. Sunnyside Elementary school will receive their supplies next when they tell us they are ready for them. So far, there has been no response from Valley Vista Elementary school. Fire Chief Mike Sims suggested that the awards ceremony for the art contest be held at the Bonita Fire station.

#### **Community Forum:**

**Traffic and Roads Mile Clowers:** Mike was not present.

**Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse:** Stephen reported that there was a discussion about parking along Plaza Bonita Road. Judy commented that she had attended a National City Council meeting and presented the reason for placing "No Overnight Parking" signs along this road. Stephen also reported about the sidewalk extension along Bonita Road from Siembre to Frisbee. Stephen also talked about overnight Parking of commercial vehicles along San Miguel Road and the impact of those vehicles on traffic.

Mark Kukuchek discussed the Planning Groups PLDO for parkland development. The Planning Group presented their recommended list to the County. The list requested funding for a Rest Room at the Bike Park, the restoration of Tieber Trail. And the refurbishing of trail #61 along the Bonita Golf Course.

**Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford:** Jim was not in attendance for this meeting.

**Membership Sharon Coleman:** Sharon reported about the activities that the SVCA participated in during the Bonitafest. She said that the SVCA had a table with water and SVCA flyers at the Bonita Museum to greet residents after the Bonitafest Twilight Walk They also interacted with

potential members at that location. The SVCA also participated in the Car Parade and had a booth at the Bonitafest street fair shared with the Planning Group. Both groups handed out information packets, and the SVCA had a “Guess the number of carrots in the jar Contest” , with a mechanical horse as the prize. Our winner was Daryl Hern. Many thanks to Bill Coleman for driving his truck with our SVCA banner mounted on the side.

**Trails Report Mark Kukuchek:** Mark’s report is contained in the Sweetwater Community Planning Group report section.

**Other Announcements**—There were no other announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 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.