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SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING November 2, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 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, and Tony Tieber, Sharon Coleman

Members Present: Prudence Prince+, Daryl Hern, and Mark Kukuchek.

Guests Present Fire Chief Mike Sims, Andrew Harvey, Audrey Hamilton, Julio Garcia, Another Guest present was Edgar Alamadeo.

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 November 2022 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>November 2022</u>
Checking	\$ 1,716.61
Grant Received	\$ 909.38
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 1,429.84
Ending Balance	\$ 4,055.83

Previous Balance was \$4,398.95

There were grant charges to Judy Tieber for art supplies.. Also, \$97.93 in membership dues were received.

The report was accepted as written.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims reported that FF paramedic Corey Springett and his wife had a healthy baby girl last month and that he has been on parental leave helping care for them both. He returns to work the week of November 7, 2022. Probationary FF Paramedic Halley Schmiz is in the middle of taking her 2-year test to get off probation. The test has multiple aspects and takes a week to complete. She is doing great thus far, and the chief expects her to pass with flying Colors.

Chief Sims announced that he was elected to serve as chair to the Heartland Communication Facility Authority Dispatch Center Board of Chiefs for another year. He said that they have helped guide the group through the hiring of new director, completed negotiations for a 3-year contract for the staff and begun a much-needed major expansion and remodel project on the Dispatch facility. Chief Sims expects an exciting year ahead for the impressive Dispatch center. Bonita Fire

Board Directors Jim Marugg and Tom Pockington were both re-elected for new-terms, and he is pleased to have them continue their service to the community. Five Fire Chiefs in San Diego County have retired in the second half of 2022. They will leave a considerable experience gap and will be missed.

Chief Sims has a presentation about the Fire Service in San Diego County. It is a 15–20-minute presentation. The group is interested in this presentation and Judy will work with Chief Sims to schedule the presentation.

Judy asked about the Toy Drive, but Chief Sims did not have the dates available but assured us the Drive would occur. He also indicated that, as time permits, cutting of trees will continue.

Law Enforcement Reports:

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia: Julio Garcia told us that the Sheriff Department had been handing out tickets in Bonita and that the CHP was also on site, so both the sheriff and CHP assisted one another. Julio indicated that speeding is rampant everywhere.

Julio again told us that Bonita still has the lowest crime rate in the County. However, recently two cars were stolen and one in the park was vandalized. Also, there was one residential break in where severe damage occurred.

The sheriff Department has been working with the homeless and has been offering services to that community.

He asked us to take care and be alert during the holidays. He specifically mentioned taking care to protect delivered packages. Julio indicated that he would have a kiosk near the post office this holiday season to present ideas regarding crime prevention.

Daryl Hern asked about ballot box protection and Julio told her that he would talk to the appropriate people in Chula Vista.

Julio tended to indicate that he will stay on another year as a Sheriff and Crime Prevention Specialist.

A copy of the Crime report, provided by Julio is included with the minutes.

CHP Public Information Officer, Jesse Matias. Not in attendance.

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 submit this report from Sara Jacobs.

The Department of Defense (DOD) announced new policies, long supported and co-led by Rep. Sara Jacobs, to address the immediate and long-term economic security, stability, and well-being of service members and military families. DOD will boost the basic allowance for housing (BAH) for active-duty service members in areas, including San Diego, which have faced at least a 20% spike in rental housing costs this year above BAH rates. All military bases in San Diego received the increase starting October 1st. If a service member is unsure if they will receive the BAH

increase, they can click this link: <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah/Calc.cfm>. BAH is for housing costs for service members who do not live on base.

The house is currently on recess until November 14.

In Rep Sara Jacobs district, she visited Naval Base point Loma to discuss solutions for affordable childcare, safe housing, and direct support for service members and their families. The representative also visited Southwester College, University of San Diego, San Diego State, and Barrio Logan College Institute to speak to students about the support they need to achieve a brighter future through education.

The Representative's office is back open by appointment. She recommends making an appointment if you want to visit, need help with casework, or need to talk about issues. Such as IRS , Social Security, VA, USPS, and many other federal agencies.

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: Andrew reported that Supervisor Vargas continues to visit locations in her district and recently was at the Bonita Museum.

Without going into detail, Andrew reported that there is a Pedestrian Gap Analysis in progress. This is an evaluation process that determines the priority of projects to be implemented. One item on the list is the sidewalk on the south side of Bonita Road from Siembre St. to Frisbie St.

Andrew talked about electric bikes and what the county is currently pursuing. He informed us that County is considering that all Electric bikes be registered and where they are allowed to be ridden. This will address all the trail systems. Mark talked about vehicle types 1, 2, and 3 and what roads and trails these can transit. Prudence talked about cars using the bike lanes.

Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo. Not in attendance.

Continuing Business. President Judy Tieber presented an update on the art contest being held at three elementary schools in the Bonita area. The contest is proceeding well. Valley Vista Elementary school has just received their art supplies. The drawings from Allen Elementary school have been received by the SVCA and transported to Keep-it-Growing for digitalization. Once digitized they will be displayed on the SVCA web page so people can vote for the art of their choice. Sunnyside Elementary School students are currently creating their drawings. When the SVCA receives the drawings, they will be digitized. Current plans are to have an awards ceremony and celebration at the Bonita Fire Station.

New Business. Audrey Hamilton, Manager, Land Use and Environmental Planning, SD County talked about the Community Benefits Plan. Audrey told us the plan is under development by the County and that the plan will apply to land-use/building projects in the County, specifically to commercial business, small housing projects, etc. People with projects would negotiate with groups within the community to get consensus on how a project should move forward. This plan would apply to a project, for example, which cannot meet environmental concerns. The negotiating group then, for example, would provide a statement of overriding consideration.

Audrey Hamilton reported that there are several facets of the Community Benefits Plan that are still not defined, such as how to engage community groups. Also undefined, is how negotiations would start and what are the legal concerns that might arise for all people involved. Audrey reported to solve some of the above issues, guidelines versus standards are being considered by

the County. The County is concerned that the county would benefit from tax revenue generated by the project, but the community where the project is located would not get the benefits they want. This could occur if the people and groups within the community did not want to get involved.

Tony asked if, under the Community Benefit Plan, the Community Planning group would still be involved. Basically, Tony asked, "if a group negotiates with a project developer and the group and developer came to an agreement, would that project then bypass the Community Planning Group?" Audrey Hamilton said that under current County thinking, the project would still come before the Community Planning Group.

Discussions continued with Audrey Hamilton with an emphasis on what would be the definition of a community group, what groups could be involved, and could community groups be set up from scratch for a particular project. Audrey Hamilton responded that these kinds of issues were still being considered. The goal of The Community Benefits Group is to publish their completed plan in 2024.

Community Forum:

Traffic and Roads Mile Clowers: Mike was not in attendance but did supply a report which Tony read.

Community members met with the Sweetwater valley Little League and the County Parks and Recreation director last month to discuss solutions to the ongoing traffic concerns at the ball fields. There seemed to be real concern from the Little League fix the traffic issues in the area. More meetings will be scheduled in the future.

The County Traffic Advisory Committee meeting was last Friday (October 29, 2002). There were no items on the agenda for Bonita. There was one item from District one, in Spring Valley, A stop sign installation that the Committee passed.

The CHP wants to hear from residents about traffic concerns in the unincorporated area of Bonita. The CHP number is 858-293-6000.

Mike reported there are several abandoned vehicles along Briarwood Road. Residents are encouraged to call the CHP regarding these vehicles.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse: Stephen reported about the request for a sidewalk on Bonita Road from Siembre to Frisbee St. A person talked at the Planning Meeting regarding ADA and that a family member has a disability that very much could use a sidewalk. This was an issue that had not been previously considered for that sidewalk.

Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford: Currently, there are not enough members to conduct patrols, but they are staffing the office on a regular basis. When people are available, they do assist the Sunnyside School crossing guards on Central Avenue. Stephen Stonehouse suggested that the SVCA should use the Senior Patrol for a Community Spotlight to see if that might draw new members.

Membership Sharon Coleman: There were two families and one individual membership received. The current Statistics are:

Individual- 11, Family- 14. Gold/Org- 1 non-profit, 1 for profit = 2. Gold- 18,
Silver/Family- 1, Org/Profit- 4, Org/Non-Profit- 5

Trails Report Mark Kukuchek: Mark did not present a report

Other Announcements—Edgar Alamadeo talked about traffic on Sweetwater Road and the problems in crossing that road even at a trail entrance. He suggested that a yellow flashing light be installed at the location in question. He said walkers on the trail crossing the road feel unsafe. Mark Kukuchek said that he knew the exact area that Edgar was talking about and would look and provide feedback as soon as he could.

Judy addressed the following: Community Spotlights, obtaining another grant, and being a voice for the community.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 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.