

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
May 4, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35 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, Sharmane Estolano, and. Sharon Coleman.

Members Present: Prudence Prince, Mike Seiler, Daryl Hern, Harriet Taylor, Jim Woodford

Guests Present: Amanda Angulo from Council member John McCann's office, Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia from the Sheriff's Office, Andrew Harvey from Supervisor Vargas' Office, and Fire Chief Mike Sims.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Judy asked for a motion to approve minutes. Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve; Sharmane Estolano provided the second. Minutes approved as amended.

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

	<u>May</u>
Checking	\$ 1 70.83
Grant Received	\$ 9,928.00
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 2,464.62
Ending Balance	\$12,563.45

Previous Balance was \$12,563.41

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims told us that Fire fighter Corey Springett passed his 3 yr. test and is now qualified to be an acting engineer. The palm cleanup in the riverbed continues at a slow pace because of the amount of palm debris on the ground. The State of New Mexico requested help with their wildfires so a mixed strike team from multiple cities was sent. The team will be there for two weeks.

The Bonita Fire Dept will host a ballot drop box this election cycle. The Bonita Fire Dept. office hours are changing. The office will be closed on all odd-numbered Fridays. The

Bonita Fire Dept. is on social media, and the Chief requests that all residents follow them. The website is bonitafd.org. Their Facebook page is Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP, Officer Salvador Castro: Not in attendance but will be coming to future meetings. He reported that Bonita is still a focus area for him.

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia: Julio reported continued vehicle break-ins. The Sheriff addressed this problem in Bonita with increased patrols, and now the problem has moved to Lincoln Acres. Patrols were increased in Lincoln Acres and violators arrested; maybe some of those arrested were responsible for thefts in Bonita. In some cases, the thieves have robbed their own relatives. Regarding the vehicle break-ins, people have lost license plates, tools, keys, ID's, and sunglasses.

He noted an area of caution for all of us regarding charge and debit cards. Thieves can install scanners on ATM and other card reading machines and obtain all the information on your cards. He noted a specific case related to readers on gas pumps. He asked us to be aware to note that the sticker on the pump is intact, otherwise someone could have added a scanner to the card reader on that particular pump.

Julio and Chief Sims discussed a technique that thieves use to steal registration decals from license plates. Be aware to not pile these decals on top one another to get too thick. Thieves can cut from the bottom and steal the latest decal. Only pile these decals 2-3 high at the most. Judy thanked the Sheriff's Department for their hard work and gave a special shoutout to Lt. Navarro.

Daryl noted a woman living in a van in the library parking lot. Julio agreed to notify the C.V. Police Dept. The monthly crime report will be attached to the minutes.

Chula Vista Police Officer: Not present.

Elected Representative Reports:

Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo

Amanda reported that Councilmember John McCann wishes all mothers a Happy Mother's Day and everyone a happy Cinco De Mayo. Amanda noted the San Diego Farmers Market which will be in Chula Vista between 3rd and 4th avenues near Memorial Park on May 8th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chula Vista will be having the 4th annual "Cinco fest" at Marina Parkway on May 5th from 11a.m. to 6 p.m. Chula Vista will also be distributing food waste kitchen caddies on May 10 at the Otay Ranch Farmers market from 4-7 p.m. The caddies will be distributed on May 21st at the Civic Center Branch Library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The month of May is also Motor and Bike Awareness Month. Additionally, May is Mental Health month. Judy thanked Councilmember McCann for his continued work to reduce or eliminate the 125 toll and to not give up on these important discussions.

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative:

Andrew acknowledged that a land use problem exists on Acacia and is being handled at the County level, and he will report back at a future meeting. Mike Seiler reminded everyone that the situation on Acacia is complicated by a newly installed fence that would block the current driveway access and make the homeowner build a new driveway over an existing drainage ditch.

The County has been informed about safety issues related to the new apartments being erected on Pepper Tree Drive. The County is working on this issue with the City of Chula Vista. Chief Sims suggested a 3-way stop at Pepper Tree and Vista Drive.

The County budget for the 2022-23 cycle is now in progress. Supervisor Vargas plans a series of Budget “pop-ups” to discuss the budget with constituents.

District 1 has received funding from the California Resources Board which has made new positions available at the County.

The Supervisors, including Supervisor Vargas are prioritizing transparency. The Board wants their constituents to know what they are doing.

The Board of Supervisors is providing free transportation packages to students. Mike Seiler expressed a concern for the safety of these young riders, especially at night.

Tony reminded Andrew about the certificates for the Bonita Vista High School Girls Water Polo Team. Andrew noted that the certificates had been passed out.

Sharmane talked about a potential grant available to Bonita and Spring Valley. Andrew indicated he would follow up on that and get back to Harriet, Sharmane and Judy. Judy requested that for the SVCA June meeting that Supervisor Vargas come and talk about the budget. Judy suggested this would be an informal presentation with time for questions and answers. Andrew will follow-up on this with the Supervisor.

New Business. Preparations for the Annual Meeting.

Judy reminded everyone that any changes to the association bylaws must be voted on at an annual meeting. Over the past year we had various discussions about possible changes. Judy requested that we revisit those discussions and determine what changes (if any) we should bring forth for a vote at the annual meeting in June.

- Judy suggested a new name for the SVCA, a name that would include the word, Bonita. This would require a change to not only the bylaws, but to other state and federal documents. There was a discussion and eventually we decided not to pursue this.
- There was a discussion about a change to the bylaws that would add a member-at-large to the Board of Directors. This will be brought before the membership at the June meeting.
- The topic of Neighborhood Directors was discussed because we don't have enough. Some thought that non-profits could act as directors. Sharmane thought

everyone should bring a guest to the meeting. Mike Sims suggested that social media might be a solution. Daryl Hern thought bringing members from other groups might be a possibility. Finally, Steven Stonehouse thought that a re-do of district directors was in order and a new name such as “Ambassadors” was necessary. Daryl reminded us of a meeting in the park where this topic was discussed, and suggestions made. Prudence Prince reminded us that when a “hot” topic is being discussed, a lot of people come to meetings and participate; but seem to forget about the meetings when regular business is on the agenda. Mike Seiler thought the best idea would be to change the title of the directors but keep the zones for which they are responsible. He also thought the SVCA should make presentations to other organizations.

Judy concluded the discussion with stating the Member-at-large and the Director name change to Neighborhood Ambassador would be placed on the annual meeting agenda.

There was a brief discussion about the slate of officers for the annual meeting. Judy, Sharmane and Stephen indicated they would be interested in running for their current positions. Tony did not indicate he would run for Secretary. We hope to have Supervisor Vargas as our guest speaker.

Regarding the Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant, Judy indicated that some of the grant money would be used for a civics related art contest that would be held at three Bonita grade schools. She briefly gave some details including the August timeframe to conduct the contest. Judy will be reaching out to school leadership to finalize the plans and timeframe.

Continuing Business: None

Community Forum:

Mike Clowers was unable to attend.

Pothole repairs, graffiti removal,	County:	Chula Vista:
Burned-out streetlights:	(877) 684-8000	(619) 397-6000
Illegal dumping:	(858) 694-2212	(619) 397-6000

Sweetwater Community Planning Group:

Stephen Stonehouse talked about a presentation at Planning Group regarding California’s SB 9. This bill is called the “California Housing Opportunity and more Efficiency (HOME)” Act. The discussion and presentation by a county representative included topics of housing, water, and the limitations contained in the Act.

Another topic discussed was road resurfacing in the Sweetwater area. A discussion with County on this will be held at a future meeting. Regarding resurfacing Mike Seiler suggested we look at plans for 21-22 and 22-23 to make sure streets needing repair did not fall off the list.

Harriet Taylor reported that the Monument sign on Bonita Rd has been refurbished. She also talked about mail that had been strewn about on Orchard Hill. Also the La Finca property had been sold and a restaurant is planned for that place. She further noted that

the Quarry Rd storage facility would be discussed at a Planning Group meeting in either June or July.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol: Jim Woodford talked about a decrease in Senior Patrol membership. They are down to 10 members, so the number of patrols is limited. Julio and Jim discussed coordination with the administrator for the Imperial Beach Sr. Patrol to see if that group could help the Bonita Sr. Patrol. Jim mentioned that they have been putting out the speed trailer when possible. They are planning a retirement party for Dave Gillespie at the Bonita Golf Course. Dave volunteered for 20 years. Mike Seiler talked about an SVCA plaque that should be picked up from Dave. Sharon Coleman noted the speed on Winnetka is excessive and asked that the speed trailer be moved over to Winnetka. Jim reported that statistics were not available for the month.

Membership –Sharon Coleman noted that membership renewal will occur on June 30th. The website will be updated to highlight this and other membership information. Org/Profit Partner - 4, Org/Non-Profit Partner- 6 (includes 1 Gold), Silver/Family- 1 Family- 21, Individuals- 13, Gold- 18. She also mentioned the various costs associated with membership: Gold \$250, Silver \$100, Family \$25, Individual \$15, and Organizations \$50

Trails—Mark Kukucheck not present.

Other Announcements--

Stephen Stonehouse mentioned that certain IRS records listed the SVCA as a 501c3, but the organization is actually a 501c4. He is working on a letter to the IRS to resolve.

Sharon Coleman plans to set up a membership table and recommended we have snacks for the annual meeting. Judy to take care of this.

Sharmane Estolano suggested a QR code for the SVCA. The code could contain important information about the SVCA.

Various other announcements were made about the Bonita Garden, Ceramics classes and other events.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 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.

