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**SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
June 1, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by the 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, Daryl Hern, Harriet Taylor, Mike Clowers, Jim Groth

Guests Present Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia from the Sheriff’s Office, and Fire Chief Mike Sims.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Judy asked for a motion to approve minutes. Daryl Hern moved to approve; Mike Clowers provided the second. Minutes approved.

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

	<u>June</u>
Checking	\$ (379.07)
Grant Received	\$ 7,486.45
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 2,464.66
Ending Balance	\$ 9,572.04

Previous Balance was \$12,563.41

There were grant charges to KIG for web site Upgrades and Judy Tieber for art Supplies

The report was accepted as written.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims reported that they had sent an engine to The Laguna Niguel fire in May for three days to aid. He gave a “shout Out” to firefighter/paramedic Corey Springett who passed his 3-year Acting Engineer test. The chief said they are making good progress on candle-sticking and dropping palms along Bonita/Sweetwater roads and that the brush contractor should begin in late June or early July to thin vegetation and remove fronds along the two emergency egress corridors. He also gave a “shout Out” to Captain Smith who is about to be certified as one of the few Fire Control 3 instructors in the county.

Chief Sims also reported that all fire agencies in the region have completed their mandatory refresher training for wildland fires in preparation for the coming fire season. This training is accomplished in two ways using a County Wildfire drill or an RT-130 course. Both possibilities are intense one day training sessions.

Chief Sims reminded us that the Bonita Fire Department is hosting an in-person Ballot Drop Box during regular business hours. Business hours are M-F 8am-4:30pm. The station office is closed holidays and every odd, dated Friday.

Supervisor Nora Vargas Presentation and question and answer Session. President Judy Tieber welcomed Supervisor Vargas to the meeting. Judy reminded everyone that Supervisor Vargas requests our feedback, questions, and suggestions for the 2022-2023 County operating budget that will affect all Bonita residents. She wants to know what matters to you. Judy then turned the meeting over to Supervisor Vargas.

Supervisor Vargas announced that the County has designated the Bonita Library as a “cooling center”. She asked us to share this information with the community.

Supervisor Vargas told us that she is conducting “round tables” around her district, and this includes interacting with businesses and the Sherriff’s department. She reminded us that she is aware of the homelessness in our area and of the illegal dumping at Plaza Bonita.

She told us that the Bonita Garden has received funding from ARPA. Schools have also received funding. She indicated that because of all the funding given to local organizations, many projects have been accomplished.

Supervisor Vargas talked about the County Budget meeting that would be held on June 2, 2022, via Zoom. She briefly noted some of the topics for the meeting, such as

- behavioral health,
- SANDAG’s proposal to wave transportation fees for people 18 and under; noting that public transportation ridership is up. She also hinted at a proposal to increase the number of people eligible to receive free ridership.

Supervisor Vargas noted the improvements to Proctor Valley Road and the four-way stop at Jonel Way. She acknowledged our concerns about speeding in our area, and said she was working on it.

The supervisor talked about a new County department being established that will be responsible for handling mental health.

Supervisor Vargas talked about Senior Citizen centers. She wants to establish 45 centers; currently the county has 22. She wants more Centers in the South Bay. She is aware that some Senior centers have special requirements. She requested that we tell her what we would like to see and want in a Senior center.

Supervisor Vargas announced that next year she will be the chair of the County Board of Supervisors.

Mike Sims thanked the supervisor for the grant to the Fire Department and noted that they were working on cutting down the dead Palm trees and removing brush. He acknowledged the issue of crime and homelessness. Supervisor Vargas responded to the homelessness issue by noting that the County is working with the State of California to get resources. She is the County representative on the State’s Homeless Task Force. She indicated that there are mental health issues that need to be addressed. To address the mental health issues, the County is allocating money in the budget for “Hot Teams” for addressing the homeless issue. She is interested in

addressing the root causes of homelessness and noted that homelessness is a complicated issue. Regarding the redistricting, Supervisor Vargas noted that her district has changed and that many of the new areas are totally different than the old, replaced areas. Mike Sims said that he would help in any way that he could to help bridge the differences. Jim Goth indicated that the redistricting causes major issues, since the supervisor will now have to converse with elected officials in the East County.

Starting the discussion period, Jim Goth talked about the county being “Short Staffed” and that it is difficult to get County services. He further noted that the County hiring process is difficult because the County does not provide a retirement package.

A discussion occurred regarding the 125-toll road. This included comments about traffic caused by toll avoidance traffic and include the possibility of eliminating the toll for two months.

Mike Clowers talked about General Maintenance issues such as road conditions on Briarwood Road, the school road signs on Valley Vista, and the overgrown weeds at the Community Garden.

Other discussions occurred regarding funding for schools and libraries. Supervisor Vargas noted that there is mental health funding initiative related to Middle schools.

There were additional discussions regarding traffic enforcement and the traffic problem that could occur if the Quarry Road Storage Facility is approved.

A discussion was had regarding the safety center and the Bonita Senior Patrol. Sheriff’s Crime Specialist Julio Garcia took the lead and said that the Sheriff is the only agency that frequents the Bonita Safety center; the CHP no longer works there. He told us that the Chula Vista police have moved to the Chula Vista Safety center, however, the Bonita Senior Patrol does frequent the Bonita Safety center. Regarding Senior Patrol training, Julio Garcia said the only training facility is in Poway. However, the Sheriff’s Department is working to set up a second facility closer to Bonita. During this discussion people asked about the shortage of Sheriff personnel to which Crime specialist Julio Garcia noted that on June 4, 2022, there will be a sheriff candidate recruitment at Southwester Community college to hire new sheriff candidates. In addition, the department is doing advertisement for new candidates. Julio Garcia indicated that any candidate for sheriff will have to undergo a background check.

Jim Groth noted that the Bonita Animal Shelter is closing and that he had a discussion with a person in charge of that facility who indicated that the shelter has already begun the transition process.

There was a discussion about the Eastlake YMCA which is closing. Apparently, this is a multigeneration center and people feel an effort should be made to erect a new center in that area.

Supervisor Vargas concluded her presentation and thanked everyone for their comments and for allowing her to talk to us.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP, Officer Salvador Castro: Not in attendance.

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia: Julio provided a crime map for our area which is included with the minutes. He noted that there were four acts of vandalism. He recommended that everyone should lock their doors and windows.

Julio talked about crimes in Lincoln Acres where criminals were stealing cars. Arrests were made and that reduced some of the crime in that area.

He responded to a question about the theft of catalytic converters by saying that most of the thefts are in North and East of the County. He noted that owners can use deterrents to avoid these kinds of thefts by engraving the converters with a special marking or by using a protection plate. Without going into details, he noted that the thieves are targeting certain models and years of cars.

Chula Vista Police Officer: Not present.

Elected Representative Reports:

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

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: Andrew was not in attendance.

New Business. President Judy Tieber presented a bylaw change that would add a "Member at Large" to the board. Daryl Hern moved to approve, and Sharmane Estolano seconded. Motion passed.

President Judy Tieber presented a bylaw change to alter the name of Neighborhood Directors to Neighborhood Ambassadors. Sharon Coleman moved to approved and Sharmane Estolano seconded. Motion passed.

President Judy Tieber presented the new candidates that were standing for election. They were President (Judy Tieber), Vice President (Sharmane Estolano), Treasurer (Stephen Stonehouse) Secretary (Tony Tieber), and Member at Large (TBD). Using the normal procedure, President Judy Tieber determined that there were no nominations from the floor. The officers were approved by acclimation except for Member at large which remained unfilled. Judy noted that since there were no nominations for the Member at Large position, that a member, for the Member at Large, would be elected at the next meeting and that there would be advertisement for the position. The membership agreed with this recommendation.

President Judy Tieber presented the current Neighborhood Directors/Ambassadors and the seats to which they were assigned. Several of the seats were unassigned. The list is included with the minutes. The list was approved by acclimation. Prior to the approval, there was a discussion about altering the current map of Areas to Neighborhood Directors/Ambassadors. No action resulted from the discussion.

Continuing Business: None

Community Forum: The forum was not held at this meeting, however, issues normally brought up at this time were addressed in the Question-and-Answer session with Supervisor Vargas.

Other Announcements--None

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 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.