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P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org

**SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
August 3, 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, Sharmane Estolano, Mike Clowers

Members Present: Daryl Hern, Harriet Taylor, Mike Seiler, Neal Ridge, Nancy and Dana Cornell, Barbara Guthrie, and Mike Sampsel.

Guests Present Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia from the Sheriff’s Office, Andrew Harvey from Supervisor Nora Vargas’ Office, Erick Del Bosque and Jose Calderon Scott from the Sweetwater Authority, Kathleen Dang from the Office of Representative Sara Jacobs Office and Amanda Angulo from Councilmember John McCann’s Office. Other Guests present were William Butcher, Beverly Geerdes, Margarita P Garcia, Abaram Garcia, and Jason Oscker.

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

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

	<u>August 2022</u>
Checking	\$ (450.78)
Grant Received	\$ 4,918.45
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 2,464.66
Ending Balance	\$ 6,932.41

Previous Balance was \$9,572.04

There were grant charges to KIG for web site fees and SMS postage. Also, \$357.04 in membership dues were received.

The report was accepted as written.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims reported that progress is being made on falling the dead palms along Bonita and Sweetwater Roads. So far over 30 trees have been taken down with more to follow. The brush clearing service should be out on August 8-10 to shred the palm fronds from said trees along the river bottom perimeters.

Firefighter Paramedic Corey Springett has passed his 3-year step test and is now qualified to be acting Engineer as needed! Great job Corey!

Probationary Firefighter Paramedic Amado Rodriguez has passed his 2-year step test and is no longer on probation. He worked very hard to prepare for this grueling multi-day test, and it showed in his stellar performance. Nice work Amado!

Our Central Zone 911 Dispatch Center has selected and hired a new Director. A little background on this process: BFD Board of Directors member Mark Scott is the Chair of the Dispatch Center Commissioners and Chief Mike Sims is the Co-Chair of the Board of Chiefs. Together, these two groups manage the Dispatch Center and ensure the efficient operation of all crucial dispatching services for the 11 agencies that it serves.

The community of Bonita raised over \$8000 for the Burn Institute between the Boot Drive and the Firefighter's Demolition Derby at the Del Mar Fair. We appreciate your generous support for this great cause!

Finally, fire season is in full swing as evidenced by the multiple fires currently burning in Northern California. Just a reminder to make sure your house and property are fire safe. You can check our website (bonitaafd.org) for information on how to create defensible space on your property. For further information on the topic, you can visit readyforwildfire.org.

Sweetwater Authority, Director of Engineering and Operations, Erick Del Bosque: The Sweetwater Authority (SWA) represented by Erick Del Bosque presented an extensive report that included many slides. (This slide presentation was sent to the SVCA members in a previous email, so his presentation is not illustrated in this set of minutes), However, a number of questions about various parts of the presentation and answers are provided here.

In an interaction with Mike Seiler, Mr. Del Bosque indicated that using the baseline water usage in 2015, there was an initial 20% decrease in water usage. Currently, water usage is only 3% lower than in 2015. Mike Seiler postulated that water usage goals for all users might be advantageous if implemented again. A meeting attendee inserted that if water usage is a problem, perhaps the SWA should implement a gray water program and provide a rebate to people who use gray water. Mr. Del Bosque responded that even if the area serviced by the SWA had 5 consecutive dry years, the SWA could still supply adequate water to their customers. In response to this adequate supply statement, Sharmane postulated that surely the Chula Vista Bay Front project, for which the SWA is supplying water, will affect this 5-year projection. Daryl Hern agreed, especially with the amount of water needed just for the construction of that project. Nonetheless, Mr. Del Bosque stood by the SWA 5-year master plan of water supply adequacy.

Starting at the end of August, the SWA will start the installation of a new pipeline along Sweetwater Road from Briarwood to Pray Street. Attendees were very interested in this project, especially its effect on traffic, since there are large amounts of traffic that move through that area where the pipeline will be installed. Unfortunately, at this time, Mr. Del Bosque had very little information to share with us. Mr. Del Bosque did say that the project might be delayed because of the time to get San Diego County permits. He also tended to indicate that the County, in cooperation with SWA, would be responsible for traffic control. Many attendees told him the detour information is critical. Finally, Mike Seiler suggested that the SWA put some sort of traffic information on customer's water bills.

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP, Officer Salvador Castro: Not in attendance. However, Judy told us she was contacted by Jesse Matias, Public Information Officer for the CHP. He will be our contact moving forward.

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia: Julio provided a crime map for our area which is included with the minutes. Crime Specialist Garcia reported that crime is low in the Bonita area, although there were 3 vandalism cases, 1 fraud case, and 7 stolen cars. Julio Garcia said people should act to protect their cars. To illustrate this point, he provided brochures entitled "How to Protect your car". He further noted that it is important to report crimes to the sheriff, and not just talk about the crimes on social media.

Julio Garcia also talked about the planning for a new sheriff station to be located somewhere in Otay Mesa.

Sharmane and Mike Clowers discussed a left turn lane at Allen School Rd. This falls within the City of Chula Vista.

Chula Vista Police Officer: Not present.

Elected Representative Reports:

U. S House of Representatives Sara Jacobs Office Representative Kathleen Dang. Ms. Dang reported that Representative Jacobs had provided \$6M for local projects, including schools and the military. Ms. Dang highlighted a new fire fighting helicopter that was obtained using part of the funding. She further indicated that Representative Jacobs is vitally interested in protecting human rights. Ms. Dang mentioned that the U. S. House of Representatives is currently in recess and that Representative Jacobs is using her time to promote and attend functions related to "National Night Out", to focused on public safety. Ms. Dang identified a new office which representative Jacobs set up in North Park, and that the Representative and her staff are available to help with Federal government issues such as passports.

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: Andrew said Supervisor Vargas would ensure full County cooperation with the SWA to control traffic on the water pipe installation. Andrew reminded us that there is more funding available for grants, especially for small businesses. He also said that the County is working with SDGE to underground more electrical cables.

About the stop signs at Proctor Valley Road and Jonel Way, Andrew said that the work order is in process and installation will be done in 4-6 weeks. About Briarwood Road, the County is aware that more resurfacing is required. Andrew announced that the County declared a state of emergency for Monkey Pox. He indicated that the infection rate in San Diego County is still low, but that it is high in Los Angeles County.

About flood control, Andrew said that the DPW is removing dead trees from the creek bed along Bonita Road.

Mike Seiler asked about the re-surfacing of Central Avenue and when that work would occur. Andrew said he would follow up on the resurfacing schedule and report back at the next SVCA meeting.

Council Member John McCann's Office Representative Amanda Angulo. Amanda said that council member John McCann is very interested in Veterans and is working to ensure that the veterans get the services they need.

Amanda told us that the City of Chula Vista is developing a new homeless shelter near Main and Broadway that will open in the fall. This shelter will provide all necessary support services to the homeless.

About the Chula Vista Golf Course, Amanda indicated that improvements are being made and more will be made in the future. She indicated that the farmer's market at the golf course is well received, and many people are using that resource.

Amanda notified us that council member John McCann would hold a "State of District One" meeting on August 15 in Eastlake and that he would talk about accomplishments and plans for Bonita. She also told us that the Council Member would present awards to community members for their services to Chula Vista residents.

Judy reminded Amanda to follow up on the dumping on Proctor Valley Road that is located within Chula Vista City limits. Judy thought a clean-up should occur at least once a month.

Continuing Business. President Judy Tieber talked about the "At Large" position and open Neighborhood Ambassador position, addressing the need for volunteers to fill those positions. Daryl Hern 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. See the SWA discussion and slides noted earlier in the minutes.

Community Forum:

Traffic and Roads Mile Clowers: Mike reported that the stop signs on Proctor Valley Road are still a work in progress and noted that the progress was slower than expected. About Briarwood Road resurfacing, he hoped it would occur soon.

Mike noted that the CHP is understaffed, but traffic enforcement was being provided on the Proctor Valley Road/San Miguel Rd corridor as time permits. He thanked the CHP for their support. Mike talked about the truck and RV parking by the Bonita Post Office on Central Avenue and that the parking was again becoming an issue and that the "No Parking" at that location needed to be enforced.

Mike led a discussion about the Glarfs and the incident that occurred when the movers tried to load the Glarfs onto the truck to be moved to the fire station. Essentially, Mike said, the shopping center owner objected to the move and called the police. Rather than cause more escalation of the incident, the actual owner of the Glarfs decided to leave the Glarfs at the shopping center for the time being. After a little prodding, Mike announced that he is now a member of the San Diego County Traffic Advisory Committee and is attending meetings. This is an important responsibility, and we thanked Mike for his commitment.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse: Stephen provided information about the Quarry Road self-storage facility which came before the Planning Group. No County representative attended the meeting; however, many concerned citizens were in attendance and many of them spoke providing their view of the proposed facility. This was an informational meeting. The proposed facility will come to the planning group again as an action item at a later date.

Other Announcements—Judy mentioned that a contact with the National City mayor is required because people continue to live in derelict RVs along Plaza Bonita Road and we now have homeless living in their cars on the parking lot by Outback Steakhouse.

Judy also talked about Bonitafest's 50th anniversary including the Twilight Trail Walk and the Saturday morning car parade which are only a few of the associated activities. She mentioned that the Bonita Highlands Homeowners Association newsletter had an excellent summary of all Bonitafest activities, and that she would seek permission from the BHHA to share this with SVCA members.

Daryl Hern talked about the Miniature Books on display at the Bonita Museum.

Judy briefly discussed marketing being done by the SVCA, the need for new members to staff the Bonita Senior Patrol, and the elementary school art contest being sponsored by the SVCA.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 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.