



**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  
January 4, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER: President Judy Tieber called the** meeting to order at 6:32 at the Library Community room. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. We began Mike Clowers with the Pledge of Allegiance. Judy asked for a moment of silence to honor the people 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, Sharmane Estolano, and Tony Tieber, Mike Clowers

**Members Present:**, Jim Groth, Jim Woodford, Gus Reynoso

**Guests Present:** Fire Chief Mike Sims, Amanda Angulo from Mayor John McCann’s Office, Julio Garcia from the Sheriff’s Department Andrew Harvey from Supervisor Nora Vargas’ office. Other guests present were John Burke, Bishop L. J. Guillory, Claire Prath, Margret Prna, Linda Matlock, Shlomit Haim, and Lynn Prater.

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Stephen Stonehouse reported the January 2023 Treasurer’s Report.

	<u>January 2023</u>
Checking	\$ 1,460.61
Grant Received	\$ 145.81
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 1,429.89
Ending Balance	\$ 3,036.31

Previous Balance was \$3,916.86.

There were charges to KIG of \$150.00 for Web Service and \$182.00 for a P.O. Box Rent. Also, Ck 860 to Judy Tieber for School Art Supplies.

The report was accepted as written.

**Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims:** Chief Sims reported that work continues on the trees in the river bottom. Some grant money still remains, and more trees will be cut as time permits. There are two more days of grant money available, nonetheless, 90% of the identified problem trees has been taken care of.

Unfortunately, there were several nuisance vegetation fires in the area, especially in the east end of Bonita near the 125/54 interchanges. The Fire Department has issued a training bulletin listing hazards in the Bonita area, especially with homeless encampments. Chief Sims asked us all to

take care in open space areas as many may contain “Booby Traps” set by people who don’t want you in that area.

Halley Schmiz passed her 2 year probationary firefighter test, got married, and then went on her honeymoon, all within three weeks.

Sand bags and sand are available at the Fire Station in Bonita, but you have to bring your own shovel and fill your own bags. The supplies are located on the east parking lot of the fire station and are available 24/7.

For the Board of Directors (BOD), for the Bonita/Sunnyside Fire District, 2 of 3 BOD officers (Tom Pocklington and Jim Marugg) were re-elected to four year terms. Apparently, this will be Tom’s last 4 years. His district consists of most of the north side of Sweetwater Road.

Chief Sims is the MACS representative for this area.

Jim Groth said it would be nice if we had the BODs contact information.

### **Law Enforcement Reports:**

**Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia:** Julio Garcia told us that the crime rate in our area is still low, however, two cars were stolen and there was some vandalism on unattached buildings. There was a discussion about graffiti and Jim Groth said there appears to be less graffiti than in previous years.

For a discussion on the crime map, which is included, Julio Garcia indicated that only opened crime cases show on the map not calls from concerned citizens.

Crime Specialist Julio Garcia told us about grant money available to educate and support senior citizens who could be victims of crime or may have been victims of crime. There was a discussion about the grant with one person indicating there is a lot of scam on senior citizens as often they are too embarred and don’t report the crime. As the discussion continued, Julio Garcia said the sheriff responds to every call and there are always 2 deputies in the area.

Julio Garcia indicated that the sheriff’s department is actively recruiting citizens to be law enforcement personnel. The Sheriff’s department is also looking for citizens to staff the Senior Patrol.

Julio provided us a crime map which is included with these minutes.

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

### **Elected Representative Reports:**

#### **U. S House of Representatives Sara Jacobs Office Representative Kathleen Dang.**

Secretary’s Note: As of January 3, 2023, Sara Jacobs is no longer a representative for this area. I received Kathleen Dang’s monthly report in January, so I read the report at the January meeting, even though it is for December 2022.

Kathleen Dang reported that Representative Jacobs was elected as Caucus Leadership Representative, representing Democratic Members who have served five terms or less in Congress, for the 118th Congress.

Kathleen also reported that the U. S. House passed Representative Jacobs' bill to rename the Rolando Post Office to Susan A. Davis Post Office. Congresswoman Susan Davis served San Diego in Congress from 2001 to 2021. The House also passed Representative Jacobs' Resolution Condemning the Use of Hunger as a Weapon of War. This is in response to the war in Ukraine that has left people without enough food during this conflict.

In the District Office, Representative Jacobs is currently hiring interns for the Spring 2023 semester. Current college students or recent graduates should consider applying by December 9th. - <https://sarajacobs.house.gov/services/casework/internships.htm>.

Kathleen reported that beginning January 3, 2023, Bonita & Sweetwater will no longer be represented by Congresswoman Jacobs. Residents of this area will be represented by Congressional District 52, Congressman Juan Vargas. People can seek help from their Chula Vista office after January 3, 2023, at: - 333 F Street, Suite A, Chula Vista, CA 91910 - Phone: 619-422-5963 - <https://vargas.house.gov/contact/offices/chula-vista-district-office> - After January 3, 2023, you may confirm your Congressional District using the House Map by entering your residence address: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.

**Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative:** Andrew Harvey told us that Supervisor Vargas will replace Supervisor Fletcher as head of the BOS on January 10, 2023 @ 9:00AM.

Regarding the approaching bad weather, Andrew cautioned everyone to be aware of their surroundings and to take necessary precautions.

Regarding economic development, Andrew said that the county has money for this and grants are available.

Regarding homelessness, Andrew said the county is planning to set up safe camping areas. This project should start in late February 2023. The County has declared homelessness to be a health crisis and a state of emergency declared to address the homeless issue.

Judy Tieber talked about the gaps in the split rail fence, especially along Bonita Road. Andrew indicated that he and Amanda Angulo are working on this issue.

A discussion was had about homelessness, including RVs parking on the Plaza Bonit parking lot, affordable housing, who is working on solving the homeless crisis, statistics regarding homelessness, and homelessness, in general, especially in the Plaza Bonita area.

Jim Groth addressed the toll on SR 125 and that help is needed to eliminate the toll. He said there is now a new challenge to identify government people whose district encompasses SR 125 because of redistricting. Jim felt an education process would be appropriate. This discussion also included the heavy and speedy traffic along San Miguel Road and the Hawk Light by Sunnyside school which has yet to be installed.

**Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo.** Amanda reported that she is now the Policy Advisor to Mayor John McCann.

Regarding homelessness, Amanda said that the City of Chula Vista is addressing the issue and is looking to set up free and safe parking lots.

Amanda reported that the City of Chula Vista is addressing safety on the trails by Rohr Park, especially in the areas where there are gaps in the split rail fence. Mike Clowers talked about lighting on the trails by Rohr Park. He noted that there is some lighting but more is needed. He suggested that a barrier, better than the split rail fence be installed.

Amanda talked about a blood drive in Chula Vista in January. She also addressed the Norman Park Senior Center where Meals on Wheels will hold an education meeting on January 18, 2023.

Judy Tieber talked about the new venue apparently planned for Rohr Park and that she has received a lot of negative feedback regarding the venue.

**New Business.** President Judy Tieber talked about the Art Contest and the large number of art works currently in the possession of the SVCA. She suggested the possibility that those art works could be used as fundraiser. The art works have been collected from the three schools. Two of those Art sets have been digitized and are stored in the residence of Judy and Tony. The third has been digitized but is still in the possession of Keep-it-Growing.

#### **Community Forum:**

**Traffic and Roads Mile Clowers:** Mike Clowers reported there were no issues before the TAC relating to District One.

Mike said that he was researching speed Bumps and the kind of bumps that can be used on streets and roads. related to speed bumps, Mike said that we need the CHP and/or Sheriff in our area to control the speed on San Miguel Road. Sharmane talked about Valley Vista Road and the signs. Mike said that he would revisit the area to check on the signs.

**Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse:** In Stephen's absence, Tony Tieber reported the following: The planning group elected officers with Stephen Stonhouse and Harriet Taylor elected as co-chairs. Elizabeth Stonehouse was elected as Secretary.

There were two other action items. One regarding a fence at 3103 Sylvia Street and the second regarding open space encroachment on Timerick Lane.

There was one non-action item regarding the Quarry Road Storage Facility which was continued to the February meeting.

**Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford:** Jim reported that the Senior Patrol only has nine members and needs more members to adequately do their jobs. Jim said they are doing the best that they can. Staffing of the safety center is still being done. Tony suggested that the senior patrol think "outside the box" to recruit new members. Julio Garcia is the sheriff's representative for handling the senior patrol.

Jim said that the Senior Patrol vehicles are current parked at the Bonita/Sunnyside Fire Department's parking lot.

**Membership Sharon Coleman:** Sharon reported on the current membership level and provided the following membership report.

Individual 12

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 was not in attendance

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 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.