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SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING October 4, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: President Judy Tieber called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm at the Bonita-Sunnyside 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 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, Tony Tieber, Stephen Stonehouse, Sharon Clayton, Mike Clowers, and Sharon Coleman.

Members Present:, Bill Coleman, Harriet Taylor, Josie Calderon Scott, Richard Scott, Daryl Hern, Shlomit Haim, Mike Sampsel, Jim Groth, Donna Hodge, William Estrella, Nancy and Dana Cornell, and Karen Henry .

Guests Present: Lisa Schmidt from Assemblymember David Alvarez's Office, and David Schiesinger. Other guests present were David Takashima, Nancy Ramos, Lynn Prater and Carmen Urtnoger.

Introduction: Judy introduced Assemblymember David Alvarez, District 80, who will be making a presentation.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse reported the September 2023 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>October 2023</u>
Checking	\$ 6,551.11
Grant Received to Update And Maintain Web Site	\$10,000.00
Grant Received for Anti- Graffiti Coating Paint And Supplies	\$ 2,118.00
Ending Balance	\$18,669.11

The previous Balance was \$6,469.38.

The report was accepted as written.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims was not in attendance but did provide a report which was presented by Tony.

Chief Sims reported that the open space/vegetation clearing is proceeding at a good pace, and we are looking good in the district. Nonetheless, he said he still needs to get the U. S. Fish and Wildlife to make good on their promise to keep Proctor Valley Road cleared along the property edges. The Fire Department gets frequent complaints and requests to evaluate areas, but most turn out to be more of an eyesore than a fire hazard and there is no action that the department can take on eyesores. He emphasized again that the district looks very good with regards to wildfire resiliency but reminded homeowners to keep their properties cleared and structures in good repair.

In a related topic to the above, the CVFD has engaged their prevention folks on the areas behind the cemetery. This is great news, the chief said, because we have been asking/warning about this canyon for years. If a fire started in that canyon, it would affect CV residents more than Bonita residents, but with strong east winds, a fire could also affect some of our neighborhoods south of Bonita Road (e.g., The Hill Road, Randy Lane, etc.). As the CV effort progresses, he said he will keep us informed.

Law Enforcement Reports:

Sheriff's Department: Crime Specialist Julio Garcia was not in attendance this month.

Elected Representative Reports:

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

Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo. Amanda Angulo was not in attendance. However, I did get a report which was not presented at the meeting but was sent by email to all members immediately after the September meeting.

U. S. House of Representatives (52nd District) Juan Vargas Office Representative Genevieve Fong: Genevieve Fong was not available.

California State Assembly Representative David Alvarez: David Alvarez represents California's district 80. His representative, Lisa Schmidt was in attendance but deferred to Assemblymember Alvarez for his presentation.

State Senator (18th District) Stephen Padilla office representative Thomas Lawton. Thomas Lawton was not available.

U. S. Senator Alex Padilla Office Representative Angel Marquez. Angel Marquez was not available.

New Business.

Guest Speaker Assemblymember David Alvarez, District 80. The presentation by Assemblymember David Alvarez is not contained in these minutes. The presentation was sent to all members by email immediately after the meeting. The presentation was also posted to the web site.

There were some discussion items during and after the presentation. Judy Tieber was interested in traffic enforcement. Mike Clowers talked about traffic enforcement cameras. Jim Groth was also interested in cameras, especially in school zones.

Jim Groth was particularly interested in the redistricting that placed his Bonita/Sunnyside residence in the area with East County. This apparently has left him without a state senator. He was also interested in Proposition 91 and how that affected school funding.

Attendees were interested in State Route 125 fees and toll avoidance.

Harriet Taylor was interested in sidewalk repairs and flooding on San Miguel Road.

One attendee was interested in Border Flooding especially along Dairy Mart Road.

People were also interested in electricity rates, solar, and Community Power.

David Schlesinger of the Sweetwater Authority Rate Payers Association (SARPA). David Schlesinger provided a final accounting of the SARPA funds that were provided to the SVCA. Dave indicated that this was his last official business for SARPA and was making this final accounting on behalf of Mike Seiler and all other members of SARPA. Briefly, David talked about the lawsuit brought by SARPA against the SWA., and that the settlement of that suit resulted in the Sweetwater Authority Citizen Advisory Committee.

David also provided the SVCA with the final SARPA check which will be accounted for on the November financial report.

Everyone thanked Dave and SARPA for all their work and for their financial support to the SVCA.

Community Forum:

Traffic and Roads Mike Clowers: Mike Clowers reported on Road signs and about the collection of places and photos of signs that need replacement. He noted that Judy has an additional list and that the process of identifying signs is ongoing.

Mike noted that the installation of the Hawk light at Sunnyside Elementary school on San Miguel Road will be installed soon and may have actually been started.

Mike also talked about the County's "Tell Us Now" app which is an efficient way to communicate with the county when reporting items of interest in the County that need to be fixed.

Mike also talked about the berm on Margaret St near Sweetwater Road which has been eroded from water run-off and needed repair. He reported it on "Tell Us Now" and it got fixed expeditiously.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse & Harriet Taylor: Stephen reported that the Park Land agenda item had been tabled and that a request would be made to the County for additional information.

Stephen also reported that the Planning Group had voted to be included in a new organization being formed called "Association of Planning Groups".

Stephen reported that there is a planned visit to the County regarding the status of the ACE and Quarry Road Storage facilities.

The planning Group recommended that a sidewalk on 32nd Street in Lincoln Acres be replaced.

Harriet talked about the Starbucks that is being built in the shopping center on Central and Bonita Roads. This new Starbucks will replace the existing Starbucks that is currently in that same shopping center. Harriet said she is looking to get the plans for the drive-through Starbucks to determine if anything has changed since the Planning Group recommended to the County that the plan be approved. She said she is particularly concerned about the 28 signs currently planned for Starbucks. Harriet was also interested and concerned about directions on roadways and noted that the Spring Valley Starbucks only needs three signs.

Harriet also noted a potential traffic problem since the exit from Starbucks is planned to be onto Central Avenue, especially since there are no crosswalks in that area.

Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford: Jim was not in attendance this month.

Membership Sharon Coleman: Sharon did not submit a report this month.

Sweetwater Authority Karen Henry. Karen provided and made a report. Her written report is included with the minutes.

There was a question about Sweetwater Authority projects that had not been completed before the new project for Solar Panels on the Reservoir was started. It appeared that more research on this topic was necessary and the creation of a list of projects necessary. Mike Sampsel talked about the amount of current capital improvements and adding more projects to this list seemed excessive. He suggested prioritization was necessary and perhaps even better financial management.

There was a discussion regarding infrastructure to which Josie Calderon Scott said that the maintenance of infrastructure was imperative.

There was a discussion about The Sweetwater Community Advisory Work Group.

Sharmane talked about Solar on the reservoir and trails around the reservoir, and even rebates from SWA for Car Washing.

Judy finally said that if people want talking points regarding the SWA, to please forward them to her and she would ensure that the questions get to either Karen or Mike for presentation.

Other Announcements. Jim Groth addressed the 7/11 Store and the traffic generated by the store. He also wondered what the status was for the vacant restaurant property that is across the

street from the 7/11 at the intersection of Bonita Road and Frisbie. Jim was also interested in the vehicles being stored on Briarwood at the intersection of Briarwood and Sweetwater Road. He was wondering if this was permanent or temporary, and if permanent was the County aware of the storage.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:32 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.