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

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING December 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: President Judy Tieber called the meeting to order at 6:35 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, Tony Tieber, Stephen Stonehouse, Sharmane Estolano, and Sharon Clayton, Mike Clowers, Sharon Coleman

Members Present: Harriet and John Taylor, Richard Scott, Daryl Hern, Shlomit Haim, Karen Henry, Jim Woodford, Donna Hodge, William Estrella, Nancy and Dana Cornell, Mark Kukuchek, Mike Parnell, Robert Ross, Susan Heavilin, Bill Coleman.

Guests Present: Guests present Lynn Prater and Genevive Fong.

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

Special Welcome. Judy welcomed the members, guests, and representatives of elected officials and all those who might contemplate joining SVCA. A special welcome was extended to Robert Ross who recently joined the SVCA.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse provided the December 2023 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>December 2023</u>
Checking	\$ 6,380.04
Dues Received	\$ 112.35
Bank Fee	\$ 10.00
PayPal Paid to Mail Chimp	\$ 46.00
December Deduction from \$12,118.00 County Grant	
Ck. 884 Anna Siqueilos	\$ 1,769.67
Ck. 885 KIG Nov Bill	\$ 270.00
Ck. 883 KIG Dec Bill	\$ 180.00
Mission Fed CD	\$10,000.00
Ending Balance	\$16,380.04

The previous Balance was \$18,542.36. The report was accepted as written.
Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims reported the following:

One of the fire fighters associated with the Bonita/Sunnyside Fire department, Sycuan Fire Department captain Frederic Sabas, passed away. May he rest in peace,

The Chief announced that the Fire Department is collecting toys for distribution until December 20, 2023.

Firefighter Halley Rivera passed her 3-year Step Test. Congratulations to Halley.

The Bonita Fire Department awarded three members the "Excellence" Coin for saving the life of a man in cardiac arrest.

Tom Pocklington, an SVCA member, and a past Bonita Fire Department official, recently lost his wife. May she rest in peace.

The Bonita Fire Department is finishing the specs for their new Fire Engine which will take 2.5 years to build. They expect to submit the build request on or about January 1, 2024. The engine will cost \$1.3M and the department will get 20 years of use of the engine.

Sharon Coleman relayed a delightful story about the retrieval of her husband Bill's hat, which had blown into the water in Boston, and the fire department there agreed to retrieve the hat using a boat. Bill now has his hat back.

Law Enforcement Reports:

Sheriff's Department: Crime Specialist Julio Garcia was not in attendance this month. However, he did send a crime map included with these minutes. He also sent a link to a Sheriff Departments web page. The URL is included in these minutes below.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwIXFh8iOYOWzrEWIIQwuQ>

Elected Representative Reports:

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

Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo. Amanda Angulo reported on the Starlight Parade and the substantial number of entries and participants.

California State Assembly Representative David Alvarez: David Alvarez represents California's district 80. His representative, Lisa Schmidt, was not available.

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.

U. S. House of Representatives (52nd District) Juan Vargas Office Representative Genevieve Fong: Genevieve Fong reported that Representative Vargas, a member of the financial committee, met with banking executives, a part of his job as member of that committee.

Genevive also reported that the representative had requested \$310M for the South Bay Water Emergency Fund.

New Business.

Wyyerd Communications Presentation by Dennis Kyle (dennis.kyle&wyyerd.com). Due to technical difficulties, the video of the presentation was not shown. I have enclosed that video as a PDF, and it is included with the minutes.

Sharmane voiced a positive testimonial to her Wyyerd experience. She said she is a customer, and the internet service is fast and dependable. She uses streaming and the price for the service is reasonable.

The service will be available in Bonita in 2024 and is currently available in Chula Vista.

Community Discussion regarding Bonita Animal Shelter Property. Judy led the discussion and provided a brief introduction to get the conversation started. She wanted to know what the SVCA group wanted such as a Senior Center, Pickel Ball or Bocce ball courts, or a recreational Center (for example). She indicated there are ten acres of which five are level ground. Judy asked for a consensus of the group in attendance.

One idea was a boys and girls club of some kind like what the YMCA has.

Dana Cornell and others in attendance expressed frustration about the closure of the animal shelter. Mike Clowers responded that the County's thinking is that the new Santee location is more centralized.

William Estrella thought a recreational center would be an idea because it would be a place where people could enjoy themselves.. Judy responded that Lakeside has a nice recreation center and concurred with William. Attendees discussed other County Rec centers that they knew about.

Harriet Taylor also thought a Rec center was an innovative idea where multi-level activities would occur.

Sharmane showed support for a multi-use facility.

Daryl Hern wanted a facility that could contain room for educational use.

Low-cost senior housing was also discussed.

Now, Judy postulated that it sounded like people wanted a center for the Community to use for divergent functions. Something multi-generational that would be operated by the County. She also said that most people sound like they want to work with the County to make a Community Center happen.

Finally, Judy said that she would write a draft letter to the County regarding the Community Center idea. She would get comments back from the SVCA board, who will sign the letter, and then she would forward the letter to Supervisor Vargas.

Community Forum:

Traffic and Roads Mike Clowers: Mike Clowers reported that there was nothing related to Bonita on this month's Traffic Advisory Committee agenda.

He also reported that he had talked to the County regarding the lists of Signs that need to be replaced. Mike went over to Winnetka and viewed the new speed sign in operation erected to attempt to slow down the traffic.

He reported that the fence by the golf course has been repaired and reported that the Hawke light is operational.

Mike encouraged people to use the app, "Tell us Now" to report issues to the county. He indicated that the County could fix old stuff but cannot start new projects.

In response to a question about the metal grate at the corner of Bonita Road and Central Avenue, Mike replied that there is an apparent problem with the contractor and that needs to be resolved prior to the grate being removed.

Judy reported that Andrew Harvey and others had a meeting with the CHP regarding traffic in Bonita/Sunnyside. They discussed five or six places where the people of Bonita know traffic is bad. The CHP agreed to more patrols. Mike said he hopes that the CHP will take enforcement action against drivers making rolling stops and speeding on San Miguel Road.

Finally, Mike said that the CHP has a shortage of personnel. They do have officers at the traffic advisory meeting, and he will talk to the officers about Bonita.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse & Harriet Taylor: Stephen reported that his wife, Elizabeth, had gotten a call about Frisbie and Bonita Road in reference to a berm that needed repair.

Harriet reported that the LaFinca restaurant will now be called Nectar. She said there is a total redo of the building planned to bring it into compliance with all County regulations. Currently, the plan is to operate a food truck on the property during the restaurant planning and construction period. The new owners made a presentation and answered questions at the Planning Group meeting. The new owners are Bonita residents.

Jim Woodford asked about the drive through Starbucks that is being erected. Harriet replied that the planned signage is being negotiated.

Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford: Jim reported that the Senior Patrol had 5 patrols last month using 7 volunteers. Nothing is scheduled for December. Jim provided the following statistics.

NOVEMBER 2023 SHERIFF SR. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	47
Number of Patrols	5
Number of Miles Driven	260
Vacation Checks	2
Citizen Assists	3

Traffic Control 4
Number of Volunteers 7

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

Sweetwater Authority Karen Henry. Karen reported that she had attended the Sweetwater Authority meeting and created a one-page summary of that meeting. That meeting report is included with the minutes. She also provided a memo called "Inconvenient Truths," which references the Sweetwater Authority Water Rates. That memo is also included with the minutes.

During the SVCA meeting, there were comments regarding certain projects by the SWA and necessary research required about water rates. William thanked Karen for all her work.

One important comment came from Richard Scott who said that Karen is one voice, and the SWA board is not inclined to listen unless more citizen involvement occurs.

People in attendance thought that the solar array on the Lake would tarnish the lake view for all people in San Diego County.

Other Announcements. Daryl Hern talked about the Museum and two events scheduled for December. She listed the following dates and displays.

Dec 9-30 Trains in Bonita and the Teller Magi Collection

Dec 16 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party reenactment from 12:00 -4:00 at the J Street Marina.

Judy noted that the FBI will be at the January meeting to discuss scams and fraud especially as these crimes relate to senior citizens.

Jim Woodford reported the refurbished Glarfs have been moved to their permanent location along Bonita Rd in front of the shopping center. He also reported about a remote-controlled racetrack for Rohr Park which is being sponsored by the Kawanis Club. He will have more project information at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:27 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.