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**SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
October 2, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: President Judy Tieber called the meeting to order at 7:10 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, Mike Clowers, Carri Fernandez, Sharon Coleman, Richard Scott

Members Present: Susan Heavilin, Harriet Taylor, John Taylor, Bill Coleman, Jim Woodford, Luis DeLaRosa, Felix Felix, Craig Allen, Raquel Allen, Elizabeth Cox, Jessica Engen, Dan Burow, Daryl Hern, Donna Hodge, Lisa Martin Goodsell, Robin de Porras, Dana and Nancy Cornell.

Guests Present: Jose Ortiz, Crime Prevention Specialist of the Sheriff’s Department, Amanda Angulo of Chula Vista Mayor John McCann’s office, and Lisa Schmidt, Assembly member Alvarez’ office, Cristian Fuentes Hernandez, County of San Diego, Janeen Reed, Terry Carr, Ernesto Castaneda, County of San Diego.

Susan Heavilin interrupted the meeting to demand that we conduct an election of officers. She and others felt it was not acceptable to wait until June 2025, as called for in the bylaws. Everyone was assured by Sharmane Estolano and Richard Scott that a plan was in the works and that elections would happen sooner. Everyone just needed to calm down. Judy announced that Felix Felix would be facilitating the process to review and revise the bylaws. Judy asked Felix to speak to the matter which he did. Felix assured everyone that they would have an opportunity to review the draft bylaws and provide input as the process moved forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Judy asked for a motion to approve the minutes with one correction to include Robin de Porras as present. Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve; Mike Clowers provided the second. Minutes approved with correction.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse provided the October 2024 Treasurer’s Report.

	<u>October, 2024</u>
Checking	\$ 1,326.13
Mission Fed CD	\$ 10,000.00
Interest on CD through Sept.	\$ 413.70
Grant Status –Original Grant	
\$12,118.00	
Deductions to Date	
\$ 6,754.67	
Ending Balance	\$ 11,739.83 (Previous Balance was \$11,825.80)

The report was accepted as written.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims gave the following report:

We will be conducting an in-house Captain's promotional process in March of 2025. The planning and studying have already begun! Chief Sims announced his planned retirement next July, 2025, but that he will stay on one more year.

We have had a line medic and/or line EMT deployed to various fires in the State since June. They typically do a 2-week deployment with the option for a 1-week extension upon the Fire Chief's approval. The three Southern CA fires (Line, Bridge, and Airport) are all over 80% contained.

(Based on the two lithium-based battery fires (Brown Field and Escondido) I asked the Chief to talk to us about what happens if there is a battery fire at the SDG&E substation just east of Bonita. Luckily our substation does not have lithium batteries but here is his response).

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) fire department response information:

We would respond with other agencies as part of a First Alarm response which would include three fire engines, 1 fire truck, 1 Battalion Chief and 1 ambulance. These units would focus on protecting exposures, evacuations and containing the fire to the building of origin.

A separate response would be coming from SDG&E's privately contracted fire units along with company subject matter experts and various supervisors. These units would be responsible for mitigating the emergency within the building of origin (if possible) or making the decision to let it burn while protecting exposures.

These fires are very dynamic in nature and hazardous to the public as well as first responders. We are lucky to have one of the foremost experts on BESS incidents working for the San Diego Fire Department, and he is available throughout the region to assist in any way with tactics and decisions.

These fires will often create large plumes of toxic smoke that require evacuations while they burn themselves out. Someone asked about the possibility of adding scrubbers. Chief said that would have to be researched.

"Thermal runaway" is a common occurrence with fires involving BESS facilities. It means that the fire is self-propagating and cannot be extinguished until the involved battery cells are all burnt and depleted of energy. The tactic is to isolate and protect the unaffected batteries while the batteries involved burn out.

Law Enforcement Reports:

Sheriff's Office: Jose Ortiz, Crime Prevention Specialist of the Sheriff's Office. The Crime Prevention Specialist talked about Crime in the Bonita Area and presented a Crime map which accompanies these minutes. Briefly, our area had an identity theft, an electric scooter theft, a residential burglary, a robbery, theft from a vehicle, and a vehicle theft.

Elected Representative Reports:

Ernesto Castenada, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: Ernesto announced an upcoming Community Update hosted by Chairwoman Nora Vargas that will be held at the Bonita Museum and Cultural Center on Oct. 8th. The primary focus of the event will be to give

the San Miguel Road residents an update about what County is working on regarding flooding along that road. Residents are also welcome to bring up other matters at this meeting as well. The office of Nora Vargas is planning to interview Carol Magers about her experience biking in the Bonita community. Ernesto asked if others should also be included in these interviews.

Chula Vista Mayor John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo:

Amanda announced that the new library next to Fire Station 10 just had its topping off ceremony. This will be the first new Chula Vista library since 1995. When completed, the library will be 168,000 square feet and four stories tall. This will be a technologically advanced library with room reserved for a future higher education hub. David Alvarez (80th Assembly District) secured \$25 million for this project.

The Gaylord Hotel is on track for completion in May 2025. October 19 is beautify Chula Vista Day. Amanda also talked about the underway planning for the Starlight Parade scheduled for December 14th.

California State Assembly Representative David Alvarez: David Alvarez represents California's district 80. His representative, Lisa Schmidt, announced the following events that David will be hosting:

1. Assemblymember Alvarez is hosting the first annual AD 80 Holiday Posada and has invited the residents of the 80th District to attend.
The event will be held Friday, December 13th from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Chula Vista Civic Center Library. There will be tamales provided along with entertainment and kids activities.
All guests are requested to bring donations of adult diapers or pet food for individuals and animals in need.

I will have a flyer to distribute at the next SCVA meeting.

2. I also want to share the information about the College Resource Fair that Assemblymember Alvarez will be hosting on Saturday, January 25 from 9AM -1PM at Southwest High School in Otay Mesa.
We will have FREE assistance for financial aid applications and workshops along with over 50 colleges represented.
3. We are providing free turkeys and meals at the Chula Vista Senior Center on November 22 from 9AM-11AM. RSVPs are required by contacting the Senior Center.
4. Lisa also announced that 9 out of 10 bills authored by David have been signed into law.

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

New Business: Courtney Chase, Chula Vista Deputy City Manger gave a presentation on Keeping Chula Vista Safe, Clean and Well-Maintained, A Status Update on Measure P. Measure P is a voter approved ½ cent sales tax on retail sales. It was approved by voters on November 8, 2016, and began collecting taxes April 1, 2017. This funding has been used to pave, maintain and repair residential streets; upgrade or replace aging police, fire and 911 emergency

response facilities, vehicles and equipment; replaced storm drains; upgrade irrigation systems to conserve water and save energy; make essential repairs to older libraries, senior center and rec centers; and it has been used to improve the traffic signal systems. Measure P is set to expire in 2027, and the City has placed a new measure on the November 2024 ballot with hopes the residents will vote to continue it. We thanked Courtney for taking the time to give us this information.

Community Forum:

Sweetwater Authority-Karen Henry: No report.

Traffic and Roads Mike Clowers: Nothing to report for our area.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse & Harriet Taylor:

Stephen reported that the Planning Group denied the Secure Self Storage project (Quarry Rd Self Storage). A lot of residents came to the meeting to share their concerns and speak against it. Ace Storage could also come back to Planning Group if they change or downsize their proposed facility. Steve told us that both storage proposals could go to the County Planning Commission and seek approval. If the County Planning Commission does not approve it, they can appeal directly to the Board of Supervisors. Steve reminded us that the Community Planning Group is advisory only and has no other authority.

Membership Sharon Coleman: Sharon gave her October membership report:

Membership:

21 Family

1 Family/silver

69 Individual

22 Gold Members

5 Non-Profit Organizations

2 Gold Non-Profit Organization

2 Local Businesses

Volunteer Senior Patrol Jim Woodford: Jim reminded us that the Senior Patrol still needs more members. Currently there are only 6 members. They do what they can. Focus is being present for school crossing at Central and Bell Bonnie Bray. Jose Ortiz reported that the Sheriff's Dept. has approved purchasing banners to advertise for the Sr. Patrol. It just takes time to work its way through the system.

Jim provided the following report.

September 2024 Volunteer Sheriff Activities

Hours on patrol	117
Number of Patrols	12
Number of Miles Driven	482
Vacation Checks	7
Citizen Assists	1
Traffic Control	5
Number of Volunteers	5
Deployed speed trailer	3
Citations issued	5

Jim reported the speed trailer is in use but the solar doesn't keep it running. They continue to use two cars: 1 to pull the trailer, and 1 for patrols. They plan to continue working with Sunnyside School at the Bell Bonnie Bray crossing.

Sharmane announced she is running for the Chula Vista Elementary School Board. She has signs if anyone wants one.

Elizabeth Cox announced that we have both a Kindness Day and a Kindness Week coming up the second week in November. She hopes we will join other South County organizations and identify a way to show kindness in our community. On November 12th John McCann will present a proclamation.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Tieber
President

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.