

**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  
February 7, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President **Judy Tieber** called the meeting to order at 6:31 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.

**Members Present.** Richard and Josie Calderon Scott, Daryl Hern, Karen Henry, Jim Woodford, Mike Parnell, Sharon and Bill Coleman, Mark Kukuchek, Dana and Nancy Cornell, Harriet, and John Taylor, and Shlomit Haim, Prudence Prince

**Guests Present:** Lynn Prater, Fire Chief Mike Sims, Andrew Harvey, Luis Carillo, Janeen Reed, Christofer Pierce, Mackhenrie Eluer, Tim Jeffries, Angelica Wallace, Felix Nunez, Karen Gless, and Carmen Quiroga.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Judy asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve; Sharon Clayton 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.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Stephen Stonehouse provided the February 2024 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>February 2024</u>
Checking	\$ 4,519.82
Dues Received	\$ 53.78
PayPal to Mailchimp	\$ (45.00)
State of CA Fee	\$ (25.00)
KIG (Grant Deduction)	\$ (540.00)
KIG (Grant Deduction)	\$ (575.00)
Mission Fed CD	\$ 10,000.00
Interest on CD for January	\$ 63.34
Grant Status –Original Grant	
\$12,118.00	
Deductions to Date	
(3,874.67)	

Ending Balance \$ 14,583.16  
Previous Balance was \$15,670.72.

The report was accepted as written.

After Stephen's Presentation, he recommended that the SVCA donate \$100 to the Steamers whose railroad in Rohr Park was seriously damaged in the flood. The SVCA voted to approve the donation.

**Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims:** Chief Sims reported the following:

January was a record high month for emergency responses---194.

The BFD used and staffed a pickup truck since one of their vehicles was in the shop.

Storm related emergencies included:

- A stranded vehicle/occupant on the Central bridge between Bonita Road and Sweetwater Road.
- Horse relocations to higher ground off Sweetwater Road near the NE end of the Bonita Golf Course.
- Cutting and removing fallen trees in several locations.
- U38 assisted with flood recovery in the Le Presa area all day on Tuesday.

The BFD hosted a screening of the Pueblo documentary for about forty-five people in the BFD apparatus bay. Special thanks to Bob and Vanessa Chicca for attending and loaning the BFD their copy of the film for the screening.

The new fire engine has been ordered. The chassis and drive train are in line to be built while the BFD finishes designing the cab and compartment layout. Delivery is expected in early 2026. The cost is \$1.2M.

#### **Law Enforcement Reports:**

**Sheriff's Department:** There was no report this month. Jose Ortiz introduced himself. He is currently the Crime Specialist for Rancho San Diego, and he will be coming to our meetings as the replacement for Julio Garcia. We thanked him for coming and we look forward to his future presentations/reports.

#### **Elected Representative Reports:**

**Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative:** Andrew reported on the drainage along San Miguel Road and that a meeting was held with County staff regarding a wall that is preventing storm water to drain to the creek. He indicated that the issue would be addressed to the owner of the property that contains the wall.

Andrew notified us that Supervisor Vargas will present her state of the county at Southwestern College on February 21, 2024.

The state of Bonita scheduled for February has been delayed and will now occur in March or April of 2024.

He said that the County is working with EDCO to get dumpsters to sites that have damaged goods that need to be taken off the flooded properties.

Regarding the Steamers railroad, Andrew recommended that they apply for a community reinvestment grant.

**Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo.** Amanda Angulo was not in attendance. However, she did provide a report to Sharmane which was read by Sharmane. Amanda's Report provided the following:

- Fortunately, Chula Vista has been holding up very well in the storms, aside from Rohr Park a couple of weeks ago. Our Public Works crew has been working tirelessly to ensure our storm water drains are cleared and functioning properly.
- Recently, Mayor McCann attended a Washington, D.C. delegation trip with Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre and Coronado City Councilmember John Duncan to advocate for \$310 million in funding for the Tijuana River Valley sewage crisis. They had a very productive time and Mayor McCann returned home encouraged that although this crisis has lasted for decades, we have many policymakers on our side who want to partner with us to clean beaches and ocean water. While he was there, he met with various representatives of Congress in our local delegation, members of Congressional leadership, executives at the White House, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Lastly, the Hilltop Dog Park will have a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, February 14 at 9am. Everyone is welcome to explore the park's new leash-free area, and we want to thank all the community members who consistently advocated for this safe area in which their fur babies can enjoy the park and run freely. However, this would not be possible without the challenging work of City Staff.

If anyone would like to contact me, please do so at [aangulo@chulavistaca.gov](mailto: aangulo@chulavistaca.gov).

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

**State Senator (18<sup>th</sup> 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 (52<sup>nd</sup> District) Juan Vargas Office Representative Genevieve Fong:** Genevieve Fong was not available.

## **New Business.**

**Discussion and action the SVCA should take regarding the Sweetwater Authorities plan to build a solar panel array on the Sweetwater Reservoir.** Karen Henry made her report at the start of this discussion since it was relevant to the discussion which would follow.

Karen Henry provided the following background for the discussion:

- The SWA presented at the SVCA in November and at least one other time.
- Bonita residents have been attending Citizen Advisory meetings at the SWA meeting facility.
- The SWA does not appear to have a consistent story about the Solar panels.
- There is a concern that the Solar Panel project will be the sole source and not competitive.
- The Voice of San Diego wrote about the project and the SWA also made a press release.
- The Solar Array appears to be proceeding in the design phase.
- The SWA postulates that the Array will reduce evaporation and prevent algae.
- An EIR has not been written but there should be one.
- The type of Array envisioned has never been used over drinking water.
- There is no current timeline for the project.
- No risk or financial analysis has been done.

The Discussion by attendees included the following:

- Concerns over the long-term quality of the drinking water once the panels are installed.
- The visual effects of the panels
- The lake area that will be covered by panels.
- The lack of a competitive bidding process
- Concerns about the pollution the panels would cause from Micro particles, Birds sitting on the panels, and detergent needed to clean the panels.
- Studies done or being done and whether they were available.
- SWA Transparency
- Alternatives to the lake
- Whether there was government oversight of the SWA and whether the rate payers were the only oversight

A motion by Nancy Cornell was “to strongly oppose the Solar Panels on the Sweetwater Reservoir and to provide our opposition letter to other government agencies and include the points made during the discussion in the Letter.” Karen Henry seconded the motion. A vote on the motion was carried unanimously.

Editors Note: The Voice of San Diego published a report on the SVCA discussion and Vote. That news article does not accompany the minutes. However, the SWA answered that published article with a response. That response does accompany the minutes.

## **Community Forum:**

**Traffic and Roads Mike Clowers:** Mike Clowers was not available this month. However, William Estrella did make a presentation on the San Miguel Road issue. Editor’s note. Since SMR is part of traffic and roads.

William reported that the recent rains flooded San Miguel Road (SMR) and made driving on that road dangerous. He noted that since the traffic lanes are flooded, cars moved to the center of the road until they encounter another car coming in the opposite direction, this caused some cars to hydroplane and in one case almost caused an accident with a school bus. This type of driving caused a safety issue.

A SMR resident reported that several trash cans on the road had been hit, and on several occasions it was difficult to get out of the driveway.

The situation on the road and the water entering the road from the ballpark were videotaped and are available for viewing and could be provided to the county as evidence of the dangerous conditions on SMR.

**Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse & Harriet Taylor:** Stephen reported that Planning and Development services made a presentation regarding a new state law that governs multi-family dwellings such as apartments, duplexes, triplexes, etc. Apparently, this law does not require planning group recommendations but does have administrative requirements. There was a discussion relating to the design guidelines that the planning group has in place and have been approved by the County.

There was also a discussion relating to SANDAG and the Planning Groups' input to that organization.

**Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford:** Jim reported that the crossing signal on Central Avenue that supports the crossing of children from Sunnyside Elementary school is malfunctioning again.

Jim noted that there are four active volunteers, thus they can make four patrols per week; the senior patrol needs additional volunteers especially to do vacation and YANA checks. They are assisting at the Central Ave school crossing twice a week.

### JANUARY 2024 SHERIFF SR. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	33
Number of Patrols	4
Number of Miles Driven	216
Vacation Checks	0
Citizen Assists	1
Traffic Control	4
Number of Volunteers	5

**Membership Sharon Coleman:** Sharon presented the following report.

Membership:

Family- 16

Family/silver- 1

Individual- 16

Gold- 21

Org/Non-profit-2  
Org/for Profit- 2  
Org/for Profit Gold -2  
Org/Non-Profit Gold- 1

INCLUDES NEW MEMBERS 1- IND

**Sweetwater Authority Karen Henry.** Karen Henry's comments are contained under new business. However, she did forward me a Sweetwater Authority Update, part of which was not addressed in the meeting. That report is included with the minutes.

**Other Announcements.** Stephen Stonehouse recommended that the SVCA web site be checked for accuracy, especially for the names of people referenced.

In reference to the Steamers, Tony noted that he was on the Chula Vista Parks and Recreation Commission as a member with Greg Cox as the chair when the commission voted to send a letter to the Chula Vista City Council recommending that the Steamers be given space in Rohr Park for their railroad.

**Meeting adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony P. Tieber, Secretary, SVCA  
tony.tieber@cox.net

**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.