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SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING May 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Vice President Sharmane Estolano called the meeting to order at 6:32 at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library Community Room. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sharmane 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: Sharmane Estolano, Tony Tieber, Stephen Stonehouse, Mike Clowers

Members Present: Mike Sampsel, Josie Calderon (board member of the SWA) and Richard Scott, Daryl Hern, Karen Henry, Harriet Taylor, John Taylor, Shlomit Haim, Bill Coleman, and Jim Woodford.

Guests Present: Jose Ortiz, Crime Prevention Specialist of the Sheriff's Department, Amanda Angulo of Chula Vista Mayor John McCann's office, and Thomas Lawton from State Senator Steve Padilla's Office

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

Special Welcome. Sharmane welcomed the members, guests, and representatives of elected officials, and all those who might contemplate joining SVCA.

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

	<u>May 2024</u>
Checking	\$ 2,966.13
PayPal to Mailchimp	\$ (45.00)
KIWANIS Sign	\$ (75.00)
Dues Received	\$ 24.36
Mission Fed CD	\$ 10,000.00
Interest on CD to May	\$ 192.61
Grant Status –Original Grant	
\$12,118.00	
Deductions to Date	
\$ (3,874.67)	
Ending Balance	\$ 13,158.74
Previous Balance was	\$ 13,750.16.

The report was accepted as written.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims was not available for the meeting.

A person in attendance talked about how great the April 21, 2024, pancake breakfast was and how Benefitting the Burn Center was such an important endeavor. She reported that the special attractions accompanying the breakfast were well liked by all attendees, especially the kids.

Law Enforcement Reports:

Sheriff's Department: Jose Ortiz, Crime Prevention Specialist of the Sheriff's Department. The Crime Prevention Specialist talked about the neighborhood watch program and the advantages of the program.

Talking about traffic in Bonita, Jose Ortiz said that the CHP has primary responsibility for traffic enforcement. However, the Sheriff's department can act on traffic enforcement and will do that when deputies are available. Currently the sheriff's department is working to determine when the sheriff can have traffic enforcement deputies in the Bonita area.

The Crime Specialist talked about Crime in the Bonita Area and presented a Crime map which accompanies these minutes.

John Taylor talked about an incident in which a person was walking down the middle of a road. John called 911 to report the incident.

There was a discussion about the Senior Patrol coordinating with the Sheriff to list and track incidents; thus, adding to the current crime map. The crime specialist encouraged people to try and prevent crime situations, such as locking cars and not leaving valuables in plain sight.

Elected Representative Reports:

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: Andrew was not available for this meeting.

Chula Vista Mayor John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo. On behalf of Mayor McCann, I would like to report that Chula Vista has had events. A couple of weeks ago, Mayor McCann participated in the first annual Autism Acceptance Walk at Rogers Elementary school. This event was to recognize and support families and students with autism.

Right after that, we attended the Day of the Child event put on by the Chula Vista Community Collaborative, where there were one hundred vendors and participants, there to offer resources, raffle prizes for families and students. They also had a very impressive car show, as well as student performers.

Tomorrow, May 2nd, Mayor McCann will be a guest speaker at the National Day of Prayer event, taking place at the Norman Park Senior Center at 10am. We will be there for one hour, if you would like to join us, as well as a dozen other pastors and reverends, as we all unite to pray for our city, our state, country, and our world.

Lastly, please save the date for June 18th, at 6:30pm, as Mayor McCann will be hosting the State of the City Address at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center. Please note the enclosed flyer.

If anyone would like to contact me, please do so at 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 (18th District) Stephen Padilla office representative Thomas Lawton.

Thomas Lawton talked about cross-border pollution. This included a reference to SB178, the "California Water Quality & Public Health Prevention Act", This was sent to all members last month. He also referenced SB1208 the "Waste Discharge Permits: Landfill". SB1208 accompanies these minutes.

Regarding pollution, he said the problem is complicated because the treatment plant can process normal waste but cannot process industrial waste. If the waste all came from American companies in the United States, Government could act but some of the industrial waste is from foreign companies. Regardless of the source, the treatment plant cannot treat all the waste because the waste exceeds the plant's capacity. The estimate to enlarge and upgrade the treatment plant is \$1.3B, and currently the available funding is significantly less than the amount needed. The objective is to upgrade the treatment plant without using taxpayer dollars. The discharge from companies and the type of pollution discharged is already known, because there is an existing report on companies' discharge, but the issue is money to upgrade the plant.

Sharmane talked about the discharge of the trash that the treatment plant collects and that deposit in San Diego County landfills. She said if there are heavy metals in the discharge deposited in the landfills, this could have profound consequences for US citizens living in San Diego County.

Karen Henry asked Thomas for the State Water Board contact who would review the SWA proposed floating solar project. Thomas said he would get back to Karen with the contact information of the board. Karen talked about "Forever Chemicals" and solar panels which is also contained in her report below.

Thomas Lawton said he would do his best to keep us informed.

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 was not available.

New Business. Update on San Miguel Road Residential Issues Judy Tieber. There were no new business items on the agenda.

Community Forum:

Sweetwater Authority Karen Henry. Karen reported that the committee for the SWA solar panels did not get "off the ground" yet and a meeting needs to be held with Judy to determine the formal structure. She also mentioned that there is an on-line petition that is intended to prod the SWA into processing a formal EIR report.

Karen talked about a new EPA report that indicates solar panels contain "forever Chemicals." She asked Thomas Lawton if the state of California knew about the report as that report pertains

to the Sweetwater Reservoir and solar panels. She said that the SWA says they are not putting pollution in the reservoir and that may be an error based on the EPA report. Thomas Lawton agreed to coordinate with Karen. Richard Scott said that solar panels are OK, just not on the lake. Sharmane indicated that a discussion between Thomas, Karen and she resulted in the thought that the state may prefer solar panels to be on poles versus directly on the lake.

There was a discussion about a petition circulating online the intent of which is to gather signatures to protest the solar panels on the lake. There were other comments regarding the communication mediums to use to get the word out about the solar panels. There were additional discussions about a SVCA subcommittee and how they would approach the problem of the solar panels.

The discussion deviated from the solar panels and Josie Calderon Scott talked about equitable pricing, lot sizes, and pipe sizes. This included purchasing devices from SWA for monitoring a user's water flow. She asked if Thomas Lawton could call her.

Traffic and Roads Mike Clowers: Mike reminded everyone about the construction work on the corner of Bonita Road and Central Avenue. There will be congestion in that area from 5/6/2024 through 5/31/2024 especially between the hours of 9AM to 4 PM. There was a discussion regarding using Frisbe during the construction on Bonita and Central.

Mike talked about an incident on Robinwood Lane regarding a vehicle parked for an extended period. The vehicle got tagged based on a citizen complaint, but the vehicle never moved and never got towed. The CHP tags the vehicle but does not check back unless the complaining citizen again calls and says the vehicle did not move.

There was a complaint from a citizen on Robinwood about a tree that needed trimming. The trimming did occur and Mike plans to call that person with the completion information.

Jim Woodford talked about the school crossing stop light on Central not working again after the original repair. Jim said the light does not flash at the school crossing.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse & Harriet Taylor:

Stephen reported that the Planning Group had two meetings in April: One on April 2, 2024, and another on April 17, 2024.

The next meeting of the Sweetwater Community Planning Group will be on May 7, 2024, at the Valley Vista Elementary school. There will be two topics of discussion at this meeting: First, the proposal to write a letter to the San Diego County Supervisor Nora Vargas regarding actions required on San Miguel Road. Second, there will be a presentation regarding a development at the eastern end of Jonel Way, including the installation of a lighted ballfield that is already in operation.

Membership Sharon Coleman: Sharon was not in attendance, but she did send a May report as follows.

Membership:

16 Family

1 Family/silver

- 16 Individual
- 21 Gold Members
- 3 Non-Profit Organizations
- 1 Gold Non-Profit Organization
- 2 Local Businesses
- 2 Local Businesses Gold Members

Senior Volunteer Patrol Jim Woodford: Jim reminded us that the Senior Patrol still needs more members. Tony commented that the Senior Patrol did an excellent job of controlling traffic at the Bonita Fire Department pancake breakfast. There was a discussion about putting a recruitment posting on the SVCA web site. Jim indicated that he had a flyer which could be used.

Jim provided the following report.

April 2024 SHERIFF SR. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	78
Number of Patrols	7
Number of Miles Driven	310
Vacation Checks	0
Citizen Assists	2
Traffic Control	4
Number of Volunteers	5

Other Announcements. John Taylor talked about a volunteerism award presented to Harriet Taylor by the Board of Supervisors. This award was accompanied by a certificate of achievement. Congratulations to Harriet!

Meeting adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 7.50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony P. Tieber, Secretary, SVCA
tony.tieber@outlook.com

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.