



## 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 June 5, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Judy Tieber called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. 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.

**Members Present:** Michael Garrod, Barbara Scott, Tom Pocklington, Lynn Prater, Susan Heavilin, Luis De La Rosa, Richard Scott, Parisa Hill, Carri Fernandez, Alex Fernandez, Jessica Rocha, Jose Rocha, William Estrella, Harriet and John Taylor, Mike Cohen, Shlomit Haim, Nancy and Dana Cornell, Donna Hodge, Karen Henry.

**Guests Present:** Jose Ortiz, Crime Prevention Specialist of the Sheriff's Department, Salvador Castro CHP, Chief Mike Sims, Bonita Fire Dept, Amanda Angulo of Chula Vista Mayor John McCann's office, Jose Barron, Craig and Raquel Allen, T. Corrales, Jeff Hunt, Robin C diPorras, Janeen Reed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Judy asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Tony Tieber 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.

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

	<u>June 2024</u>
Checking	\$ 2,369.97
PayPal to Mailchimp	\$ (45.00)
SMS Web Fees	\$ (36.16)
Dues Received	\$ 25.00
Mission Fed CD	\$ 10,000.00
Interest on CD to June	\$ 235.59
Grant Status –Original Grant	
\$12,118.00	
Deductions to Date	
\$ (4,414.67)	

Ending Balance \$ 12,605.56

Previous Balance was \$ 13,168.74

The report was accepted as written.

**Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims:** Chief Sims reported that the BFD will be changing their Patient Care Record (PCR) platform to stay aligned with Chula Vista and Imperial Beach. This platform is what the San Diego County EMS Authority provides all agencies and makes required data transfer seamless. The BFD was previously using a custom platform that the BFS personnel helped to develop., but the cost has increased while the service from the company has decreased. The BFD hopes to be fully switched over by July.

The Chief also reported that the County Wildland Preparedness Drill took place in May 2024 and was hosted by the CVFD and Bonita FD. It was the first time the drill was conducted in the South Bay for many years, so it was great to have our partner agencies from all over the County get familiar with the open spaces and high fire potential in the backyard communities of the South Bay. It was a three-day drill with 150 personnel each day.

BFD made 154 calls in May 2024. It was a low call month.

There were three training exercises conducted. RT-130 required annual wildland refresher training; there was high rise training at the new Gaylord bayfront development; snake handler training, this week, will enable our crews to safely relocate rattle snakes.

### **Law Enforcement Reports:**

**Sheriff's Department: Jose Ortiz, Crime Prevention Specialist of the Sheriff's Department.** The Crime Prevention Specialist, Jose Ortiz, talked about a grant that the Sheriff had received that was used for traffic enforcement i.e., the Sheriff gave out speeding tickets. Attendees discussed the enforcement and thanked the Sheriff for their help.

Jose Ortiz also talked about the Senior Patrol and the need for additional members of that group. A candidate needs to be at least 50 years of age and take training provided by the Sheriff.

Jose Ortiz also talked about the neighborhood watch program and is prepared to train neighborhoods in how to administer this important program.

The Crime prevention Specialist provided the May 2024 Crime Map which is included with these minutes.

**CHP Officer: Salvador Castro:** Officer Castro reported that staffing is short, and that the CHP is doing all that they can to patrol using available officers.

In the Bonita area in the month of May, thirty-five citations were issued. There were 3 DUI arrests during their maximum enforcement period for the holiday.

The CHP got a grant from the County which will allow more officers to be in the Bonita area. Officer Castro reminded us that the area from State Road 54 to the Boarder, including Lincoln Acres is a large area for one officer to patrol.

Officer Castro told us that he wants to know the issues in the Bonita area. He indicated that they are already working to minimize vehicles parked for long times along our roadways.

Officer Castro reminded us that a CHP officer, or any CA peace officer, can stop anybody, anywhere by law.

He further indicated that in the prior week, there were six fatal crashes. This was a lot. There are only 5 CHP crews that service the entire San Diego area.

A question arose about people walking on the freeway. Officer Castro said he understood the problem and that the CHP has an initiative for this kind of situation without indicating the exact initiative.

Another question came up about license plates on the front of cars. Officer Castro said that if observed the driver will get a citation to get the license plate installed. Often, drivers put the license plate on the front to nullify the citation and then remove it after the citation is cleared.

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

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

**Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo.** On behalf of Mayor McCann, Amanda reported that Mayor McCann would be hosting his second State of the City Address at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center on June 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30pm.

Below are a couple links, detailing how the address went:

['Chula Vista is growing:' Takeaways from the State of the City Address](#)

[Chula Vista 2024 State of the City address delivered by Mayor McCann](#)

[Chula Vista mayors delivers 'State of the City' address: a recap](#)

Lastly, people are more than welcome to watch the State of the City through the [Chula Vista City website](#).

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. However, Representative Alvarez did send a newsletter which is included with these minutes.

**State Senator (18<sup>th</sup> District) Stephen Padilla office representative Thomas Lawton.**  
Thomas Lawton was not available for this meeting.

**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.**

**Michael Cohen Presentation on plans for the Bonita Museum and Cultural Center.** Michael provided a slide presentation of the Museum plans. The basics of that slide presentation are contained in the following minutes. The plan for the museum tower/front is to be wrapped in a metallic blue wrap to make it more visible. Meetings have occurred between Michael and the County engineers to review the plan and to ensure the planned wrap is safe. The County has cleared the plans for the wrap. The goal is to change the narrative from the museum is across from McDonalds to McDonalds is across from the museum.

This is a phased development, and the museum is raising money to complete the project. In addition to the blue wrap, there will be art and sculpture displays which will be changed periodically so to attract visitors to come to the museum multiple times.

**Election of Officers for 24-25:** As per the SVCA usual custom, June is the month for election of officers. The tradition of the SVCA has always been that a person standing for election had to attend two recent meetings. Attendees called this tradition into question and suggested that the bylaws indicate something different (the two most recent meetings). There was extensive discussion regarding the eligibility rule. Following the discussion about eligibility as defined in the Bylaws versus the traditional SVCA approach, Stephen Stonehouse moved to postpone election of officers until the September 4, 2024, meeting. Sharmane Estolano provided the second. The vote was 12 members in favor, 6 were opposed so motion passed.

Following the decision to postpone the election to September, the meeting moved to the election of Neighborhood Directors. President Judy Tieber identified current directors and the SVCA area that each represented. Judy also identified the open SVCA areas that needed a Neighborhood Director. Three volunteers wanted to assume responsibility for an area.

- Richard Scott—Seat 8--Malito Drive, Orchard Hill
- Carri Fernandez—Seat 10-Margaret Street east to Quarry
- Jose Rocha—Seat 11-Briarwood/Bonita Woods

These new directors join the Following Existing Neighborhood Directors:

- Mike Clowers—Seat 1-San Miguel Road East
- Stephen Stonehouse—Seat 2-Frisbee neighborhood
- Guillermo Torres—Seat 6—Sweetwater Road, Valley Vista area
- Theresa Capanis—Seat 7—Alameda/Lomacitas area
- Sharon Coleman—Seat 9—Winnetka area

These areas still need Neighborhood Directors:

- Seat 3—Central Avenue over to Acacia
- Seat 4—Glenn Abby east to acacia
- Seat 5—Glen Abby west to Linwood
- Seat 12—Bonita Highlands area

Members present at the June meeting voted to elect all three new Neighborhood Directors and all current Neighborhood Directors in even numbered seats.

President Judy Tieber thanked all new and existing Neighborhood Directors for their service to our community.

**Revising the Existing Bylaws.** A discussion was initiated about a revision to the existing bylaws which have not been updated recently. President Judy Tieber suggested that this effort should be undertaken after the new board is elected in September 2024.

Finally, Jessica Rocha agreed to serve as interim SVCA secretary and record minutes at the August and September Meetings. Judy thanked Jessica for volunteering.

### **Community Forum:**

**Sweetwater Authority Karen Henry.** Karen reported that using the Freedom of Information Act, she has determined that the SWA is planning a larger solar panel farm on the Sweetwater Reservoir than the SWA has previously proposed. Karen believes that an EIR report needs to be completed before the Solar Panel Project is approved.

There was discussion about what would happen to the water quality of the Sweetwater Reservoir which is used to supply drinking water to many people.

**Traffic and Roads Mike Clowers:** Mike reported that the CHP was in the area this week but not as often as desired because they are short-staffed. Mike also reported that the crossing light on Central and Bell Bonnie Bray is working again, after being repaired again. Mike provided a brief explanation of the function of the County's Traffic Advisory Committee of which he is a member. Lastly, Mike reported on preventive burns that the City of Chula Vista is doing along State Route 125, and that you may see smoke from these burns.

**Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse & Harriet Taylor:** Harriet and Stephen talked about SCPG bylaws and about the LAFCO rep who was at the meeting and talked about spheres of influence and annexations. This was in reference to houses along Plaza Bonita Center Way that will be annexed to National City.

There was a discussion regarding the Quarry Road Storage Facility and where that proposed project was in the approval process. The response was that it still needs to come before the SCPG before it moves to the County Planning Commission.

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

May 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

June Membership:

18 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.

### June 2024 SHERIFF SR. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	62
Number of Patrols	6
Number of Miles Driven	290
Vacation Checks	4
Citizen Assists	1
Traffic Control	0
Number of Volunteers	5

**Other Announcements.** None

**Meeting adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 8.50 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.