

Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.



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SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
April 2, 2025

**Directors Present:** President Judy Tieber, Treasurer Stephen Stonehouse, Vice President Sharmane Estolano, Mike Clowers, Sharon Coleman,

**Directors Absent:** Richard Scott, Theresa Capanis, Guillermo Torres, Carri Fernandez

**Members Present:** Tony Tieber, Felix Felix, Mike Parnell, Daryl Hern, Bill Coleman, Jim Woodford, Robin de Porras.

**Guest Present:** Fire Chief Michael Sims, Amanda Angulo from Mayor John McCann's office, Genevieve Fong from Representative Juan Vargas' office, Bertha Lopez.

**1 CALL TO ORDER:** 06:34 PM by President Judy Tieber at the Bonita Museum and Cultural Center.

**2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** following the pledge of allegiance, there was a moment of silence to honor the people of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement and especially our Fire and Safety professionals and express appreciation for those who are currently serving to protect us.

**3 SIGN IN:** Everyone was encouraged to sign in, so we have a record of who is attending. Judy introduced the officers and acknowledged that Tony Tieber would be taking minutes. Bertha Lopez introduced herself and told us her background is in education, and she is an advocate for both parents and children.

**4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft March 5, 2025, meeting minutes were circulated via email prior to the meeting. Move to accept by Tony Tieber, seconded by Stephen Stonehouse, minutes approved.

**5 TREASURER'S REPORT:** Stephen Stonehouse provided the April Treasurer's report.

\$6,043.46	Checking Account Previous Balance, Expenses this past month included:
\$45.00	PayPal paid to mail CHIMP
\$180.00	Check 846 to KIG-March website
\$100.00	Check 847 to Judy Tieber for Bylaws work

\$215.88	Check 850 to Stephen Stonehouse for Web fees
<u>\$21.53</u>	Check 923 to Judy Tieber for printing
\$5,481.03	Total Ending Balance

#### **6 FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL SIMS:**

-Annual Pancake Breakfast is set for April 27 from 0800-1100 am. Training topics included:  
\*Old Starbucks building used for search and rescue, forcible entry, hose advancement, roof ventilation training sessions before it gets demolished.  
\*Auto Pulse refresher  
\*April (zone-wide)/May (county-wide) Wildland preparedness training (upcoming).

Chief Sims attended the graduation ceremony for the 38<sup>th</sup> Heartland Fire Academy on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Overall average scores for the 27 recruits was 94.3% with the top recruit missing only 3 points through the entire academy! Chief Sims had the honor of giving the keynote speech at the graduation ceremony.

Ambulance performance data—98.1% on time compliance with 106 responses.

The Boot Drive to benefit the Burn Institute was March 5<sup>th</sup>, Chief Sims reported the Bonita residents continue to be very gracious with their donations and about \$2,000 was raised.

Chief Sims told us they just completed a joint Captain's Promotional process with San Miguel Fire and Rescue. Our three candidates passed all portions of the testing process and are now on an eligibility list for promotion to Captain when the position is open.

#### **7 ELECTED OFFICIALS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

**Amanda Angulo from Mayor John McCann's office** told us the following: Today, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chula Vista and the Port of San Diego was proud to host the grand opening of Sweetwater Park, located at 845 E Street, Chula Vista. This is a 39-acre park, just North of the Gaylord Pacific Resort and convention center. This park is very much a "natural-habitat oriented" space, which includes walkways, bike paths, sand dunes, native plants, and nature playgrounds.

On Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 4pm, the City of Chula Vista's Sustainability Department is hosting South Bay Earth Day at the Chula Vista Bayside Park. I know there will be the Glarf Rededication event on that same day starting at 11am, but if you have time, please come on down. There will be several vendors, tie-dye activities, live music, and "One Drop Redemption" will headlining.

The following week after that, on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Chula Vista Community Collaborative will be hosting their Day of the Child event at Memorial Park. From 10am to 2pm, there will be live music, dancing, a car show, and several vendors providing assistance to families, kids, connecting them to resources, and more.

Mayor McCann has been working closely with the Chula Vista Clergy Alliance, a group of pastors in South County, to host the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at Memorial Park. If you are interested in attending, the event will begin at 10am.

Mayor McCann will be partnering with DA Summer Stephan to host a Senior Braud Awareness Session on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 a.m. at the Veterans' Home of CA in Chula Vista. We may even have Jordan Marks, our County Assessor, to join us for the conversation.

**Genevieve Fong from Representative Juan Vargas' office** told us about the following: Last week, during a House Financial Services Committee hearing, Rep. Juan Vargas asked questions about the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's work to combat scams against seniors and veterans](#). He also posted a video [calling out Elon Musk's threats to Social Security](#). Further, [he joined 206 House Democrats in signing onto an amicus brief](#) defending Congress's powers in the case over Trump's attempt to dismantle USAID. Since the beginning of this year, Rep. Juan Vargas has signed onto numerous letters to various federal agencies, aiming to protect important federal grants and programs that benefit constituents in areas of environmental health and safety, immigrant rights, health research and services, and more. The Annual Congressional Art Competition is now accepting entries through Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5pm. The theme is "*What's Your Utopia?": If the future of America were in your hands, through two-dimensional art, depict the America you'd create.*" More information can be found at the following link: [Congressional Art Competition](#)

**8 JOSE ORTIZ, SHERIFFS OFFICE:** Did not attend.

**10 NEW BUSINESS:** Judy Tieber brought up a discussion about how do we want to handle the upcoming election in terms of our Director positions. Per our new bylaws, we will have five Directors: 2 Even and 3 Odd. Each Director serves for two years. Sharmane Estolano moved that we keep our two even directors and vote to elect three odd directors. The motion was seconded and following a discussion the vote was taken and passed. As a reminder, the even board seats refer to the fact that they are voted on in even-numbered years, and the odd board seats are voted on in the odd-numbered years. Since this is an odd year, we will vote to elect 3 board members this June, 2025. The Nominating Committee will be working on the Board member elections as part of their job to put together nominations for officer positions.

**11 CONTINUING BUSINESS:** President Judy Tieber asked for volunteers to be a part of the nominating committee and join Stephen and Tony to build the member nominations in preparation for the June ballot. No one else volunteered so Committee Chair Stephen Stonehouse and Tony Tieber as the membership Co-Chair will work to put this together.

## **12 COMMUNITY FORUM:**

### **A) Sweetwater Authority**

We had a general discussion about the FSAS in our drinking water. SWA is doing their own testing, consumer notification, and writing their own opinion. There are doing an EIR and the solar panels are still on track. Felix Felix told us the federal government is evaluating the water and doing an analysis. SWA is diluting the water in an effort to reduce the PFAS concentration. Public participation is requested, and we may have to go

to reverse osmosis in-home systems. SWA is trying to get funding from the EPA. As an aside, Felix told us another problem is flushing drugs down the toilet which puts additional chemicals into our streams and eventually into the ocean.

**B) Traffic and roads- Mike Clowers**

TAC has an upcoming meeting at the end of this week. Quarry Rd closure is up for recertification.

**C) Sweetwater community planning group- Felix Felix**

The Sweetwater Community Planning Group met on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The 18" tall signage for the new AutoZone was approved. This is planned for the Bonnie Bray Shopping Center. The County Land Use and Environment Group gave an update on their efforts to reduce stormwater drainage onto San Miguel Road, and get the San Miguel Creek cleaned up. The group also approved a letter to the County Board of Supervisors in favor of the proposed Unsafe Camping Ordinance.

**D) Membership- Sharon Coleman**

Sharon reported on membership numbers and reminded all that regular memberships end June 30, 2025. Renewal notices will be going out soon.

**E) Volunteer patrol**

Jim Woodford reported they currently have 6 members and patrol about three times a week. If anyone would like to join the Volunteer Patrol, the academy will commence in June. The academy lasts 2 weeks and is free to the public. Mike Clowers suggested it was time to move the speed trailer to another Bonita location for effectiveness. Mike Parnell suggested bringing it into the Highlands for a while. He has been calling the Highway Patrol for help with enforcement issues. Sharmane suggested replacing a street sign in the Bonita Mesa area.

**MARCH 2025 VOLUNTEER SHERIFF PATROL ACTIVITIES**

Hours on patrol	52
Number of Patrols	11
Number of Miles Driven	560
Vacation Checks	3
Citizen Assists	0
Traffic Control	3
Number of Volunteers	6
Deploy Speed Trailer	0
Citations Issued	5

**13 OTHER ANOUNCEMENTS: None.**

**Meeting adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Tony Tieber, Acting Secretary

**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.