

Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.



P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING August 6, 2025

Directors Present: President Felix Felix, Vice President Judy Tieber, Treasurer Stephen Stonehouse, Mike Clowers, Richard Scott, Secretary Liz Stonehouse, , Mike Parnell, Sharon Coleman

Directors Absent: Theresa Capanis, Carri Fernandez.

Members Present: Tony Tieber, Felix Felix, Mike Parnell, Daryl Hern, Tom Plockington, Dennise Elliott, Steven Elliott, Bill Coleman, Dolly Engen, Robin C. de Parras, Susan Heavilin, Guillermo Torres, Jim Woodford, Jessica Engen, James Carter, Eugene Cook.

Guest Present: Fire Chief Mike Sims, Amanda Fredeluces from Mayor John McCann's office, Genevieve Fong from Representative Juan Vargas' office, Ernesto Castenada from David Alvarez's office.

1 Call to Order: 6:31 PM by President Felix Felix at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library Community Room.

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.

4 Approval of Minutes: The draft June 4, 2025, meeting minutes were circulated via email prior to the meeting. Move to accept by Judy, seconded by Richard Scott, minutes approved.

5 New President Felix Felix presented the State of the Association Presentation. During this presentation, he discussed the new bylaws, what was tentatively planned for the website concerning updates, and how the Association was going to remain transparent concerning the budget and fundraising efforts. The association is going to ask for a grant from the County to grow our base: to connect more with local Groups using new members and media sources to expand our community engagement. The Association is also looking for Business sponsors. More to come.

6 Treasurer's Report: Stephen Stonehouse provided the July Treasurer's report.

\$4870.13 Checking Account Previous Balance,
expenses this past month included:

- \$364.00 Check 856 to KIG-June website
- \$90.00 Paypal paid to Mail Chimp There was one for Jun and July. Add a second -\$45
- \$73.00 Check # 857 To SMS for postage
- \$30.00 Check # 858 To Bonita Museum Membership
- \$180.00 Check # 860 to KIG – July website

\$992.41. Membership Dues Received

\$5125.54 Total Ending Balance

There was a question concerning the amount paid to the Website in June. The answer was the money was used for Storage Facility Spotlights.

7 Fire Chief Michael Sims: The Time capsule will be placed after our August 12th regular Board meeting.

Our very own FFPM Halley Rivera was honored at the Padres game on July 28.

She was part of the Starting 9 ceremony and got to meet Jackson Merrill in center field and get a ball signed by him.

We will be starting a new hiring process in September to fill open spots that will be created by Chief Sims' retirement and FFPM Faaborg going to SDFD.

Ambulance transport compliance of 97.8% for July 177 calls for July

Training topics included EMS and Engine Company Operations.

Captain Genevicz is job shadowing Chief Sims for July and August.

7 Elected Officials Representatives Reports:

Amanda Fredeluces from Mayor John McCan's Office: SVCA Report – August 6, 2025

Good evening, everyone. I'm pleased to share a few important updates on behalf of Mayor McCann:

1. E-Bike Ordinance Update

Last night, the Mayor and City Council passed a new ordinance regulating the use of electric bicycles and other motorized micromobility devices. This ordinance is aimed at improving safety—especially around schools, parks, and high-traffic areas.

Key highlights include:

Age Restrictions

- Children under 12 are prohibited from operating or riding a Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike.
- Adults may not knowingly allow children under 12 to ride these devices.
- Riders must be at least 16 years old to operate a Class 3 e-bike (which can go up to 28 mph).

Sidewalk & Roadway Use

- E-bikes and scooters are banned from sidewalks in business districts and on any posted restricted sidewalks.
- Class 3 e-bikes and motorized scooters are never allowed on sidewalks anywhere in the city.

- Motorized scooters are prohibited on roads posted at 40 mph or faster unless riding in a designated bikeway.

Passenger Restrictions

- Riders under 18 are not allowed to transport passengers on any electric micromobility vehicle.

Helmet Requirements

- Helmets are required for all riders under the age of 18.

An education and grace period will begin shortly.

2. Pangaea Project – Bayfront Development

The city is currently reviewing a major proposal for the Pangaea Sports & Entertainment District, located just south of the Gaylord Pacific Resort on the Chula Vista Bayfront. This proposed 124-acre, mixed-use project aims to bring a family-oriented entertainment and learning destination to our waterfront.

Phase 1 includes:

- Three hotels totaling 700 rooms
- A world-class professional tennis center affiliated with a top-tier athlete
- A water polo academy
- A multi-use stadium with up to 50,000 seats
- 300,000 sq ft of retail space
- 150,000 sq ft of aquaculture and bluetech office space
- Additional amenities: two golf courses, an IMAX theater, public trails, and preserved green space

Phase 2 will feature:

- Expansion of stadium and event facilities
- Approximately 800 additional hotel rooms
- Three office buildings (150,000 sq ft each)
- About 9.3 acres of soccer fields and open community space

This project is still in the early planning stages, and community input will be an important part of the process as it moves forward.

3. Chula Vista Lemon Festival

The Chula Vista Lemon Festival returns on Saturday, August 16th, from 11 AM to 6 PM in Downtown Chula Vista. This long-standing tradition celebrates the city's agricultural roots with live entertainment, food, local vendors, and fun for all ages. We hope to see many of you there!

4. Veteran of the Year – Nominations Now Open

Nominations are now open for Chula Vista's Veteran of the Year.

Eligible nominees must:

- Be honorably discharged from U.S. Military service
 - Be a Chula Vista resident or employed in the city
 - Have demonstrated outstanding service to the community following their military service
- Nominations should focus on the veteran's contributions to the community, their support of local veterans, and how their work aligns with your organization's mission.

For more information or to submit a nomination, please visit the City's website or contact Karina Aguilar at 619-691-5029 or VAC@ChulaVistaCA.gov. The deadline to submit nominations is September 11th.

5. El Grito Celebration – Mexican Independence Day

Mayor McCann is proud to once again host El Grito, Chula Vista's annual celebration of Mexican Independence Day.

Sunday, September 14th 4 PM to 8 PM Memorial Park

This year's event will feature live entertainment, music, a vibrant farmer's market, and our returning headliner, Tapy Quintero—son of the lead singer of Los Tucanes de Tijuana.

It's always a wonderful evening that brings together families and neighbors to celebrate culture, community, and history. We hope you'll join us!

Genevieve Fong from Representative Juan Vargas' Office: She gave us a report about immigration, protecting public land against wildfire and national monuments.

Ernesto Castenada from Assemblymember David Alveraz's Office: Ernesto presented a letter Assembly member David Alvarez to Kelly Martinez, San Diego County Sheriff where he requested a higher presence of Sheriff for the Bonita-Lincoln Acres area. There is a copy of the letter on our Facebook page.

Ardyel Lim from Senator Steve Padilla's Office: I hope you're doing well! My name is Ardyel Lim, and I'm a District Representative from the Office of Senator Steve Padilla.

Immigration raids are happening with increased frequency in our community.

Whether at home, at work, or in public spaces, it is important to understand your rights and how to protect them when stopped by immigration officials. On behalf of Senator Steve Padilla, I invite you to join our Know Your Rights Virtual Workshop on Monday, August 18, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM via Zoom, hosted in partnership with San Diego City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera.

This workshop is designed to empower you with the information and tools you need to confidently navigate encounters with immigration enforcement. Learn what you can and cannot be asked, when you have the right to remain silent, how to prepare your family, and what to do if your rights are violated.

We are proud to welcome our community partners:

- The California Department of Justice
- The ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties
- The Mexican Consulate
- Alliance San Diego

Together, we'll discuss the latest legal protections, community resources, and proactive steps you can take to stay informed and safe.

[Click here to RSVP and submit your questions by](#) 12:00 PM on August 14th.

This event will have live Spanish translation services available. After the workshop, transcripts will be made in Arabic, Dari/Farsi, Vietnamese, and Somali.

We'll also have a brief Q&A session at the end—be sure to submit your questions through the registration form.

If you have any additional questions please contact my office through [Senator Padilla's website](#) or call (619) 409-7690.

Best,



Ardyel Lim

District Representative 

Office of State Senator Stephen C. Padilla, 18th District

Office: San Diego County: (619) 409-7690

Sacramento: (916) 651-4018 Imperial County: (760) 335-3442

Contact:

Ardyel Lim, District Representative

Office of State Senator Steve Padilla, District 18

Ardyel.lim@sen.ca.gov

8 Crime Prevention Specialist Jose Ortiz, Sheriff's Office: Sheriff's Department : Jose Ortiz gave this report: there were two acts of vandalism and one stolen vehicle in Sweetwater. There are five active Sheriff Volunteers. He gave a site called **Crime mapping.com** where you can put in your address and learn what's going on in your area.

There was a great deal of discussion about traffic on Sweetwater Road during School crossing hours.

9 Guest Seaker Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Shannon Bullock, Rohr Park Master Plan Representation: She had a slide show. They want to improve the area with playgrounds, working on the equestrian and hiking trails around the Park. Rohr Manor is not registered as an historic Building, but they are doing a cost-benefit analysis on it.

10 New Business: Bonitafest: Dolly Engen, Planning Committee member of Bonitafest 2025 came to ask for money because, due to our lack of Supervisor, the usual Grant had not been given. SVCA gave \$250.00 and SVCA President matched that amount. Other members followed suit by donating. There was discussion about them offering a free booth at Bonitafest for sponsoring.

11 Community Forum:

- A) **Sweetwater Authority:** there will be a Board meeting on the 14th at 4:PM. Among the topics will be Capital Improvement Projects, PFAF'S, and water treatment, Solar Projects, and ways to promote SWA
- B) **Traffic and roads: Mike Clowers-** There was a lively discussion about how traffic speeds are designated. He also mentioned **Tell Us Now** and how it works to get issues fixed.
- C) **Sweetwater Community Planning Group: SCPG Chair Felix Felix:**
No official meeting was held due to a lack in quorum. However, the group utilized the presence of County representatives to be proactive and provide as presentation to those present as community members on the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 – 2029/2030 CIP. The SVCA President Felix Felix presented the same PowerPoint to SVCA members for transparency.
- D) **Volunteer Patrol: Volunteer Patrol:** Jim Woodford sent these statistics:

June 2025 VOLUNTEER SHERIFF PATROL ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	51
Number of Patrols	7
Number of Miles Driven	309
Vacation Checks	0
Citizen Assists	4
Traffic Control	2
Number of Volunteers	6
Deploy Speed Trailor	3
Citations Issued	3

SVCA Membership: Liz Stonehouse stated that we have twenty-seven gold and twenty-three new or renewed members.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Stonehouse, Secretary

Mission Statement: The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association (SVCA) fosters and promotes community spirit and civic pride through proactive engagement with the County, local elected and appointed officials, law enforcement, emergency first responders, and community groups/organizations with the goal of improving the quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley community.