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

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING September 3, 2025

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

Members Present: Mary Ellen Phillips, Ellen Freeman, Susan Heavilin, Donna Hodge, Lori Noe, Penni Neely, Jessica Rodra, Steven Elliott, Dennise Elliott, Stephanie Rich, Al Zimmer, Tom Pocklington, Daryl Hern, Sharie A. Homare, Jim Woodford, Elizabeth Cox, Harriet Taylor, and Jose Rocha.

Guest Present: Fire Chief Mike Sims, Captain Jason Oosterbaan, from Bonita-Sunnyside Fire District, Amanda Fredeluces from Mayor John McCann's office, Lisa Schmidt came from David Alvarez's office in place of Ernesto Castenada, Ardyel Lim from Senator Steve Padilla's office, Jose Ortiz, Sheriff's Crime Prevention Specialist, Edith Sanchez Cruz, Community Inclusion Director and Sergeant Luis Carrillo, Sergeant Jeffrey Lane and Officer Kim Gonzales from the CHP.

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 Recognize Officers and Board members: Felix introduced the new SVCA Board members. Seat one: Mike Clowers, Seat two: Sharon Coleman, Seat three: Steve Stonehouse, Seat four: Richard Scott, Seat five: Mike Parnell. Our officers this year are Treasurer: Steve Stonehouse, acting Secretary: Elizabeth Stonehouse, Vice President: Judy Tieber, President: Felix Maximus Felix and thanked them for their service. Felix reminded our members to complete the sign-in sheet, so we account for them.

4 Approval of Minutes: The draft August 6, 2025, meeting minutes were circulated via email *prior to the meeting. Move to accept by Mike Parnell, seconded by Richard Scott, minutes approved.

5 Treasurer's Report: Stephen Stonehouse provided the September 2025 Treasurer's report.

\$5125.54 Checking Account Previous Balance

Expenses this past month included:

-\$45.00 Paypal paid to Mail Chimp in August

-\$180.00 Check # 862 to KIG – July website

\$333.84 Membership Dues Received

\$5234.38 Total Ending Balance

6 Fire Chief Michael Sims: Chief Sims introduced the newest Captain to shadow him, Captain Jason Oosterbaan who gave this report:

There were 114 Medical Aid responses. 97% Compliance.

One firefighter paramedic of 5.5 years, left for San Diego Fire Department. There is now a vacancy, so we are accepting applications for a Firefighter Paramedic. We hope to have one by November.

On the October 14, Board Meeting: the office of Assembly Member David Alvarez will honor BSFPD with a proclamation for 75 years of emergency services to the community.

Proctor Valley roadside fuels mitigation, in conjunction with partners CVFD, Wildlife, Fish & Game, and SDG&E have been hard at work. Several people expressed their gratitude.

Fall Heartland Fire Academy is now in Progress.

Penni asked about the September 11 memorial. Where were the fish?

There was also a discussion about the SVCA donating breakfast to the Fire Department on 9/11 Recognition Day.

7 Elected Officials Representatives Reports:

Amanda Fredeluces from Mayor John McCan's Office: Chula Vista is trying to work with an ordinance around schools to get people to obey the signs. There are 124 acres of land near Gaylord resort, which is earmarked for a stadium, as well as, other things. Mexican Independence Day is September 14.

Genevieve Fong from Representative Juan Vargas' Office: was not in attendance.

Ernesto Castenada from Assemblymember David Alveraz's Office Lisa Schmidt came and spoke, on behalf of Ernesto Castenada as he will return next month.

Sweetwater Civic Association Community Updates:

1. Bonitafest

Assemblymember Alvarez was able to help with funding (\$1,000) for this year's Bonitafest. He is one of the sponsors for this year.

2. Events

Our office has two events coming up. One in October and the other in November. In October we are hosting the State of Higher Education & Town Hall where the Assemblyman and local education leaders will host a town hall to discuss the future of higher education in our region. If

you are interested in learning about new investments, legislative efforts, and how we're expanding education access for South Bay students please consider attending.

In November we are hosting the South Bay College Opportunity Fair. If you are a student or know any students high school or college level, this is a great resource to have. This event offers students and families the opportunity to connect with representatives from various colleges and universities, gain insight into the admissions process, and receive guidance on financial aid applications.

The Seven Mile Casino is hosting the 9/11 First Responder Challenge. It's a fun activity that challenges other orgs and elected officials offices to provide meals for every fire station in Chula Vista and Bonita. The Assemblyman's office is going to provide pizza from San Giorgios on Bonita Rd. to the Bonita-Sunnyside fire fighters on 9/11 next Thursday.

3. Legislation Update

We are at the end of this legislative session and Assemblyman Alvarez is working hard in Sacramento to get his bills over the last hurdle.

Quick Facts:

- 10 bills being heard this session
- 1 signed by Governor Newsome (AB 655)
- 1 died (TRACE)
- 8 pending

Bill Information (if anyone asks):

- AB 30 Ethanol Implementation Act has passed in the Senate, sitting with Governor
- AB 662 Chula Vista University Act has passed in the Senate, sitting with Governor
- AB 610 Fair Housing Practices Act has passed in the Senate, sitting with Governor
- AB 357 Student & Faculty Housing Success Act – pending in Senate
- AB 226 FAIR Plan Stabilization Act – pending in Senate
- AB 833 Binational Teachers Expansion has passed in the Senate – pending in Senate
- AB 358 TRACE Amendment died in the Senate
- AB 76 Chula Vista Surplus Land Amendment – pending in Senate
- AB 652 San Diego Air Pollution Control District Amendment has passed in the Senate, sitting with Governor
- AB 655 California-Mexico Border Relations Oversight Act signed by the governor

Ardyel Lim from Senator Steve Padilla's Office: Senator Padilla is working on SB 43, which expands the definition of grave disability to include severe substance use disorder or co-occurring mental health disorder. In addition, SB 54 prohibits authorities from asking about immigration status, that you have the right to remain silent, and how to prepare your family if your rights are violated.

8. Guest Speakers:

- Sergeant Lane from the California Highway Patrol:** In our area we have made 24 arrests.

There were 68 tickets given out. There were also 8 collisions. The new law about E bikes is in effect. Now drivers have to have driver's licenses, E bikes are not allowed

on freeways, and not allowed on Chula Vista streets without a helmet. Further, they are not allowed on horse trails.

We are trying to deter street racing.

- b. Crime Prevention Specialist Jose Ortiz, Sheriff's Office: Sheriff's Department:** Last month we had three burglaries from vehicles as well as three vehicle thefts. We had three larceny thefts, one residential burglary, one destruction/damage or vandalism of property. There was also one arson.

There was a discussion about how the speed could be reduced on Sweetwater Road near Valley Vista School.

There was a discussion about what to do about loud parties. Harriet brought up the subject of B&Bs in Oregon.

- 9. Continuing Business:** Motion made by Richard to approve Liz Stonehouse as SVCA Secretary and seconded by Judy.

10. New Business:

- a.** Motion made by Liz and seconded by Judy to approve SVCA Board to participate in Bonitafest.
- b.** Judy made a motion that the SVCA participate in Bonitafest by giving out water. Mike Parnell said we should only spend \$100 on water. Liz Seconded. That passed. Elizabeth Cox said she might find someone to donate water.
- c.** Motion made to approve Steve \$100 to purchase Breakfast Burritos for the Fire Department for 911 Recognition Day. Steve motioned, Judy seconded. Passed. Steve said that he and Liz would deliver the burritos and pay any extra cost. Liz said she would bake cookies for the Safety Center to go along with the recognition day.
- d.** Motion made by Liz and seconded by Steve for the SVCA to participate in in Kindness Week Worldwide, November 8-15.

11. Community Forum:

- a. Sweetwater Authority:** Elizabeth Cox told us that SWA was changing their advisory meetings to quarterly instead of monthly.
- b. Traffic and Roads: Mike Clowers-** Mike Clowers Reiterated why stop signs were needed for Golf Glen Rd and the process involved from the TAC and Engineering in studies to justify traffic calming social engineering options.
- c. Sweetwater Community Planning Group: SCPG Chair Felix Felix:**
Talked about DPW proposed stop signs at both sides of Golf Glen Road.
Frank Carson, Chula Vista Parks and Rec Director spoke about the Rohr Park Master Plan. He presented a power point.
- d. Volunteer Patrol: Volunteer Patrol:** Jim Woodford provided these statistics:

July 2025 SHERIFF VOLUNTEER PATROL ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	63
Hours on training	30
Number of Patrols	9
Number of Miles Driven	435
Vacation Checks	0
Citizen Assists	3
Traffic Control	6
Number of Volunteers	6
Deploy Speed Tractor	3
Citations Issued	1

August 2025 SHERIFF VOLUNTEER PATROL ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	104
Hours on training	8
Number of Patrols	10
Number of Miles Driven	476
Vacation Checks	0
Citizen Assists	1
Traffic Control	7
Number of Volunteers	6
Deploy Speed Tractor	1
Citations Issued	3

- e. **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 8:30 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.