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SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING April 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: President Judy Tieber called the meeting to order at 6:35 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, and Stephen Stonehouse.

Members Present: Mike Clowers, Sharon Coleman, Bill Coleman, Mike Sampsel, Josie Calderon and Richard Scott, Daryl Hern, Karen Henry, Harriet Taylor, John Taylor, Shlomit Haim, and Jim Woodford, Donna Hodge, Dan and Nancy Cornell, and Shanel Espinosa.

Guests Present: Andrew Harvey of Supervisor Nora Vargas' office, and Jose Ortiz, Crime Prevention Specialist of the Sheriff's Department, Hal and Sheri Todus, Alan Zimmer, Dan Burow, and Parisa Hill.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Prior to the approval of the minutes, Daryl Hern and Mike Sampsel made corrections to the March Minutes. These corrections will be made prior to the final minutes being posted to the SVCA web site and become the final minutes.. Judy asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Stephen Stonehouse moved to approve; Sharon Coleman provided the second. Amended 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 April 2024 Treasurer's Report.

	<u>April 2024</u>
Checking	\$ 3,601.77
PayPal to Mailchimp	\$ (45.00)
Go Daddy Charges CK 891 892 SMS	\$ (5.00)
Dues Received	\$ 50.00
Mission Fed CD	\$ 10,000.00
Interest on CD thru March	\$ 148.39
Grant Status –Original Grant	
\$12,118.00	
Deductions to Date	
\$ (3,334.67)	

Ending Balance \$ 13,750.16

Previous Balance was \$14,459.87.

Part of the grant was the restoration of the damaged mural on the Jalisco Cafe on Bonita Road. That mural has been restored and the painter has billed the SVCA and the invoice from that painter has been paid.

The report was accepted as written.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims: Chief Sims provided the following report.

Bonita Firefighters Pancake Breakfast is set for April 21st from 8a-11a at the Bonita Fire Department station.

Saturday April 6, 2024, from 12p-2p) at the Bonita Fire station Supervisor Nora Vargas will host a Town Hall and Community update meeting at the Bonita Fire Department station.

The Heartland Fire Academy graduation will be on April 6th at 10a.

The new BFD Fire Engine has been ordered and the estimated build time to completion is 48 months.

The Emergency responses for March were 162. The training hours for March totaled five hundred hours.

Wildland fire equipment grant from the San Diego River Conservancy approved. The BFD will be getting funds for the new wildland PPE, hoses, and radios.

Law Enforcement Reports:

Sheriff's Department: Jose Ortiz, Crime Prevention Specialist of the Sheriff's Department. Jose Ortiz talked about traffic and noted that he understood the problem areas are Corral Canyon Road, Proctor Valley Road, San Miguel Road, and others. He indicated that the Sheriff would help with traffic when workforce is available.

The Crime prevention specialist talked about Car break ins and theft and told people to lock their cars and not leave valuables in the car in plain sight or when the car is unattended. Jose Ortiz noted that he plans to go to the area which there are apartments and talk to the owners about car theft.

In a discussion about crime, Jose noted that victims of crime, such as theft, need to notify the sheriff. The sheriff cannot help if he/she does not know a crime has occurred. He emphasized "Call it in."

Crime Specialist Ortiz provided us with a crime map which accompanies these minutes.

Elected Representative Reports:

Andrew Harvey, Supervisor Nora Vargas Representative: Andrew reported about the Town Hall hosted by Supervisor Nora Vargas on Saturday April 6, 2024, at 12 PM at the Bonita Fire station. Supervisor Nora Vargas will be accompanied by San Diego County staff for this Town Hall.

Council Member John McCann's Office representative Amanda Angulo. Amanda Angulo was not in attendance. However, she did provide a report to Sharmane which was read by Sharmane. Amanda's Report provided the following:

Recently, Mayor McCann hosted a Prop 47 Presser (Press Conference) with San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan and National City Mayor Ron Morrison. Homelessness, drug addiction, and theft have been a rampant issue throughout the nation, and unfortunately, here, at our home in Chula Vista. By signing the petition to fix Prop 47, we can make our streets, businesses, and community safer.

Additionally, the Mayor was honored to have attended the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and speak on how important small businesses are in our community as they are the backbone of our economy.

Mayor McCann welcomed another small business into Chula Vista with the opening of Common Theory Ribbon Cutting in partnership with the Asian Business Association.

This past weekend, Mayor McCann went to the Firefighters Easter Egg Hunt at Mount St. Miguel Park and had a blast kicking off the event. This is an event he goes to every year with his grandson and always has a wonderful time.

Mayor McCann also attended the MANA Legacy Luncheon honoring our wonderful City Manager, Maria Kachadoorian.

Lastly, some great news: we received a \$150 million Congressional allocation for the International Sewage Treatment Facility. After attending a recent delegation to Washington DC with Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre and Coronado City Councilmember John Duncan, this funding shows that our efforts were productive in securing the funds needed to clean up the sewage crisis.

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 was not available. However, he did send information regarding SB 1178—The California Water Quality and Public Health Protection ACT. Judy forwarded this information to all members under a separate email on April 9th, 2024.

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: Judy Reported that she had collaborated with residents and submitted a report regarding SMR to Supervisor Nora Vargas. She received a computer assist from William Estrella who packaged the final product which Judy approved and sent.

Judy noted the issues on SMR: Judy used a posterboard geological map, slides and videos contained in the report to Supervisor Vargas. Judy Reported the following:

- Drainage from the Ball Fields, which were a SANDAG mitigation for the implementation of State Route 125, causes flooding on SMR because there is an incomplete compaction of the ball field's soil, and that area is never maintained.
- There are no storm drains on SMR.
- No curbs on SMR causes the shoulders to wash away.
- The Creek does not flow smoothly to transit the water because:
 1. The creek is clogged with debris, from plants and weeds.
 2. There is manure being deposited in the creek.
 3. There are obstructions in the creek, such as human created obstacles.
 4. There is a four-foot retaining wall with fill behind it, that blocks water from getting to the creek. Residents commented that if the county gave a permit for this construction, the county needs to revisit that permit.

Judy also noted that the flooding causes safety concerns such as:

- Commuters using the center line to drive to avoid the flooding on both sides of SMR.
- Increase of water in the creek if the development of the property at the east end of Jonel Way is approved.
- All Speeding is dangerous but especially during flooding, speeding is a serious safety concern.

Judy Reported that the submitted report recommends the following:

- Redirection of the ball field water so that it does not run onto SMR.
- Add storm drains and curb along SMR.
- Do not put a bike lane on SMR.
- Direct people to clean the creek bed that is on their private property.
- Modify the Proctor Vally Bridge so that the water from the creek flows freely under that bridge.

Judy further noted that the residents can express their concerns at Supervisor Nora Vargas' Town hall meeting at the fire house and the Sweetwater Community Planning group meeting in May.

New Business. Proposal to establish an SVCA Subcommittee to Address the SWA Solar Project Sharmane Estolano: Sharmane presented her ideas regarding the subcommittee and made a motion that the subcommittee be formed. Judy Tieber seconded the motion.

Discussion followed. The following comments were noted:

- Why is a subcommittee needed?
- The subcommittee would provide a more powerful voice than the method the SVCA is currently using.
- A subcommittee will talk with one voice with ideas discussed and decided on courses of action in the subcommittee.

- Subcommittees have been successful in the past.
- A subcommittee will make it easier to reach out to other affected areas in the county affected by the solar panels.
- SERPA money could be used, along with other donations, to fund the subcommittee's work.
- The SERPA donation was not specifically given for this kind of work and may be invested in a CD which has penalties for withdrawal.
- A subcommittee can make a better case that the solar panel will pollute the lake.
- At least one other water district investigated solar panels.
- A submitted letter to the SWA is not getting enough traction but a letter from the subcommittee will get the needed traction.
- The SVCA's website could be leveraged for information, social media accounts set up, and create flyers and banners created to raise awareness.

After the discussion. A vote was taken. Sixteen members voted to form the subcommittee and two members voted not to form the subcommittee (16-2).

Secretary's Note: In the discussion above, a request was stated that \$1000 in seed money should be allocated to the subcommittee. There was a discussion regarding the use of the money and that no subcommittee had been formed, yet, nor a budget identified. It does not appear that the original motion to form the subcommittee was ever amended and seconded to add an allocation of \$1000n seed money.

Community Forum:

Sweetwater Authority Karen Henry. Karen made most of her comments about the SWA under new business relating to the SWA Solar Panel Project and the forming of a SVCA Subcommittee. However, she also noted the following:

As directed at the February 7, 2024, SVCA meeting, Judy Tieber sent a letter to the Sweetwater Authority expressing concerns about their proposed floating solar project. The SWA General Manager did not distribute Judy's letter to all the Board Members. Consequently I (Karen) used public comment at the March 27, 2024, Board Meeting to deliver the letter to all Board Members.

Karen noted that she and other SVCA members want the SWA to write and distribute an EIR. The Sweetwater Authority's General Manager has recommended a mitigated negative declaration (MND) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. A project of this significance warrants an Environmental Impact Report. The 7-member Sweetwater Authority Governing Board will decide (EIR vs. MND) on the project's CEQA document sometime within the next few months.

Traffic and Roads Mike Clowers: Mike reported that the Traffic Advisory Committee did not have any Bonita items on its agenda but there were items for Spring Valley.

There was a discussion relating to the traffic problems in the Bonita area and that the CHP needs to do more patrolling. Mike responded that the CHP used to have more patrols than they do now, and they need to get back to what they used to do. The bottom line is that the area needs more CHP presence.

Mike discussed two walks that he had with the County along SMR along with residents of that area. The purpose was to provide the County with a firsthand look at the issues. One of the walks occurred while it was raining, which showed the County the problems in detail.

Mike recommended that people use the San Diego County app called "Tell Us Now" to report issues. This is an effective way to get problem information to the County.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group Stephen Stonehouse & Harriet Taylor: Stephen noted that the schedule action item, for the April meeting, of "Changes to the design checklist" mandated by the State of California had been deferred to a future Sweetwater Community Planning group meeting.

Harriet noted that she is getting more information about the LaFinca restaurant project on the corner of Briarwood and Bonita Road. This includes the type of signs that will be used. The signage plan for the Starbucks on Central Avenue have not been finalized and submitted based on previous SCPG concerns,

Harriet also talked about the property at the far eastern end of Jonel way which has a lighted ball field. Judy also noted that on Wednesdays there is a lot of traffic going to and from that ballfield.

Membership Sharon Coleman: Sharon Reported the following:

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 reported that the lack of available members affects how the patrols can be generated.

Jim told us that the Senior Patrol will assist with traffic control on April 21st for the BFD Pancake Breakfast.

MARCH 2024 SHERIFF SR. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	21
Number of Patrols	2
Number of Miles Driven	126
Vacation Checks	0
Citizen Assists	0
Traffic Control	2
Number of Volunteers	4

Other Announcements. Sharmane commented about the sidewalks on Bonita Road.

There was a notification that the undergrounding of cable lines along Bonita Road from the Church on Bonita Road to where Bonita Road turns left when it meets SMR, will occur in Fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

Judy reminded everyone of the Supervisor Nora Vargas Town Hall meeting scheduled for April 6, 2024, from 12-1 at the BFD station. She also reminded everyone that the election of officers will be in June.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 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.