

NOTES/MINUTES of the Faith Subcommittee of the Ventura Social Services Task Force: Wednesday, August 24th, 2016; 3pm; Ventura Church of Christ

Present: Judy Alexandre, Lynn Geller, Bruce Gilbert, John Sanders Jones, Robin Lerner, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Al Myers, Ruth Owens, Dave Schulze

Welcome and opened in prayer: Judy Alexandre

1. Prayer assignment: Dave Schulze – November; Pam Marshall – December
2. VSSTF – Report – Judy Alexandre: Main topic for next meeting will be Family Homelessness. Carl Morehouse will be a guest speaking about City's measure for Sales Tax increase.

Bridge Housing and Services Committee:

- Working to identify sites and looking for possible buyers/leases
- Working on architectural plan and looking for developer(s)
- Types of services to be offered
- Finding managers/agencies – would have to be experienced in managing/funding/grants, etc. Will be contacting local and outside operating agencies.
- Designing a 'Survey Monkey' (contacting universities to design) to identify stakeholders' concerns. Includes: general public, police, school district, business/employers, social service agencies, faith community, etc. Judy and Sue will be writing introduction to survey.

VSSTF will support and work with those involved in planning, developing and running Bridge Housing. On Thursday, August 25th at 4:30 pm there will be a meeting of Blue Ribbon Committee (City of Ventura) regarding Bridge Housing project.

3. Regarding speaking at public comment session once monthly (Ventura City Council Meeting): we need to design a sign-up sheet for Pastors and/or leaders/representatives to choose date/month to speak and a topic (of the month) from Talking Points: re: Homelessness.

We agree that it is good to have a variety of people from various congregations to speak. It is hoped that those who choose to speak will have a vested interest, not just a heart; be passionate.

Pam will work on designing a sign-in sheet and a simplified list of topics from the Talking Points (at least 6). The Sign-up sheet would go out to VIMA, Dave Schulze's small evangelistic group, those who committed to action from the January 'Partners for Change' event and City Center Supporters.

We also agree it would be a good idea to tie-in our letter-writing campaign to the same talking point of the month. Pam will work on simplifying up to 6 talking points, Ruth Owens will review for clarity. Once this is done, copies will be sent to all in Faith Subcommittee.

Other actions: anyone can sign-up to volunteer at Ventura's One-Stop, also it is good to sign up to take certification program online for "S.O.A.R" to be authorized to help people fill out applications for SDI and SSI.

5. Ventura City Council Election: we have agreed to plan for a Candidates Forum on Homelessness and Housing, as done in the past. VTSSF has previously sponsored, will look for additional sponsors. Dave Schulze has agreed to host the forum at the Ventura Church of Christ, he will contact the City Clerk to determine a date. The Faith Subcommittee will promote and support the event; invitations need to be sent via post and email to candidates; flyer needs to be made. Questions for candidates must be submitted in advance. Please send questions to Pam who will forward to Judy. Judy will also take the idea for consensus to the next VSSTF meeting.

6. Bicycle Project: from Judy: VC Cool is taking over the project and will be making a presentation to the Continuum of Care Board in October. They are working on obtaining funds through grants and donations. The program will be county-wide, and has two levels: one can earn a bicycle and/or earn a certificate in bicycle repair. There is a need to purchase locks and bicycle repair kits, tools, etc. Participants would be able to earn \$10 per hour. If all works out, possibly could start January 2017.

7. Family Promise – next meeting at Orchard Community Church in Ventura on September 1st, Thursday at 7 pm

Meeting adjourned and closed in prayer – Judy Alexandre

Next Meeting: September 28th, Wednesday, 3 pm, Ventura Church of Christ: FYI: Dave Schulze will be on vacation, Assistant Pastor Joe Tipps will be with us in his stead. Opening and closing prayer: Miguel Marquez

Submitted by Pam Marshall