

Notes/Minutes of the Faith Subcommittee - Ventura Social Services Task Force
Wednesday, February 24, 2016: 3-4:30 pm; Ventura Church of Christ

Present: Judy Alexandre, Glenna Bailey, Sue Brinkmeyer, Lynn Geller, Bruce Gilbert, Robin Lerner, Pam Marshall, Al Myers, Ruth Owens, Renee Rueda, Dave Schulze

New (Welcome!): Dan Hernandez

Opened in Prayer

1. Updates

- River Haven is in need of a new propane refrigerator - Lynn Geller: Cost will be approximately \$2,200 total, including delivery. The Social Action of Committee of Temple Beth Torah is heading the drive for donations. Pam has sent out an e-mail to Faith Subcommittee members to spread the word to the Faith Community.
- City of Ventura's Homeless Workshop - Judy Alexandre: Workshop has been scheduled for April 18th, 2016 - a Monday. It will be the actual City Council Meeting, and the Council plans to vote on an action plan (zoning is on the list). Meeting will begin at 6 pm; stakeholder representatives will be asked to come at 5:30 for prior discussion. This will include Faith Leaders, Advocates from VSSTF, City Staff and others. Location will be at Ventura County Museum on Main Street. Ken Lee will be the moderator/facilitator. We will need to spread the word to get as many people as possible to show up for this meeting. Ruth Owens will send out a Save-the Date e-mail to the Action Commitment Contact List, with Talking Points. There is a need for criteria from the City so that planning can be done properly. The City has an analyst working on data relating to costs and numbers which will be available approximately ten to twelve days before the meeting. The VSSTF has specific goals in mind:
 1. A year-round Crisis Housing center with services and a goal to permanent housing
 2. Have the City provide very-low and extremely-low income housing
 3. To advocate for these goals.
- Business Event (like the Roof For All event) - Judy Alexandre: Meeting has been cancelled. The Chamber of Commerce has agreed to take over organizing this event. They have agreed to have it occur before the April 18th Homeless Workshop. In addition, they have accepted the VSSTF

talking points. More information to follow.

- Family Promise: Sue Brinkmeyer and Ruth Owens: Next meeting is February 25th, Thursday, at the Ventura Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 630 PM, for more planning and information. All invited.
2. Follow-up Actions from Partners For Change - A Roof For All Event
- Pam Marshall has sent out letters to the Ventura Inter-Faith Ministerial Association and to Dave Schulze's evangelical pastor's informal group requesting participation of having a rotating schedule of speakers each month during the City Council's first monthly meeting Public Comment time. In this letter we are asking for a schedule to be provided so that we can track and participate as needed. Anyone can speak, not just clergy. Members of congregations and supporters can also come. This time is a short period of approximately one to one and one-half hour. We have heard that three people have already shown interest in speaking. Follow-up next meeting with responses.
 - Ruth and Lynn have contact lists for Action Commitment. Lynn has been reaching out to those on the list who signed up to join our Faith Subcommittee. As a result, we now have six new people attending. Ruth has been sending out e-mails to those who agreed to go to Council Meetings advising of dates and times for attendance and speaking.
 - Dave Schulze passed out copies of the notes from the table facilitators of the "Roof For All" event with summaries of each question asked. His conclusion: Everyone appears to be ready for action, but there is a great need for education regarding homelessness in the City of Ventura. This is something we continue to work on with our Action Commitment Group and the upcoming Homeless Workshop, among other things.
 - Judy and Sue plan to e-mail a progress report on the three-year history of homelessness efforts in Ventura.
 - Kathy Wertheim has offered to lead a letter-writing campaign. Pam, Judy and Ruth will work on getting this started with Kathy. Follow-up at next meeting

Meeting adjourned and closed in prayer.

**Next meeting: March 23rd, 2016 at 3 pm
Ventura Church of Christ**

Submitted by Pam Marshall