

NOTES/MINUTES of the Faith Subcommittee of the Ventura Social Services Task Force: Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 3 PM, Ventura Church of Christ

Present: Judy Alexandre, Sue Brinkmeyer, Lynn Geller, Bruce Gilbert, John Sanders Jones, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Dave Schulze

Welcome and opened in prayer: Bruce Gilbert

1. Outreach to clergy for monthly speakers during public comment time of City Council meeting: Pam sent out an email to VIMA and to Dave's evangelical group, asking for participation and attached a draft sign-up sheet along with a Housing-First topic suggestion. Dave advised add Mark Patterson's small group. Hoping for responses. Possible Jay Kassoff of Temple Beth Torah may speak per Lynn.

2. VSSTF report – Judy:

a. From City's "Special Committee" meeting on 10/25: stakeholders' input/interest in future shelter with services. Committee is pushing for City to act on recommendations for possible zoning changes. Likes our group's Newsletter idea. Thoughts: need for a moral (faith) leader to be a spokesperson. Also, someone from the business community/Chamber of Commerce. Idea to have someone from secular groups to speak at various congregations.

* Rabbi Lisa along with others idea to have a "Sabbath Weekend" focused on outreach to all faiths with an emphasis on housing homeless people and all that is involved in that endeavor. Plans to be fully integrated.

b. Next VSSTF meeting will be focused on Veteran Homelessness...of note: 10 acres of land returned to City of Ventura to be used for homeless and low income veterans with flexibility in mind. RFQ (request for quotation) by end of November.

c. Winter Warming Shelter update: Ventura National Guard Armory may not be available, currently the City is looking at Shelter-by-Right (SB2) areas.

3. Faith Committee Newsletter: First issue to be published in November. Sue has a friend who can format it for us. Things to include: updates (short) for Family Promise, VC Cool Bike Program, Homeless Memorial information 12/18/16; a brief paragraph from a faith leader regarding helping homeless people; Judy will write introductory paragraph; summary of group represented on committee; add links to Survey Monkey once ready. Send completed Newsletter out to all houses of faith in Ventura if possible.

4. Miscellaneous/Updates:

a. "Take A Hungry Person To Lunch" flyer for 11/17/16 – announced and handed out.

- b. from Lynn: Solar lights for Riverhaven – funding is in, received a bit more than needed!
- c. Family Promise, Temple Beth Torah signed up, three other possible in Ventura and Oxnard. Brochure is available for information and presentation.
- d. Showers of Blessing presentation to VIMA was positive, seemed to be in favor, looking at funding.
- e. Homeless people are being allowed to rent a locker and use shower/toilet facilities for \$3/month at the Ventura Community Park off Kimball Rd – only during normal operating hours and not during special activities.
- f. Tiny Homes Workshop – held by VC at government center in September. Can view information at: www.venturacoc.org.
- g. VC Cool “Bike Ventura” presentation was made during Continuum of Care Board Meeting on 10/12. Very organized, ready to receive donated bicycles and \$ donations.

Meeting closed in prayer by Bruce Gilbert. * **NOTE: due to Thanksgiving Holiday there will be NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER.** Instead we will meet on December 14th, 3 PM, at Ventura Church of Christ. Prayers: December – Dave Schulze; January – Pam Marshall

Submitted by Pam Marshall