

# **NOTES/MINUTES of the Faith Subcommittee of the Ventura Social Services Task Force: Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016; 3 PM; Ventura Church of Christ**

Present: Judy Alexandre, Lynn Geller, Robin Lerner, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall

Welcome and open in prayer: Miguel Marquez

I. Faith Subcommittee Mission Statement – copies to all present for review. Looking at #1: Outreach to increase participation – Judy suggested a quarterly newsletter with information about the Faith Subcommittee, what's the latest action/information, special projects in the Faith Community such as Family Promise, etc. to go out to as many of the 90+ houses of faith throughout Ventura via e-mail. Judy and Pam will work on the first one: topic: a discussion regarding the upcoming Winter Warming Shelter at the Ventura Armory – what that means, should it be supported or not, etc.

II. City Council Candidates Forum October 11<sup>th</sup> – final discussions: contacting VC Star and CAPS to record the forum, etc. At the upcoming VSSTF meeting (Oct. 5) 10 questions will be presented that will be given to the candidates in advance; also, there will be 4 questions that will not be given in advance and they will be Yes or No only questions. Light refreshments will be served: Judy will provide water and veggie trays, Pam will provide plates, napkins, cups.

III. VSSTF Report – Judy Alexandre

A. From the Bridge Housing & Services Committee concerning Shelter w/Services:

1. Property/Land – Nothing is currently available in the zones mentioned as possible for Shelter + Services by the City of Ventura.
2. Discussions with some providers and developers who have all indicated that the property must be pre-secured before they will consider involvement.
3. Regarding the Survey Monkey in development: the introduction has been written; the Breeze and Recorder have agreed to publish, the VC Star said 'no' and the City of Ventura is thinking about it.

B. The topic at the next VSSTF meeting will be Families in Homelessness and Best Practices in housing/helping.

IV. Monthly City Council Public Comments – Pam has made a draft sign-up sheet and a suggested topic (Housing First) with in-depth explanation to give to the Ventura Inter-Faith Ministerial Association. Continuing project.

V. Other:

A. *Family Promise* – Robin Lerner: continues to work on obtaining commitments from congregations; so far the Church of the Foothills and Temple Beth Torah show interest. Applied for non-profit status which has been approved by the State and now awaiting Federal approval. November's meeting will have a guest from the main Family Promise organization.

B. *Bicycle Repair/Ownership Project* – Judy Alexandre: VCCool has taken over the project and can now receive donated bicycles. Donors can take them to The HUB – 1150 N. Ventura Ave. (between El Medio and Vince Sts.). Hoping to be ready to start working in January 2017. Working on referrals; police and sheriff will be doing screening to make sure none of the donated bicycles have been stolen. Participants can earn a bicycle and/or a certificate; experience to post on a resume. A presentation will be made at the next Continuum of Care Board Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

C. *Showers of Blessing* – Pam for Harold Cartlidge: to date they are hoping to do a presentation at the next VIMA meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

D. Judy and Pam will be attending the *Tiny Homes Workshop* at the Government Center September 30<sup>th</sup> from 130 – 4 pm. Report for next meeting.

Future meetings for 2016:

1. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM, Ventura Church of Christ**
2. It is agreed that there will be **no meeting in November** due to Thanksgiving Holidays
3. **December meeting will be early: December 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, 3 PM (Ventura Church of Christ if available, or Temple Beth Torah)**

Meeting adjourned – Closing prayer – Miguel Marquez

Submitted by Pam Marshall