

VSSTF July 6, 2011

Self introductions were done (30 present - Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cante, David Deutsch, Todd L. Goehner, Mary Haffner, Tim Hawkins, Jerome Holt, Keri Jaeger, John Jones, Ron Kurlaender, Amy Luoma, John Luttrull, Jill Martinez, Donna Mason, Eileen McCarthy, Kate Mills, Rob Orth, Amanda Pyper, Clyde Reynolds, Peggy Rivera, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland, Kristen Tippelt, Carroll Dean Williams, Daniel Zapata)

Peggy Rivera spoke about the Black and White dinner dance fundraiser for the winter warming shelter Oct 15. Peter Brown will be the main speaker: music by Chico, sponsorship packages ready. Meeting every Wed 10:30 at 1258 S Saviers Rd in back (thrift store). Al Jones is dancing at Salsa Fest to raise money for winter warming shelter. Items needed for the silent auction. Also a golf tournament fundraiser coming up.

### **I. City of Ventura Report by Peter Brown**

July 25 update to Council. Meeting July 7, of subcommittee. Agenda: discussion on possible ordinance on shopping carts; Aug 20 job fair; update from Gateway committee.

Money has been dispensed for VSSTF grants

Meeting was held between business owners and VPD re undesirable activity on the pier. Decrease in pan handling downtown (probably because of increased police presence downtown , many persons have moved to pier area. Negative impact on tourists.

A meeting was held with Behavioral Health: excellent productive collaboration, discussion on Homeless 2Home , case management focus, ACT direction, and related projects.

Moving toward formal agreement with Patagonia and the City, have begun talks with Common Ground. Patagonia will underwrite costs for Common Ground to come to Ventura for training. Very exciting development. Huge kick off meeting coming soon. VPD contact is Dave Wilson (dwilson@ci.ventura.ca.us)

Housing Element coming before Council July 18. No extensive discussion foreseen, for better or worse. Housing Trust Fund was approved for \$200,000 over 5 years. This is money that will be matched by the State.

### **II. Report from Jill Martinez and Tim Hawkins from Community Action Program of Ventura County**

The Les Goldberg property on Thompson, (near Kalorama) Project starting to fizzle, possibly because of lack of involvement in Ventura. Decision made by Board to not continue plans at this time, even though they received EHAP grant in June 2010 of one million. Tim and Jill outlined the work Community Action does, including assisting a large population of Ventura residents.

### **III. Committees**

#### **A. Faith Based by Rob Orth**

Thanksgiving: committee to be formed for OneCityOne Meal planning. Include Jim Rice, Jesse Giglio, Bill Finley, John Jones, Haroldale Cartlidge, Donna Mason or Debora Schreiber, Rotary rep (possibly Indy Batra), who else?

Project Understanding update: they are doing case management with 8 clients toward getting them housed. Received a United Way Grant to train people to provide rental assistance case management, and budgeting.

Possibility/idea to convene a church and provider based meeting to discuss movement toward Hand Up Not Hand Out concept and concerns, collaboration and accountability. Jim Duran and Bill Finley will move forward with preliminary plans.

VSSTF Candidate Forum to be on a Thursday eve in late September.

Announcement: Rev. McCurtiss of Total Life Christian is having a job fair on Aug 20 at Plaza Park, geared toward low skill applicants. Goal is 6-10 employers to have tables there. Would be helpful to contact or suggest employers to attend. Suggestion made of Sam Hishmeh from Domino Pizza, Neal will follow up.

May Stewart noted that at Foster Library a volunteer helps professional job seekers with their resumes. 29 clients have been assisted; 9 people have found jobs,

## **B. Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund Cindy Cattle**

Catholic Charities has the VHPF for June. In May, Project Understanding assisted 4 households. Total allocated \$3,505, or an average of \$876 per household. Total number of households assisted 185.

June Donations - \$402 by Ventura Missionary

### **Community Outreach**

Keeping People Housed Period. "Shelter is a basic human need. Everyday we prevent homelessness." These are key points of communication to the public. We are focusing on ways to spread this message.

FaceBook - Update from Todd and Beth. We're an official "organization" page. Please "like" us on Facebook, and encourage your friends to do the same. . Beth and Todd attended workshop on fundraising and branding at VC Community Foundation.

Love Drop idea... We agreed to look further into developing a similar concept. Our goal is to leverage the city funding to raise as much money to prevent homelessness as possible. We will compare how this concept might work and compare it to the options of a single fundraising event or an imaginary feast.

August Unitarian Universalist designation of the fund for their offerings. Cindy will speak at the August 7 service. Poster Distribution- We continue to look for good places to post our VHPF posters w/donor tear-offs. Please contact Cindy and she'll get the poster to you/your recommended location.

Business Cards – Beth will have business cards printed up with logo and contact information so that committee members can provide info quickly to potential donors.

Homeless Prevention Week: Discussion and planning for activities during November (Homeless Prevention Month). We have budget of \$6,000. Goals – Education about Prevention and Raise Funds for VHPF.

### **C. Housing Options no report.**

### **D. Gateway Clyde Reynolds**

Report was heard from Jill M. at meeting on plans for Thompson project. Leadership at Salvation Army needs to make decision to move forward for Gateway and wants clear MOU. Committee has an attorney assisting. Ensure future sustainability regardless of leadership or continued involvement of any one org. Founding Partners meeting to hammer out the MOU. Gateway to be case managed, not open

drop in. No summer public meetings to be held. City Community Development Dept and VPD working also with committee attempting to get unified message. The city is not part of team officially.

#### **E. Steering John Jones**

July 25 City Council will focus on setting priorities of 10 year plan objectives. Since it is an election year, let's bring a crowd to show our commitment! Minutes on line from Homeless SubCommittee with their recommendations.

\$306.08 was collected at the July 4 street fair. Thank you to Mary Stewart and Haroldale Cartlidge and Dorothy Fast Horse for volunteering with John and Debora Schreiber

**III. Report from Jerome Holt** re turning a City parking lot into a park and storm water mitigation system in Midtown. Concerns re homeless congregating in park and negative activities have been raised. Location is behind Pizza hut and Laundromat between Harmon and Katherine. 30,000sq feet of asphalt to be removed. Discussion.

#### **IV. One Stop Kate Mills**

Increase in population and mixed demographic. More families, those recently out of jail, single women.

#### **V. New Business**

Proposal/motion/concept: shelter is a basic human right. Idea to put this fact forward to City Council concerning both Emergency Shelter and supportive housing. We as a community consider food and shelter basic human rights...tie in to Gateway. Should we decide on a list of basic rights and vote. Possibly add to mission statement. Much discussion. (Notes: Word..."housing" possibly problematic. Housing is a basic human right. Housing...a basic right. Access to appropriate housing... Consult UN language; legal city lawsuit language? ) No resolution reached.

#### **VI. Events**

- July 29-30-31 Veteran Stand Down; Ventura Armory.
- July 30-31 Salsa Festival Karl Morehouse dancing for Turning Point. Al Jones for the Winter Warming Shelter. **Vote for both of these good causes** on line <http://www.oxnardsalsafestival.com/> or at Salsa Festival
- Aug 20 job fair Plaza Park 9-3 PM. Call 648-5868 Employment Aptitude and Placement Association to attend as an employer hiring
- October 15, Black and White Dinner Dance to benefit Winter Warming Shelter. Save the Date
- Oct 17 Community Action Program: CA golf classic
- Dec 3 Community Action Program Ball

Respectfully submitted,

Debora Schreiber

See [VSSTF.org](http://VSSTF.org) for minutes of all meetings and more info