

Ventura Social Services Task Force

March 2, 2011

Self introductions were performed (30 present - Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Kent Brinkmeyer, Peter Brown, Cindy Cattle, Harold Cartlidge, Michael Darden, David Deutsch, Susan Everett, Bill Finley, Ken Finning, Laura Flores, Jill Forman, Todd L. Goehner, Keri Jaeger, John Jones, Shelli Locklear, John Luttrull, Jill Martinez, Donna Mason, Mike Merewether, Terri Nichols, Rob Orth, Michael Perry, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland, Kristen Tippelt, Ryan Weeks)

I. Committee and City Reports

A. Steering Committee John Jones

1. \$73.98 donated to VHPF and VSSTF bank account closed
2. In his State of the City Address, Mayor Fulton announced the 150th anniversary of the City is in 2016. He is putting together a to-do list of high priority actions. Perhaps we should bring forth ideas of what we want accomplished by then. Discussion as to role of VSSTF especially considering that the City Council Subcommittee is working to prioritize among the objectives of 10year strategy. A role of the Task Force is to make recommendations to City Council and to be visionary, and emphasize the value and benefit to the City of meeting the objectives of 10 year strategy. Neal stated that the priorities for city are shaped by input received by the Task Force. Suggested and agreed that suggestions for 2016 should be an ongoing issue on VSSTF agenda.
3. Grant funds protocol was distributed. Discussion. The “very close to final” draft is posted on web site.

B. City Report by Peter Brown

1. Santa Barbara Common Ground project volunteer meetings held over the week end. This is the largest common Ground project to date, 72nd project across country. Peter was assigned in Montecito and Summerland, and counted 14-15 people. In SB, they combine homeless count and a survey, took 16 minutes do. The process concludes with asking to photograph , many people allowed photo. Intention is to assess the vulnerability of homeless persons and hope to house the most vulnerable
<http://www.Commongroundssb.org>
2. Safe Sleep 1 year anniversary: Council Sub Committee will discuss. Committee meets first Thursday of the month in Santa Cruz Room, 4 PM, City Hall

3. On March 1, sweep of folks behind River Haven was done. A limited amount of people's belongings were stored, everything else disposed of. 6 big roll offs filled. About half of people do not want to return to River Bottom. Help given and will continue; case management meetings are on-going. Approaches made to people before the action were mostly blown off, until police and entire action showed up no one made other plans. 17 camps, 37 people when first surveyed, approx. 12 people there the day of the clean out. People living near water treatment plant in river bottom impacted by Wood-Claeyssen re-acquiring land. They are vigilant about not having encampments on their property.

*Beth felt it was a very negative experience. She urges that we examine and support what clergy is trying to do. Helping-agencies were stretched thin on day of action. Is there a possibility of using MSW's and interns to stretch resources if training is provided? Rob Orth says we learn each time and he supports the suggestion. Discussion on improving for next time. (also note this is the topic at March 8, Faith Based meeting)

C. Faith Based Bill Finley

Next meeting will concern further debriefing and discussion of river bottom clean ups.

D. VHPF Cindy Cattle

1. Presentation made at Committee Meeting by Project Understanding Ericka Manrique for sustainable financial plan.
2. Project had the fund in Feb. Seven households were helped, \$ 856 average per household. 26 individuals, 11 adults, 15 children. Catholic Charities assisted one household . 175 households total to date. Catholic Charities helped one family. Catholic Charities has fund in March; currently at \$500. Total Feb donations were \$4,401 and allocations \$6,845. Updated eligibility criteria prepared. Will have meeting of providers to create single form.
3. Rack cards ready; passed out. www.VHPF.net

E. Housing Options Susan Everett

HomeShare now has 10 active matches. Committee working to form web page of housing options; get info to Jerry Breiner at jerry.breiner@earthlink.net including eligibility info to qualify for housing units and how to apply. SoHo lease up in September. El Patio has vacancies.

F. Gateway Bill Finley

1. Discussions on two possible properties. Salvation Army Petit property a factor in the mix. Eventual fund raising campaign will hope to raise 2-4 million. County money matching also available. Not ready yet for these steps.

II. Other Reports

A. Safe Sleep Keri Jaeger

10 spots available total. 8 spots filled. Turned away a few for issues related to non-working cars or lack of registration. Some do not have drivers' license. #1 reason persons refused : residency not in Ventura #2 drugs. Several people have been assisted into transitional or permanent housing.

- B.** Ventura County Rescue Mission new director hired is John Saltee. He just started. His plan is for the Mission to be more involved in the larger community . 35 beds in Emergency Shelter; 75 beds for recovery. 18 room transitional housing is full. Apt building Angel House has 20 rooms. Lighthouse for women and children has 24 beds.

Committee times and places for meetings:

VSSTF.org