

DRAFT Minutes of October 7, 2015 Meeting of Ventura Social Service Task Force

Present: Present: Judy Alexandre, Neal Andrews, Jerry Breiner, Peter Brown, Cindy Cantle, Kevin Clerici, Joe Dawson, David Deutsch, Jim Duran, Rachel Franco, Mark Gisler, Mary Haffner, Lisa Hochberg-Miller, Tim Hockett, Ron Irwin, John Jones, Pat McLean, Manuel Minjares, Kate Mills, Ron Mulvihill, Diana Palacios, Kathy Powell, Melissa Ramirez, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Doug Stanton, Holly Whitmore

Meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Alexandre

1. All present introduced themselves, and made announcements
 - 1.1. Announcements included: Downtown partners has reconnected a total of 219 people with family members,; David Deutch is new Exec. Director of NAMI; NAMI walk will be April 30; Community Action has hired Ron Irwin; 47,000 meals were served at Family to Family last year; Home Share event at Temple Beth Torah is October 29 at noon and includes a free lunch - RSVP to Temple Beth
2. MSC to approve the agenda as presented.
3. MSC to approve the minutes as presented.
4. Treasurer's Report - We'll be getting a check from VIMA to underwrite October 8 event; Dave will report on balance in October
5. New Business
 - 5.1. Laura's Law - Mary Haffner reported that Laura's law changes the conditions under which caregivers may intervene if someone is ill and a danger to themselves or others; it may fill a gap before jail or hospital release and stop revolving door, increasing the likelihood people will get needed treatment. Behavior Health Board has approved and it is now going through the Board of Supervisors. VSSTF already wrote in support. David Deutch added that NAMI supports Laura's Law
 - 5.2. Winter Shelter -
 - 5.2.1. VSSTF approved resolution asking for an emergency meeting of the Council's Subcommittee on Homelessness, but no emergency meeting took place. The items was part of a Subcommittee meeting held in September at Foster Library. Many people spoke. Judy felt we were clear in what we asked for, but some members of the Subcommittee asked for a letter again stating our specific requests. A letter was delivered to the members of the Subcommittee (see Appendix A)
 - 5.2.2. Peter reported that the city managers of Oxnard and Ventura would be meeting October 8 to nail down funding and which armory would be used. Board of Supervisors approved use of some funding on a one-time basis. Cost should be about \$80,000 per month. Shelter manager, fiscal agent, and staff have all been identified. Cities will be guarantors of funding no matter what happens. Laundry has not yet been covered.
 - 5.2.3. St. Vincent and Red Cross will provide three hours' of training.
 - 5.2.4. No provisions have been made in the event heavy rains begin before December 1 shelter opening.

- 5.2.5.If a faith community or social service agency opens to fill gaps, they open at their own risk.
- 5.2.6.The feeling is that the plan this year has been made in “emergency mode.” Cities need to commit in official vote that this won’t happen again. There needs to be a vote on council’s support for #7 in Recalibrated Plan that was adopted by Ventura City Council.
- 5.2.7.Project Understanding had been looking for a warehouse as a possible shelter site, but that is off the table now.
- 5.2.8.East County provides shelter with houses of faith providing shelter one night each week; such a model would be less likely to draw repercussions
- 5.2.9.There was much discussion regarding whether an armory could be used beyond the 6 am to 6 pm December 1 to March 30 open hours. See emails between Peter Brown and Ventura Armory director as Appendix B for answers to questions raised by members.
- 5.2.10.MSC (2 abstentions: Neal and Peter) to write or call our state senators regarding allowing use of armory free of charge and during expanded hours and days because of El Nino emergency conditions.
- 5.2.11.MSC (2 abstentions: Neal and Peter) to explore other areas of possible funding and reduced costs for use of armory
- 5.2.12.MSC (2 abstentions: Neal and Peter) to explore the possibility of expanding hours up to an including 24-hours

6. Reports:

- 6.1. Homeless Prevention - Homeless Prevention Fund has served 965 people to date .
- 6.2. Faith Subcommittee - The Committee finalized plans for the October 8 Partners for Change event at the Poinsettia Pavillion. All are invited
- 6.3. Housing People Can Afford - met with Habitat for Humanite, Steve Dyer
- 6.4. Bridge Housing - looked more at winter shelter, which detracted from ability of committee to focus on goal of creating ongoing bridge housing
- 6.5. Downtown Ventura Organization - the DVO is supportive of a shelter with day services. We need to show City Council that we are all in this together and all people want a year-round shelter and day services. However, downtown businesses feel there is a concentration of services downtown.

Submitted by Kathy Powell and Sue Brinkmeyer

Appendix A

To: The Homeless Subcommittee- Chairman Andrews, Mayor Heitmann, and Councilmember Weir;

We would like to clarify in writing our specific request and some of our comments made at the September 24th Homeless Subcommittee meeting.

We have come to believe that the City Council has directed staff to block or to significantly frustrate efforts to secure small year round shelters that bridge the gap while permanent housing is located or developed. These efforts have happened without the Council publically stating a position or voting on providing this necessary facility (ies).

Some of the indications of the roadblocks have been:

1. Staff coming to the Sept 24 meeting with a last-minute winter shelter-only proposal (details still needed) after a two year notice that St. Vincent de Paul would no longer do so. They found that this model, as has been shown nationally, was expensive and did not assist people in moving out of homelessness.
2. A winter warming shelter subcommittee met for 2 years and was repeatedly told by staff that the Council would not consider even temporary zone changes or fee waiver. We are not aware of any formal vote on direction from the City Council.
3. Some of your subcommittee were not even aware of the winter warming shelter subcommittee's work with your staff.
4. The request by at least 21 members of the local clergy to meet with City Council was stonewalled for three months. Just trying to schedule a small meeting to discuss the larger meeting could not take place during that time.
5. Shelter proposals (including the Gateway concept) are blocked without a vote from Council occurring.

Since there is a lack of clarity of exactly where the Council stands on the issue of bridge (small shelters with services) housing, people and organizations have spent considerable time, energy and resources to no avail. These individuals, groups and organizations have been working in good faith to address the problem of homelessness in our city. We all want people off the street.

The Ventura Social Service Task Force and the faith community came in unity to the meeting on Sept.24, 2015. We want a public vote.

We are asking that the following be placed on the agenda of the next subcommittee:

That the City Council of San Buenaventura hold an up/down vote on the establishment of year-round bridge/interim housing (short term shelter) with services. The goal is to move people into permanent housing. This vote includes that the City will put forth its guidelines and extends an invitation to potential developers and service providers to submit appropriate plans.

We do not want any further meetings or discussions until after a public vote has taken place. Any conversation that is needed must be about moving forward. This cannot happen until the Council takes a position.

Appendix B

10/9/2015

Gmail - Fwd: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories



Judy Alexandre <judyalexandre@gmail.com>

Fwd: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories

1 message

Brown, Peter <pbrown@ci.ventura.ca.us>
To: Judy Alexandre <judyalexandre@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 9, 2015 at 9:24 AM

Peter Brown
Community Services Manager
Community Development
City of Ventura
805.658.4707
pbrown@cityofventura.net
Follow Community Development on Facebook

From: "Freida A Oluwadare (Ann) NFG NG CAARNG (US)" <freida.a.oluwadare.nfg@mail.mil>
To: "Peter Brown" <pbrown@ci.ventura.ca.us>
Cc: "Peter L. Brown" <pbrown@cityofventura.net>, "Karl Lawson" <karl.lawson@ci.oxnard.ca.us>, "Arturo Casillas" <arturo.casillas@oxnardhousing.org>, "Steven Karnazes" <rescue1@roadrunner.com>, "Christy Madden" <christy.madden@ventura.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2015 9:21:04 AM
Subject: RE: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories

Good morning Sir,
Ask as many questions, as many times as needed.

The responses are provided below:

* We know that, at this time, we would like to use the Ventura Armory from December 1 through March 31 - please confirm availability...

A: Yes, it will be made available.

* my question is, would the Armory be available beginning on November 15 if the community can find the additional funding?

A: Yes, the armory can be made available any time after Oct 15th with sufficient notice of intent.

* Another question is related to the cost per night. You've quoted \$440 per night. There are some folks in our community who think they are aware that the rate in Los Angeles County is lower than \$440 per night. So I'm wondering if there's any wiggle room in the cost per night, and I'm also wondering whether or not it's accurate that there are different costs per night for

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different armories.

A: Your source of information is in error. The price is standard and the same at all, except one, armory, which has a flat rate due to the condition and occupation status of the armory.

* The practice here in Ventura and Oxnard has been that the \$440 per night means 6 PM in and 6 AM out. My question is related to whether or not there's any flexibility in staying longer into the morning...perhaps 10 AM...and what the cost of that would be.

A: Unfortunately, the times have some, but not a substantial amount of flexibility, a matter of perhaps 1/2 - 1 hour. If the armory has an active unit occupying it, then the armory needs to be returned to operational status before duty hours in order to carryout military operations, which is priority.

* I'm also wondering whether there's any precedent to utilize the Armory 24 hours a day (either all of the time, or on some select days) during the period of time in which we will be open.

A: Unfortunately, if the armory has an active unit occupying it, then the armory will never be available for 24-hour operations for the Sheltering Program. However, for some weekends and holidays that may be an option, again depending on the schedule of operations and needs of the occupying unit. Yes, there would be additional costs, double.

* In the meantime, could you please send me the paperwork that will need to get moving on in order to secure the use of the armory?

A: Yes, the licenses will be distributed nlt Oct 15th.

If I can be of further assistance or more clarification is needed, please don't hesitate contacting me.

Sincerely,

F. ANN OLUWADARE
TSgt (Ret), CA ANG
State of California, Military Department
ESP Program Manager, J-38
9800 Goethe Road, Box#23
Sacramento, CA 95826
Office: (916) 854-3128

The man who knows right from wrong and has good judgment and common sense is happier than the man who is immensely rich! For such wisdom is far more valuable than precious jewels. Nothing else compares with it. ~ King Solomon

-----Original Message-----

From: Brown, Peter [mailto:pbrown@ci.ventura.ca.us]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 5:52 PM
To: Oluwadare, Freida A (Ann) NFG NG CAARNG (US)

Cc: Peter L. Brown; Karl Lawson; Arturo Casillas; Steven Karnazes; Christy Madden
Subject: Re: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories

This email was sent from a non-Department of Defense email account, and contained active links. All links are disabled, and require you to copy and paste the address to a Web browser. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm authenticity of all links contained within the message.

Hi Tech Sgt. -

Thank you, as always for the great service that you provide.

On behalf of West Ventura County, we'd like to request the use of the Ventura Armory this winter. I have some specific questions that I am hoping you can help me with - some of them are mine and some of them are coming from the community. Please answer them as best you can - I appreciate your putting up with some questions that you have answered for me in the past.

- * We know that, at this time, we would like to use the Ventura Armory from December 1 through March 31 - please confirm availability...

- * my question is, would the Armory be available beginning on November 15 if the community can find the additional funding?

- * Another question is related to the cost per night. You've quoted \$440 per night. There are some folks in our community who think they are aware that the rate in Los Angeles County is lower than \$440 per night. So I'm wondering if there's any wiggle room in the cost per night, and I'm also wondering whether or not it's accurate that there are different costs per night for different armories.

- * The practice here in Ventura and Oxnard has been that the \$440 per night means 6 PM in and 6 AM out. My question is related to whether or not there's any flexibility in staying longer into the morning...perhaps 10 AM...and what the cost of that would be.

- * I'm also wondering whether there's any precedent to utilize the Armory 24 hours a day (either all of the time, or on some select days) during the period of time in which we will be open.

- * I am still working out the details of who our operator will be, however I want to assure you that it will be a very qualified organization, that has extensive experience in staff and contract management. I will have that information to you as soon as possible.

- * In the meantime, could you please send me the paperwork that will need to get moving on in order to secure the use of the armory?

Thank you again. As always if you need to talk to me just give me a call.

Peter Brown

10/9/2015

Gmail - Fwd: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories

Community Services Manager
Community Development
City of Ventura
805.658.4707 office
805.895.8118 cell
pbrown@cityofventura.net
Follow Community Development on Facebook
<Caution-www.facebook.com/#%21/ventura.community.development>

From: "Freida A Oluwadare (Ann) NFG NG CAARNG (US)"
<freida.a.oluwadare.nfg@mail.mil>
To: "Peter Brown" <pbrown@cityofventura.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 3:41:10 PM
Subject: RE: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories

Got it Sir.

I'll await your response.

-----Original Message-----

From: Brown, Peter [mailto:pbrown@cityofventura.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 2:56 PM
To: Oluwadare, Freida A (Ann) NFG NG CAARNG (US)
Subject: Re: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories

Thank you very much for this information. You have not overlooked anything from me as of yet. I have a meeting tomorrow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and after that meeting I will let you know which armory we're going to request. I'll keep you in the loop thank you very much.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 7, 2015, at 2:48 PM, Oluwadare, Freida A (Ann) NFG NG CAARNG
> (US)
> <freida.a.oluwadare.nfg@mail.mil> wrote:
>
> Good afternoon Sir,
> Unsure if I've communicated this to you regarding the status of the
> Oxnard and Ventura armories.
>
> It has been discussed that the expectation was to continue with the
> altering use between the two armories. However, either one can be made
> ready for use once identified.
>
> Also, have I overlooked your response to my letter sent requesting
> dates of operation, etc.? I'm hoping I didn't mistakenly delete it.
>
> Please advise.

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Gmail - Fwd: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories

>
> Thanks,
> TSgt Oluwadare
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Brown, Peter [mailto:pbrown@cityofventura.net]
> Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 1:33 PM
> To: Karl Lawson
> Cc: Oluwadare, Freida A (Ann) NFG NG CAARNG (US); Peter Brown;
> arturo.casillas@oxnardhousing.org
> Subject: Re: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories
>
> Tech Sgt. Oluwadare,
> I want to make sure we don't confuse you. I just left you a voicemail
> message asking you the same question. Karl and I will communicate
> better in the future. We are working on this together.
> PB
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>>> On Sep 17, 2015, at 1:29 PM, Karl Lawson
>>> <Karl.Lawson@ci.oxnard.ca.us>
>> wrote:
>>
>> Dear Sgt. Oluwadare:
>>
>> The last time we communicated you were dedicating your time to the
> statewide firefighting effort. Please accept our best wishes for
> success in that endeavor.
>>
>> Are you at a point where you can you provide us with any information
>> on
> the availability of either the Oxnard or Ventura armories for use as a
> winter warming shelter for homeless individuals(possibly beginning in
> December)? Specifically, we would like to know if either or both
> facilities would be available, and what the rent would be.
>>
>> Thank you for any information you can provide in this matter.
>>
>> Sincerely,
>>
>> Karl Lwason
>>
>>>>> Karl Lawson 8/10/2015 2:49 PM >>>>
>> Dear Sgt. Oluwadare:
>>
>> Thank you very much for your prompt response. We understand that the
> priority is the fire-fighting, and we wish you and the entire Guard
> the best.
>>

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10/9/2015

Gmail - Fwd: Oxnard and/or Ventura Armories

>> Thank you again --
>>
>> Karl Lawson
>> Oxnard Housing Department
>>
>>>>> "Oluwadare, Freida A (Ann) NFG NG CAARNG (US)"
>>>>> <freida.a.oluwadare.nfg@mail.mil> 8/10/2015 2:21 PM >>>
>> Good afternoon Mr. Lawson,
>> Pardon me for the delay in responding.
>>
>> The current fire situation throughout the state has taken priority in
>> operations.
>>
>> I am in the process of determining the armories that will be
>> available for use during this upcoming season and will respond to
>> your inquiry
> soon.
>>
>> As far as the cost is concerned, unfortunately, at this time I can
>> safely say that the daily cost will be at least the cost of last season.
>>
>> In addition, the armories that are participating in the Emergency
>> Shelter Program operations are licensed for use on a continuous
>> bases, meaning we can't accommodate one day this week, two day next
>> week, etc. However, we can accommodate licensing for a period shorter
>> than four months, but again, it has to be consecutive days.
>>
>> If you have other questions, please don't hesitate contacting this
office.
>>
>>
>> Sincerely,
>>
>> F. ANN OLUWADARE
>> TSgt (Ret), CA ANG
>> State of California, Military Department ESP Program Manager, J-38
>> 9800 Goethe Road, Box#23
>> Sacramento, CA 95826
>> Office: (916) 854-3128
>>
>> The man who knows right from wrong and has good judgment and common
>> sense is happier than the man who is immensely rich! For such wisdom
>> is far more valuable than precious jewels. Nothing else compares with
>> it. ~ King Solomon
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>> -----Original Message-----

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>> From: Karl Lawson [mailto:Karl.Lawson@ci.oxnard.ca.us]
>> Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 1:53 PM
>> To: Oluwadare, Freida A (Ann) NFG NG CAARNG (US)
>> Cc: Peter Brown; arturo.casillas@oxnardhousing.org
>> Subject: Oxnard Armory
>>
>> Dear Sgt. Oluwadare:
>>
>> I am writing on behalf of the City of Oxnard to inquire about the
>> possible use of the Oxnard armory again this winter for use as a
>> warming shelter for homeless individuals. You will recall that this
>> past winter (2014-2015) we rented the facility from December 1
>> through March 31, at a rental rate of
>> \$435.00 per night. We are writing to ask that you please advise us
>> of the
>> following:
>>
>> 1. Will the Armory be available this coming winter?
>> 2. If so, is there a minimum rental period? We may not be able to
>> rent it for an entire four-month period.
>> 3. Is it possible to rent the facility for a rate lower than last
>> year's rate of \$435.00 per night?
>>
>> We request the favor of a reply at your earliest convenience, and I
>> ask that you please send a copy of your reply not only to me, but
>> also to the two gentlemen who are copied on this e-mail. Mr. Arturo
>> Casillas is our new Housing Director, and Mr. Peter Brown works out
>> of our City Manager's office.
>>
>> Thank you very much for your attention in this matter.
>>
>> Karl Lawson
>> Oxnard Housing Department
>> 435 South "D" Street
>> Oxnard CA 93030
>>
>>