

Draft Minutes - VSSTF Meeting of October 5, 2016

Present: Karyn Bates, Ken Belden, Jerry Breiner , Kent Brinkmeyer , Sue Brinkmeyer , Peter Brown , David Deutsch , Mary Haffner , John Jones, Steven Karnazes, Erin Locklear, Gabriel Lucido, Pam Marshall, Arlene Martinez, Kate Mills, Ron Mulvihill , Kathy Powell, Rick Raine, Melissa Ramirez , Jade Spurr, Rosa Santos-Spurr, Karol Schulkin, Tony Serrano, Ben Unseth

Call to order: 3:19 pm

1. Agenda approved as presented
2. Copies for next meeting: Lift Up Your Voice
3. Minutes of August 3, 2016: approved as correct
4. Minutes of September 7, 2017: approved as presented
5. Treasurer's report: No activity; balance remains \$3,995.77
6. MSC (abstentions Brown and Brennan): to approve expenditure for refreshments for City Council Candidate Forum on Housing and Homelessness
7. Laura's Law implementation - Feb. 1 roll out. Now meeting weekly with contract providers discussing how it will work for clients and doing weekly work flow meetings, getting everyone ready to give accurate answers to callers about how it will work and what criteria are. Also holding stakeholders' meetings with representatives including legal concerns, law enforcement, NAMI, provider agencies, Telecare, VCMC, patient rights groups. Some are advocating for a housing component. VSSTF will get monthly updates.
8. Winter Shelter - Ventura Armory is available. Peter is investigating possibility of putting up a tent on dirt lot next to the Armory to be used from 6-10 am; this would allow for service providers to meet with those using the shelter. Oxnard City Council has voted to partner with Ventura on a shelter at the Armory. Classes to train volunteers will begin at the end of October and run through November. Operators are hoping for a good turnout, especially from houses of worship.
9. Ventura City Council Candidate Forum will be Tuesday, October 11, from 7-9 pm at the Ventura Church of Christ on Bryn Mawr. All ten candidates have sent positive RSVP's. All candidates have been sent 10 open-ended questions as well as resources, including the 10-Year Plan, VSSTF recommendations on the 10-Year Plan, and websites with information on best practices. Candidates will draw questions when they arrive, and each will be asked 2 questions plus others from the audience. Each will also be asked to respond Yes/No to 5 questions and have 90 seconds after all have responded to all 5 questions to add to any of their yes/no answers. Each person in the audience will have a sheet on which to record the 5 yes/no answers. Judy will send the questions to the VSSTF email list. John will work on technology, Kathy will arrange for refreshments. Any who are willing to usher should arrive early.

10. Bridge/Housing/Shelter Subcommittee is moving forward gathering information for a year-round shelter in anticipation of the March meeting of City Council at which staff is to present recommendations on zoning and fee changes
11. The City Task Force on Homelessness has met twice. Service are representatives of County HMIS, businesses, houses of worship, the Chamber of Commerce, citizens, and social service providers. Karol Schulkin and Judy Alexandre are members. They are developing a plan to fill gaps in services, housing, and shelter, including identifying accountable parties and target dates. They are paying attention to the Housing Element, hearing a cross section of points of views. There has been good attendance and participation. They meet monthly for two hours. Peter Brown is project manager.
12. Agency reports on what is working well to help end family homelessness
 - 12.1. partnerships work,
 - 12.1.1. for example the intervention court; the City Attorney, police and service providers meet Tuesday before Wednesday court to figure out how each individual/family can be helped
 - 12.1.2. H2H partnership is being replaced by the Continuum of Care countywide case manager meetings on Monday mornings at Salvation Army
 - 12.2. Homeless Prevention is working for families facing eviction - 3 aspects are important
 - 12.2.1. immanence - that people are about to be evicted
 - 12.2.2. just enough resources - keep them housed
 - 12.2.3. Homeless Prevention Fund assistance is one time - only pay rent if the client can pay rent going forward
 - 12.3. Outreach is working - agencies each work outreach in different portions of city to not duplicate services or be redundant
 - 12.4. The approach is respectful, providing client choice, and working toward employment; listening to what the clients say they need is critical
 - 12.5. Housing retention is key, so working toward employment, additional training, and job search are all important; Project has a jobs board in their pantry, for example
 - 12.6. Housing stabilization works
 - 12.6.1. Welcoming them at food pantry
 - 12.6.2. Connecting with bill-pay options or reduced utility bills, etc.
 - 12.6.3. In some cases, funds go to an accountant (bill payer) and family gets a weekly check after bills are paid
 - 12.7. Hospital and Jail discharge planning are important and better options are needed
 - 12.8. Flexible funding is important so that funds can be matched to needs
 - 12.9. Rapid Rehousing works, but housing a family is not enough- The County program can pay first and last month rent, moving costs, provide some

- furniture, and provide additional assistance or assistance for several months if needed - the goal is assistance to achieve sustainability, especially after a long history of poverty and perhaps domestic violence. St. Vincent de Paul also views ongoing case management as a priority.
- 12.10. Trauma informed approach works - overcome cycles of violence with ongoing assistance and case management
 - 12.11. Fitting the program to the client works - screen each client into the program that best fits his/her/their needs
 - 12.12. Landlord engagement and having a housing specialist work.
 - 12.13. In-home case management works. At Shore, the case manager is on site and can immediately provide assistance as when there is a neighbor dispute. For others, case managers go into the home, develop a case plan, and provide a minimum of 6 months of follow up to achieve family well being, credit repair, successful budgeting, and mental health
 - 12.14. Children are a priority. Each child's needs are assessed -- health, school, relationships. Intervening early and preventing trouble and suffering later works.
 - 12.15. At City Center, a focus on employment works. Providing transitional housing is especially important because of insufficient affordable housing. It takes an income of \$28 per hour to afford a studio in Ventura.
 - 12.16. Extending food pantry services works, including for foster and kinship care situations.
13. What is working with regarding to Veteran Homelessness will be on the November agenda; homelessness and mental illness are scheduled to be on the December agenda.
14. CoC -
- 14.1. the Continuum of Care is focusing on the launch of its coordinated entry program, Pathways to Home.
 - 14.2. The Income Sustainability subgroup is partnering with VC Cool on a program that will allow homeless individuals to learn bicycle repair skills, earn a bike, earn repair tools, develop soft job skills, prepare for employment, and perhaps get a job through the program. The CoC, sheriff, and Ventura PD are all being consulted/involved. The program will first pilot in Ventura prior to expanding to other parts of the region. (See Appendix 1 for more information)
 - 14.3. CoC Board meets next week
 - 14.4. Housing committee is preparing a resolution for the Board on steps to address gaps, including work to declare homelessness a crisis or emergency situation. There is a need to find funding other than through HUD.
15. Housing update - Turning Point placed 5 in September; are case managing 29 who have been housed 6 months or less/ 50 who have been housed 12 months or less.
16. VHPF update - Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund is most grateful for a grant in the amount of \$7,500 from the Ventura County Federal Credit Union Foundation. That funding will be most welcome to address gaps that occur at year end and the

beginning of the year, especially, as these are typically high demand periods. It was suggested that people consider donating to the Fund in lieu of other holiday gifts.

17. Family Promise - The planning group will meet Thursday, October 6 in the Library at Orchard Community Church. Family Promise would provide shelter for families until a permanent family shelter is created. Two houses of worship have committed to the program. Three others are said to be close. The program is not likely to begin any time soon.
18. Showers of Blessing - The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Association has expressed strong support for the program and in helping to get it into operation.
19. Faith Subcommittee - The group is starting a newsletter, with a first issue to come out soon.
20. Nominations for Steering Committee - Monica has had to resign as secretary. Sue will not continue on the Steering Committee. Judy would be willing to be Vice Chair; might consent to continue as Chair if there were a strong Vice Chair willing to take part of the load. Kathy Powell will take minutes in November and December. Elections take place in December with those elected taking over in January. Nominations are needed. If you have suggestions, please email Judy, who will be happy to approach them. The coming year will be pivotal for shelter and affordable housing. Having good leadership will be critical in keeping momentum going.
21. Report from the City (Peter Brown)
 - 21.1. Council Subcommittee on Homelessness will be October 13 at 3:30 in Santa Cruz room. On the agenda will be reports on the ongoing meetings of the Stakeholders Task Force on Homelessness, the SB2 overlay, and winter warming shelter status.
 - 21.2. Thank you to restaurants planning holiday meals for those in need: Aloha Steakhouse and Santinos.
22. Measure O - One of the priorities to be addressed by Measure O on the Nov 8 ballot is homelessness. Measure O would raise \$10.8 million for the general fund, with \$500,000 likely dedicated to address gaps in funding related to homelessness. There would be a citizen oversight committee. (See Appendix 2 for more information)
23. Shipping container housing update - 16 units are being built from shipping containers for veterans housing in Orange County; they are masking the exteriors so that they do not look like shipping containers at all.
24. The group was directed to see the agenda for a list of upcoming meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46.

The next meeting will be November 2, 2016 at 3:15

Proposal to 7th Principle Environmental Action Team of UUCV



Designated Bicycle Parking

Objective: To provide church members and visitors an alternative from fossil fuel and oil dependent transportation by designating bicycle parking near the entrance of the UUCV.

Benefits:

A good number of members and visitors live in neighborhoods near the church and bicycling to the church is convenient.

Cycling can be enjoyed by people of all ages and promotes well-being and physical activity;

Events and meetings occur often at the church nearly every day, and often the participants are community members, thus, the bicycle parking can be used throughout the week.

Ventura's excellent weather invites people to bicycle, run, jog and walk, and UUCV can be part of encouraging those who choose to bicycle to the property an alternative to driving a vehicle.

Numerous members of the congregation presently include cycling as part of their recreational regimen or commute regularly on a bicycle

Ventura and neighboring communities continue to improve bike paths, and trails for cycling and "share the road" street marking to make cycling safe and allow cyclists access to roadways.

Proposal:

Designate two vehicle parking spaces or equivalent to allow parking for up to 20 bicycles. Place a *Green Sanctuary* sign next to the parking welcoming bicyclists to UUCV with a few reminders... (i.e. "Please lock your bike and take valuables with you", and "Not responsible for theft or loss". "Abandoned bicycles will be removed after 30 days", e.g.). To make the parking prominent, paint pavement or surface with the green bicycle color seen on public roadways.

Additional Ideas:

Place news of bicycle parking availability on UUCV website; monthly newsletter, and weekly update and ask leaders of all UUCV adult, community and spiritual programs, and R.E. to promote among their participants.

On appropriate Sunday(s), recognize attendees at worship who have bicycled to church for the past year, or six months by asking them to stand. Maybe even have small gift certificate for local bicycle shop to member or the children of a member who has cycled to the church most often during the year. (Include bicycle sign-in sheet) at church's welcome table foyer area

7thPEAT sponsor/offer a Bicycle Workshop after church service conducted by VCOOL or Channel Islands Bicycle Club to learn existing laws of cycling in California, including bicycle safety (wear a helmet), and basic bicycle maintenance (How to change a flat tire).

Keep a bicycle pump in the church garage in event of low inflation.

Organize an all-church all Family Fun Bicycle Ride on a Saturday, or before or after church service.

Cost:

For as little as \$200 a bicycle rack double-sided, galvanized with anchors for pavement can hold up to 18 bicycles, or for use of two parking spaces,, two racks holding 9 bicycles each (example). Costs vary. Suggest getting three vendors to look over the site and submit price quotes including installation.

VSSTF Minutes Appendix 1, Oct 5, 2016

YES on 0 Preserving Ventura for Our Future

Our Ventura Our Future

Vote YES on 0 to protect Ventura's residents and our exceptional quality of life.

Ventura is 150 years old and showing its age. Measure 0 will provide critically-needed resources to address our city's urgent needs.

Voting Yes on 0 will protect our local beaches, rivers and water quality, maintain public safety funding, address homelessness and repair our deteriorating streets, sidewalks and storm drains.

Measure 0 will maintain after-school and summer recreational programs, as well as clean, safe parks and playgrounds, to ensure Ventura's children and teens are safe and supervised. Voting Yes on 0 will provide new locally-controlled funds through a half-cent increase in the sales tax, and helps ensure tourists pay their fair share in maintaining our city.



Vote YES on Measure 0:

- ◆ Protect water quality and improve local water resources
- ◆ Keep all City fire stations open and fully operational to ensure fast emergency response times for every Ventura neighborhood
- ◆ Repair streets, fix potholes and make necessary earthquake repairs to bridges and overpasses
- ◆ Address homelessness in Ventura by creating opportunities to get homeless people off the streets and into services
- ◆ Provide after-school and summer recreational programs for youth
- ◆ Provide resources for our growing population of seniors and veterans
- ◆ Help prevent and address the growing problem of gang and drug violence in Ventura

Measure 0 contains strict financial accountability measures:

- ◆ Measure 0 will help replace the state and federal funding cuts that have jeopardized the City's ability to address its urgent needs
- ◆ By law, all Measure 0 funds must be used locally and cannot be raided by Sacramento politicians
- ◆ Annual independent audits, a citizens' oversight committee and a public review of all expenditures will ensure funds are spent properly

Please join Ventura's environmental, public safety, faith, business and civic leaders in voting Yes on 0 to preserve Ventura for our future.

www.YesonMeasure0forVentura.com



YES! Add my name to your public list of Measure 0 supporters.

I will:

- ☐ Volunteer to make phone calls
- ☐ Display a lawn sign
- ☐ Endorse Measure 0 — You may use my name publicly

Enclosed is my check for:

☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$_____

Please make checks payable to:

Committee for a Better Ventura — Yes on Measure 0
P.O. Box 23173
Ventura, CA 93002

Name*

Title

Organization

Address*

City*

State*

Zip*

Phone

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Occupation*

Employer*

*Required by campaign finance laws for contributions of \$100 or more.
Endorsers' titles for identification purposes only.

Paid for by Committee for a Better Ventura — Yes on Measure 0, FPPC# 1389290.

VSSTF Minutes Appendix 2, Oct 5, 2016