

Monthly Meeting Minutes 11/1/17
3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Service Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Gane Brooking, Sonja Flores, Mary Haffner, Robin Lerner, Christy Madden, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Kerzell Morgan, Cappi Patterson, Melissa Perezchica-Ramirez, Clyde Reynolds, Dave Schmutte, Karol Schulkin, Jill Surmont

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions
 - A. Miguel Marquez - Asked if the county is supplying homeless people with Hepatitis A shots.
 - B. Mary Haffner - Stressed the need to be proactive & not just reactive.
 - C. Karol Schulkin - Asked about what will happen on 4/1/18, and what can be done to establish a year-round shelter.
 - D. Judy Alexandre - Asked what we need to do to get a property secured.
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 11/1/17 as emailed - MSC
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 10/4/17 as emailed - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report (Dave Schmutte) - Balance is \$3,271.46
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Measure O Update
 1. Ventura City Council voted to accept the staff recommendation for \$300k towards the securing 7 development of a permanent shelter.
 2. Measure O oversight committee ensures that the money is spent in accordance with the voters' wishes.
 3. City staff, city council & oversight committee are all involved in the process.
 4. VSSTF is asking for 5% (~\$400k-600k/year) of Measure O funding for effectively addressing homelessness & the lack of affordable housing.
 - a) Other groups may lobby for an even higher amount.
 - B. Winter Warming Shelter Update
 1. Christy Madden - County Board of Supervisors authorized the staff to reach out to other operators, but it now appears that Steven Karnazes will be the operator again.
 - a) Contract is in process of being drawn up.
 - b) WWS hours have changed from 530 pm - 730 am.
 2. Judy Alexandre - Oxnard & Ventura each providing \$100k for WWS.
 - a) Christy Madden - County providing \$120K.
 - b) Opening date is 12/15.
 3. Jerry Breiner - Has the state been approached about selling the Armory?
 - a) Judy Alexandre - Oxnard now owns its armory.
 - (1) Oxnard is planning to develop their armory for future use.

VII. New Business

- A. 2018 Homeless Count Update - planned for late January 2018
 1. Volunteer recruitment through/with VSSTF.
 2. Mobile application will be used to complete Count surveys.
 - a) App can be viewed from a desktop at <https://counting.us>
 - b) Company has info online to view at www.simtechsolutions.com
 - c) The mobile app will have geolocating incorporated, and will make it easier to spot duplicate entries.
- B. Strategy Planning (Information & Discussion)
 1. Plan of Action by VSSTF Faith Subcommittee (Pam Marshall)
 - a) Letter recently sent to congregational leaders to sign & send to the city council
 - b) Asking faith community to push for the permanent shelter & affordable housing.
 - c) VSSTF needs the faith community to answer a call for help
 - (1) We need to reactivate them.
 - d) We need people to write letters (to VC Star for instance) asking "Where's our permanent shelter?"
 - e) Next newsletter will have call to action
 2. Measure O Funding (staff, council, oversight committee)
 - a) What are we asking for, and how do we want it used?
 - b) Pam Marshall - We are very conservative in what we are asking for.
 - (1) Housing is the issue.
 - (a) If plans don't include housing, efforts to reduce homelessness will not be effective.
 - c) Judy Alexandre - the city sees the Park Ambassadors and Safe & Clean program as part of the budget to address homelessness.
 - d) Miguel Marquez - says that we need a vision of what the solution looks like
 - (1) Judy Alexandre - The recent zoning change includes the expected shelter features.
 - e) Sonja Flores- it makes sense to ask for more money, especially for affordable housing.
 - (1) We need to connect people with housing.
 - f) Kerzell Morgan - There should be a clear distinction about what money is used for the shelter versus safety/park ambassadors.
 - g) Judy Alexandre - Can we shift development of affordable housing to the infrastructure category of the Measure O budget?
 - h) Judy Alexandre - In re-zoned area, there is no developed property for available to purchase
 - (1) Undeveloped property requires \$1.5M for water hookup.
 - (2) Need to rehab an existing property.

- (3) New rezoned area does not include permission for housing.
 - (a) Pam Marshall - We should request a zoning change to permit new housing..
 - (b) Brian Brennan - The city's general plan update could include new zoning ideas.
 - (c) Jerry Breiner - asked about rezoning property for the shelter or housing; was told "no", but that "anything is possible"
- i) Judy Alexandre - we will request 5% of Measure O budget towards ongoing development & maintenance of a year-round shelter with services
 - (1) And 5% towards the development of extremely affordable housing.
 - (a) Could use this money to offset various permit costs (e.g. water hookup fee) as an incentive for developers
- j) Christy Madden - How can we get past NIMBYism?
 - (1) Karol Schulkin - Builders are asked to meet inclusionary requirement (a certain # of low-income units included in for-profit developments)
 - (a) This makes mixed communities, reducing the stigma of large extremely affordable housing developments.
 - (b) Brian Brennan - Inclusionary units are required of any development > 15 units.
- k) Judy Alexandre - asked Sonja Flores to bring maps showing the zones where a shelter, housing, & mixed-use are allowed.
 - (1) Sonja Flores - It is possible (& generally preferable) to re-zone by block, rather than spot zoning (i.e. by individual lot)
- l) Clyde Reynolds - We should specifically ask for money for extremely affordable housing.
 - (1) What are other options for Ventura beyond a permanent shelter?
 - (a) Expand Riverhaven?
 - (b) Expand Safe Sleep?
 - (c) How many housing units do we need?
 - (i) State has already broken down the estimated need by extremely affordable versus very affordable housing.
- m) Judy Alexandre - Summary
 - (1) Clyde Reynolds will gather (w/assistance) info about Ventura's needs for housing
 - (2) Sonja Flores will look at housing portion of general plan

(3) We will request following amounts of Measure O annual budget:

(a) 5% for permanent shelter as a transition to housing

(b) 5% towards development of specific housing recommendation.

(i) Judy Alexandre will email the Assistant City Manager with question about shifting housing to infrastructure portion of Measure O budget

n) Judy Alexandre - Homes For All & Justice For All are working on the same issues.

(1) Karol Schulkin - Emphasize that we are helping people.

o) Mary Haffner - Asks if we have any champions on city council

(1) Judy Alexandre - Notes that there are two (Neal Andrews & Matt LaVere)

p) Pam Marshall - Can we find experienced groups (like Mercy House or PATH) to educate us on how to overcome obstacles to establishing a permanent shelter?

q) Cappi Patterson - Homeless people with pets will not use shelters or enter housing unless they can keep their pets with them.

(1) Has seen local attitudes towards homeless people getting worse.

3. Homes For All - Looking at General Plan refinement

C. Selection of VSSTF Chair, Vice Chair & Secretary.

1. Vote totals:

a) Kate Mills - 3

b) Judy Alexandre - 9

c) Deborah Schreiber - 1

d) Karol Schulkin - 5

e) Clyde Reynolds - 1

f) Pam Marshall - 2

2. Judy Alexandre agreed to serve one more year as VSSTF Chair, with Karol Schulkin to serve as Vice Chair. Rob March agreed to be Secretary for another year. (Karol has said no)

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Homeless Prevention Fund - \$1625 as of 10/10

1. Alternative Giving Cards will be brought to next meeting.

B. Turning Point - Placed 12 people in housing in October.

C. County - Awarded funding to help with bridge housing as temporary assistance before moving into more permanent supportive housing.

IX. Adjourn; Next meeting is December 6, 2017, 3:15 pm; 300 N. Ventura Ave.

A. Sonja Flores volunteered to bring 5 copies of the minutes & agenda to the December meeting.

X. Meetings:

- A. Faith subcommittee of VSSTF, Nov.?????, location?????? Contact Pam Marshall of information for Nov. pojcat@verizon.net
- B. Shelter and housing subcommittee of VSSTF Nov. 21, 3 pm Orchard Community church, library,(Placid and Telephone) Ron Mulvilhill
ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com
- C. City of Ventura Shelter and Housing subcommittee Nov. 8, 4:00 pm, City Hall
- D. Homeless Prevention Fund (VSSTF, Inc) Nov. 15 4pm Unitarian Universalist Church (Ralston St) Roland Barrio rbarrio100@msn.com
- E. Continuum of Care Housing and Services Committee Nov. 16, 10-12 noon, Ventura Community foundation, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo Clyde Reynolds cbreynolds@roadrunner.com or Ron Mulvilhill
ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com or Tara Carruth tara.carruth@ventura.org
- F. Homes for All, invitation only contact John Jones johnsandersjones@gmail.com
- G. Open mic at city council Nov. 6..please go and speak!