

Monthly Meeting Minutes 8/2/17

3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Service Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Gane Brooking, Peter Brown, David Deutsch, John Jones, Steven Karnazes, Robin Lerner, Erin Locklear, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Arlene Martinez, Kate Mills, Ron Mulvihill, Jan Schmutte, Karol Schulkin, Sandra Troxell

- I. Call to order
 - A. Sonja Flores volunteered to bring copies of the minutes & agenda to September meeting
- II. Introductions
 - A. Jan Schmutte - We should be considering containers for housing.
 - B. John Jones - We need more innovation.
 - C. Ron Mulvihill - Expressed support for SB2, SB3 & SB35. Encouraged people to call state assembly.
 - D. David Deutsch - Noted that SB2 is a double-edged sword for mental health community.
 - E. Gane Brooking - We should be considering tiny homes & containers as possible housing solutions.
 - F. Peter Brown - Recently heard NPR story noting that there is the same amount of housing for sale in US now as in 1990.
 - G. Erin Locklear - Working in prevention to help youth avoid homelessness.
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 8/2/17 as emailed - MSC
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 7/5/17 as emailed - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report (Dave Schmutte) - Balance is \$3,712.46
- VI. New Business
- VII. Old Business
 - A. Continuation of our strategic planning for the development of the year round transition to housing center and very affordable and extremely affordable housing
 - B. Look at current work being accomplished from the Continuum of Care (resolution); city of Ventura Stakeholders group
 1. Discussion combined VII. A. & B. - Ron Mulvihill brought copy of COC resolution.
 2. The COC resolution was read aloud at the table
 - a) The committee votes on the resolution on 8/15.
 - b) Will be presented to COC board (if approved by committee) on 9/12
 - c) VSSTF discussed whether to send a letter to COC in support of resolution
 - (1) Steven Karnazes - motion to write letter with language indicating strong support & a desire for action.
 - (2) Karol Schulkin - the resolution needs to strengthen its language; initiate vs. propose

- (3) Karol Schulkin - need to emphasize the importance of extremely affordable housing
 - (4) Miguel Marquez - resolution needs marketing strategy to accommodate Section 8 (& other) vouchers
- d) Judy Alexandre - conducted a vote on motion to write VSSTF letter to COC in support of resolution with the changes mentioned in c) above.
 - (1) Motion passed. Judy Alexandre will draft a letter and send to Steven Karnazes, Karol Schulkin & Miguel Marquez for approval.
- 3. Ron Mulvihill – Chair of the VSSTF Shelter and Housing Sub Committee
 - a) Work on discussing what:
 - (1) Changes to codes to help with housing and homelessness
 - (2) Changes to zoning to help with housing and homelessness
 - (3) Strategizing on new sources of funding
 - (4) How to implement current city housing element (part of general plan)
- 4. Pam Marshall - We need to figure out how to respond positively to naysayers; have talking points ready.
- 5. Ron Mulvihill - Strategy
 - a) List what would happen if homelessness is treated as an emergency (vs. crisis)
- 6. Robin Lerner - Current zoning is preventing Family Promise from using a house as a day house.
- 7. Kate Mills - Notes that there are innovative ways of creating affordable housing
 - a) City of Ventura needs to relax zoning requirements for increasing density & allowing for creative use of land space.
 - b) Need to change our approach.
 - (1) Support commitment by city for infill
- 8. Karol Schulkin - Ventura was able to add 170 housing units to public housing by using townhouse designs to increase density.
- 9. Judy Alexandre - will distribute Sonja Flores’ summary of general plan
- 10. Robin Lerner motioned for VSSTF to develop talking points for working with City of Ventura, but this motion was tabled after further discussion.
 - a) Judy Alexandre proposed that Kate Mills & Ron Mulvihill come back at next month’s meeting with fleshed out draft of talking points specifically for City of Ventura
 - (1) For Ventura to declare a housing emergency & to make changes to address issues:
 - (a) Code changes
 - (b) Zoning changes
 - (c) Funding Strategies
- 11. Karol Schulkin - We need a “housing for all” strategy.

12. Judy Alexandre - City officials have told her that Ventura needs to get out of the way of the faith community

- a) The city needs to allow the permitting process to include administrative approval for granting use permits.

VIII. Announcements

- A. Step Up Ventura - Open House on 8/26/17
- B. Miguel Marquez - There will be training on 8/21 to discuss/learn critical issues affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- C. Kate Mills - Coffee & Conversations series sponsored by Ventura county libraries
 1. At E.P. Foster library on 3rd Monday of every month
 2. Open to public
 3. Discussions on wide range of topics by local non-profits & service agencies
 4. Short presentations plus Q&A

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

X. Meetings:

- A. Faith Sub Committee of VSSTF August 23, 3 pm; Church of Christ (Bryn Mawr and Telegraph) Pam Marshall pojcat@verizon.net
- B. City of Ventura Homeless and Housing Subcommittee City Hall, Sept 13, 4 pm (no August meeting)
- C. Shelter and Housing subcommittee of VSSTF August 15, 3 pm; Orchard Community Church Library (Telephone and Placid) Ron Mulvilhill
ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com
- D. Homeless Prevention Fund, August 16, 4 pm; Unitarian Universalist Church, (Ralston) Sue Brinkmeyer sbrink@glendale.edu
- E. Continuum of Care Housing and Services committee , August 17, 10-12 am; Ventura county Community Foundation 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd Clyde Reynolds
cbreynolds@roadrunner.com; Tara Carruth tara.carruth@ventura.org
- F. Homes for All, check with John Jones johnsandersjones@gmail.com.