

## Monthly Meeting Minutes 2/7/18

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, John Jones, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Arlene Martinez, Kate Mills, Manuel Minjares, Clyde Reynolds, Jan Schmutte, Karol Schulkin, Sandra Troxell, Leticia Velazquez

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions (just names & agencies, no additional comments this month)
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 2/7/18 as emailed - MSC
  - A. Judy Alexandre - MSC for adding VSSTF-sponsored petitions to the agenda.
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 1/3/18 as emailed - MSC
  - A. Jan Schmutte - corrected typo in Treasurer's Report
- V. Treasurer's Report (Jan Schmutte) - Balance is \$3,721.46
- VI. Old Business
  - A. Housing & Shelter - next steps
    1. Update from Stakeholders (Karol Schulkin)
      - a) Ventura, Oxnard & the county are communicating about year-round shelter with bridge to housing
      - b) Verbalized commitment to identifying site for shelter this year.
    2. Update from Housing & Shelter Subcommittee (Jerry Breiner)
      - a) Jeff Lambert noted that it is important for frequent communication with local government in order to maintain pressure.
      - b) Judy Alexandre - with Oxnard, Ventura & the county talking, they may be working towards a common shelter (positive step!)
      - c) Karol Schulkin - as Family Promise makes progress, a separate solution for families will make it easier to handle singles & couples.
      - d) Judy Alexandre - Can there be a variance to allow for joining of adjacent properties?
        - (1) To be large enough for multi-unit housing
        - (2) What are the reasons given for reducing the # of residential zones?
        - (3) What kinds of housing will be allowed in commercial zones?
        - (4) If the city has adjoining properties, will they ask the county to combine them?
    3. Update from Homes For All (Sonja Flores)
      - a) Is a nexus study still necessary (inclusionary zoning ordinance housing plan)
      - b) Need to determine in-lieu fees such that they are sufficient to finance an affordable unit.

- c) Need to coordinate groups so that the message about inclusionary housing is consistent.
- 4. COC Housing Resolution (Clyde Reynolds)
  - a) No update since last month.

VII. New Business

- A. VSSTF-sponsored Petitions - Rob March
  - 1. 4 petitions are being circulated for signatures.
    - a) Not ballot initiatives, but for presenting to Ventura city council.
    - b) Each petition is about an aspect of ending homelessness or increasing affordable housing, as drawn from the action plan.
  - 2. Jerry Breiner will upload pdf of petitions to website. Contact Rob March ([rob.march2@gmail.com](mailto:rob.march2@gmail.com)) for more information.
- B. Action Plan - next steps
  - 1. Joint meeting of Design Review & Planning Commission on 2/21.
  - 2. Regular Planning Commission meeting cancelled for February.
- C. Point In Time Count - 2/22/18
  - 1. Judy Alexandre encourages participation.
- D. Homeless Prevention Fund annual report & goals - Brian Brennan
  - 1. Judy Alexandre - HPF is the part of VSSTF (i.e. VSSTF, Inc.) that can do fundraising.
    - a) Looking to write grants to increase incoming funds.
    - b) Amount of money being distributed is increasing.
    - c) Hoping to work with COC.
  - 2. Brian Brennan - \$25,775 raised in 2017
    - a) Able to stabilize 25 households (65 people - 41 adults, 24 children)
    - b) Averaging \$1031/household, \$396/person.
    - c) Need information on how many people we haven't been able to help from Sandra Troxell (Salvation Army is the case manager for HPF).
      - (1) HPF usually provides help for one-time occurrences
        - (a) Assessments are performed to ensure that the financial problems aren't chronic.
      - (2) Sandra Troxell will inquire about why people couldn't meet expenses.
    - d) People may have lost income due to the fires.
- E. 4th of July Booth
  - 1. Judy Alexandre - Couldn't set it up last year.
    - a) Want a booth for information plus some donations.
      - (1) Provide education about homelessness.
    - b) Do we want to be involved in the street festival?
      - (1) Karol Schulkin - We could display a tiny home.
  - 2. Group discussion - There is interest in being in parade, but less in participating in street fair.

- a) Application due in May. Will revisit at next month's meeting.
- F. Faith Subcommittee action plan - Pam Marshall
  - 1. Setting goals for 2018
    - a) Want to continue updating Blue Book
      - (1) Lists congregations & agencies.
      - (2) Jerry Breiner volunteered to assist.
    - b) MSC to invite congregations to join the subcommittee via an article in Religious Briefs section of VC Star.
  - 2. Newsletter coming out soon.

## VIII. Reports

- A. Winter Warming Shelter - Sandra Troxell
  - 1. Short on funds to get through end of March.
  - 2. Successes
    - a) Transitioning families with children.
      - (1) Connecting with permanent housing.
        - (a) Via city homeless services.
      - b) Salvation Army is about to transition 3rd person into their programs this season.
  - 3. VCMC dropped off someone with no shoes & in hospital gown - via taxi voucher.
    - a) Shouldn't be happening again.
- B. Salvation Army - Recuperative Care - Sandra Troxell
  - 1. Has been open for ~1 year.
  - 2. Partnering with local hospitals (VCMC, CMH, Los Robles, Simi Valley, St. John's Oxnard)
  - 3. #s are increasing
    - a) VCMC - 6 beds are paid for
  - 4. Successful in helping people transition to permanent or transitional housing or Salvation Army programs.
  - 5. Salvation Army opening a free eye clinic at end of February with assistance from Rotary Club.
- C. Housing Authority Report - Sonja Flores
  - 1. Veterans' Site - down to 2 finalists for the project, with final decision to come in March.
- D. Chamber/Downtown Business Association
  - 1. Pam Marshall - What is the policy about park bathrooms?
    - a) Jerry Breiner - often closed because the bathrooms are getting trashed.
      - (1) Hours are controlled by the city.
- E. River Haven - Manuel Minjares
  - 1. 5 domes have been replaced (4 by donation, 1 by Ventura)
  - 2. Looking for CDBG funds to help with renovations.
- F. Family To Family - Jan Schmutte
  - 1. Getting ~150 people every day that they are open.

- G. Brian Brennan - Shower Pod in place in Santa Paula
  - 1. Working on getting one in River Haven (planned opening on 2/26)
  - 2. Grant for 3 more for eastern county.
  - 3. Whole Person Care with Ventura PD backing is getting the showers set up.
- H. Family Promise - Judy Alexandre
  - 1. 9 host & 8 supporting congregations have signed up.
  - 2. Need 12 hosts plus \$75K.
- I. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre
  - 1. Have to relocate from one facility because landlord is tripling rent.
  - 2. Casino Night on 2/24 at Poinsettia Pavilion from 7-10pm.
  - 3. Supervisor Bennett's office has been providing key assistance.
- J. Homeless Memorial Service - Rob March
  - 1. Service held on Saturday, 1/27 at 3pm in Plaza Park.
  - 2. Silent march after service through downtown. Lots of people are in downtown on a Saturday afternoon.
- IX. Adjourn; Next meeting is March 7, 2018, 3:15 pm; 300 N. Ventura Ave.
- X. Meetings:
  - A. Faith subcommittee Feb 28, 2018 Seventh Day Adventist church conference Room, Telephone 3pm Pam Marshall ([pojcat@verizon.net](mailto:pojcat@verizon.net))
  - B. Shelter and housing subcommittee Feb 20, 2018 Orchard Community Church Library, Telephone and Placid; 3:00 pm. Ron Mulvillhill ([ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com](mailto:ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com))
  - C. City of Ventura Housing and Shelter Committee, City Hall Feb 14, 2018 4:00pm (tentative)
  - D. Homeless Prevention Fund March 21, 4pm Unitarian Universalist Church, Ralston, 4 pm Roland Barrio ([rbarrio100@msn.com](mailto:rbarrio100@msn.com))
  - E. Measure O, Feb 8, 2018, 5:30-7:00 pm City Hall Community room
  - F. Homes for All (by invitation) John Jones ([johnsandersjones@gmail.com](mailto:johnsandersjones@gmail.com))
  - G. Continuum of Care Housing and Services committee, probably Feb. 15, 10-12 am place to be announced. Tara Carruth ([tara.carruth@ventura.org](mailto:tara.carruth@ventura.org)) or Clyde Reynolds ([cbreynolds@roadrunner.com](mailto:cbreynolds@roadrunner.com))
  - H. Open mic at city Hall...1st Monday of the month