

Monthly Meeting Minutes 1/3/18

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

Ventura Social Service Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Gane Brooking, David Deutsch, Sonja Flores, John Jones, Steven Karnazes, Jeffrey Lambert, Robert March, Pam Marshall, Arlene Martinez, Jason Meek, Ron Mulvihill, Jan Schmutte, Dave Schulze, Sandra Troxell, Dana Worsnop

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions (with comments about housing, homelessness or Thomas fire impact on either/both)
 - A. John Jones - Need to figure out how to address NIMBYism (Not In My Backyard)
 - B. Jeff Lambert - We need advocacy for affordable housing (includes updating inclusionary housing program)
 - C. David Deutsch - New people are experiencing homelessness (because of the Thomas Fire) & may appreciate the issue more.
 - D. Jason Meek - The streets got dangerous for our homeless population during the fire.
 - E. Steven Karnazes - We need to push the city hard to take action on the permanent shelter.
 - F. Sonja Flores - We need to participate in revising the General Plan.
 - G. Gane Brooking - Have seen more homeless people requesting help recently.
 - H. Dana Worsnop - The permanent year-round shelter needs to move forward.
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 1/3/18 as emailed - MSC
 - A. Judy Alexandre - Conducted meeting out of agenda order to accommodate the schedule of some participants.
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 11/1/17 as emailed - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report (Dave Schmutte) - Balance is \$3,271.46
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Winter Warming Shelter Update - discussion led by Steven Karnazes
 1. WWS has \$340K funding.
 - a) Oxnard, Ventura & the county all stepped up funding this year.
 2. Handout provided with summary of WWS activity through 12/31.
 - a) Total stays - 498
 - (1) Averaging 45 guests/night (nightly #s ranged from 23 to 54)
 - b) Total end users - 128
 - c) Emergency Services used:
 - (1) Police called by staff - 3
 - (2) Police called by guests - 1
 - (3) Fire Dept called by staff - 1
 3. The extra 90 minutes in the morning has been very welcome by all.
 - a) Jeff Lambert concurs.

4. Guests are generally not camping out where they shouldn't near the shelter.
5. No Thomas Fire victims are at the shelter.
6. Hired social service staff this year.
7. Clientele are more difficult this year, but WWS is keeping barrier for entry as low as possible.
8. Jeff Meek - Could be seeing probation/parole population coming to shelter (AB 109)
 - a) David Deutsch - Parole/probation people generally have to find their own services.
9. Judy Alexandre - witnessed wide range of attitudes & demeanors in the guests during her volunteer shifts.

B. Housing Steps

1. Judy Alexandre presented the action plan (previously provided via email)
 - a) The plan was approved unanimously with a few minor wording changes.
 - b) Ron Mulvihill - wants to discuss separately increasing temporary housing.

VII. New Business

A. Status of Homeless Count

1. Tara Carruth - sent email noting that the count is delayed.

B. Report & update from Homeless Prevention Fund - discussion led by Brian Brennan.

1. \$3885 in account as of 12/28
2. Spent \$6414 since 8/17.
 - a) Kept 8 people from becoming homeless.
 - b) Current referral amount is \$1500, but can be higher as established on a case-by-case basis.
3. The fund is doing good work.
4. Final report for 2017 will be coming next month.
5. FEMA may provide temporary trailers (container shelters) to city.

VIII. Reports

A. City of Ventura - Jeff Lambert presenting.

1. The city is exploring realistic options for real estate for the permanent shelter.
 - a) They want the property in place before making further progress.
 - b) There is now some \$ set aside from Measure O funding if something becomes available.
2. Updating inclusionary housing program.
 - a) Fee option could generate funding.
3. Jeff promised Judy Alexandre a few paragraphs summarizing the status of various homeless advocacy and affordable housing efforts for distribution to mailing lists.
4. Currently 1500 housing units under construction with >15% affordable.
 - a) Judy Alexandre - asked for #s of housing types based on affordability.
5. River Haven future - project is 10 years old

- a) Domes are old & decrepit.
 - b) Getting some new shelters with city & faith-based funding.
- 6. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - "Every city should take care of their own."
 - a) Each city in Ventura county needs to have a strategy for housing their homeless population.
 - b) Housing and services need to be provided in/by each community.
 - c) MOU to be discussed at city council meeting on 1/22 at 6pm.
- 7. Thomas Fire recovery - Jeff is proud of the efforts by the city and the county.
 - a) More people have lost housing than we know about currently.
 - b) City is figuring out how to adjust policies to respond to the crisis:
 - (1) E.g. Relaxing rules for RV parking, tiny houses, etc.
 - c) Expect FEMA \$ to be available to help with recovery.
- 8. City currently in process of creating a position for a full-time homeless coordinator.
- 9. Jeff notes that it is better to have affordable housing units operated by the Housing Authority.
 - a) It is easier to maintain their status as affordable units if run by HA.
- B. Housing Authority Report - presented by Sonja Flores
 - 1. Presented information on current situation for low-income housing development.
 - 2. E-mail (from Iain Holt) and current map handed out
 - 3. We need a map that clearly delineates the proposed zoning changes.
 - 4. From current discussions, it appears likely that many sites could be eliminated for permanent residential zoning.
 - 5. Brian Brennan - The industrial zones are needed for creating low-to-middle income jobs.
 - 6. Sonja Flores - Looks like mixed-use zoning could be eliminated
 - a) We need a clear picture of the overlay map.
 - 7. Jerry Breiner - There was a village concept for the industrial area that combined residential with commercial & industrial.
 - 8. Steven Karnazes - Motions for VSSTF to send a letter to the Housing Authority requesting the overlay map
 - a) Sonja Flores - The map won't be available until it goes to the city council.
 - b) Motion Carries - Judy Alexandre will write a letter requesting the overlay map & the date on which it will go in front of the City Council.
 - 9. Brian Brennan - Notes that there are 7000 housing units currently being built in Oxnard, Ventura & Camarillo.
 - 10. It is hard to find enough contiguous small lots to combine in order to build affordable housing units.
- C. Family To Family - Jan Schmutte presenting

1. Held a successful fundraiser in October.
 - a) Honored Pat McLane (founder of FTF).
 2. Provided fewer meals in December as many clients were going to Red Cross.
- D. Step Up Ventura - Judy Alexandre presenting
1. Have to relocate from one facility because landlord is tripling rent.
- IX. Other Business
- A. Judy Alexandre - We have been invited to participate in Community Coming Together.
 1. Rally at Plaza Park from 1000-1200 on 1/20/18.
 2. Could set up a booth with information, petitions, etc. about the causes that VSSTF advocates for.
 - a) Work on changing the image of who is living on the street.
 - B. Homeless Memorial Service - presented by Dana Worsnop
 1. Service was postpone. New date is Saturday, 1/27 at 3pm in Plaza Park.
- X. Adjourn; Next meeting is February 7, 2018, 3:15 pm; 300 N. Ventura Ave.
- XI. Meetings:
- A. Faith subcommittee Jan 24,2018 Seventh Day Adventist church conference Room, Telephone 3pm Pam Marshall (pojcat@verizon.net)
 - B. Shelter and housing subcommittee Jan. 16,2018 Orchard Community Church Library, Telephone and Placid; 3:00 pm. Ron Mulvillhill (ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com)
 - C. City of Ventura Housing and Shelter Committee, City Hall Jan. 10, 2018 4:00pm (tentative)
 - D. Homeless Prevention Fund Jan. 17, 4pm Unitarian Universalist Church, Ralston, 4 pm Roland Barrio (rbarrio100@msn.com)
 - E. Continuum of Care Jan. 18, 2018 10-12 am. Location to be decided Tara Carruth (tara.carruth@ventura.org)
 - F. Housing and services committee of the continuum of care tentative Jan 18,2018 Ron Mulvillhill or Clyde Reynolds (cbreynolds@roadrunner.com)
 - G. Homes for All invitation only John Jones (johnsandersjones@gmail.com)
 - H. OPEN MIC city council first Monday meeting of each month