

Monthly Meeting Minutes 3/7/18

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

Ventura Social Service Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Gane Brooking, Jim Duran, Jennifer Harkey, Jeff Lambert, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Jason Meek, Kate Mills, Mellisa Ramirez, Dave Schmutte, Jan Schmutte, Karol Schulkin

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions (names, agencies & what should be next step to get affordable housing in Ventura)
 - A. Miguel Marquez - We should use social media to inform & also to ask for help
 - B. Jeff Lambert - need to implement new state laws about affordable housing
 - C. Karol Schulkin - We have the people & resources, but lack the will to proceed.
 - D. Melissa Ramirez - Has seen great things happening in other communities. (NEAH.org)
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 3/7/18 as emailed - MSC
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 2/7/18 as emailed - MSC
 - A. Kate Mills - Is Salvation Army also providing a dental clinic (in addition to eye clinic)?
- V. Treasurer's Report (Jan Schmutte) - Balance is \$3,721.46
- VI. Reports (part 1)
 - A. Turning Point Foundation: River Haven {what happened, needs, going forward; what the faith community, TP and the city are or will be doing} - discussion led by Jason Meek
 1. On 2/21, it was very cold; River Haven domes are inadequate for cold weather.
 - a) Propane heaters used to warm tents; there was an accidental explosion which caused a fatality.
 - b) TPF does perform regular safety checks
 - c) Total loss of 3 domes plus 1 dome severely damaged.
 2. In aftermath:
 - a) Providing therapists to residents
 - b) Doubled staff
 - c) City came out to perform clean-up after accident (led by Nancy O'Connor)
 - (1) Important for helping residents start to work through trauma.
 3. Current shelter count at River Haven is 17 domes & 5 Tuff Shed tiny homes
 - a) Have funds on hand for 5 more Tuff Shed tiny homes
 4. Jeff Lambert - city is working with Jason Meek on River Haven 2.0
 - a) Local PD interested in possibly doubling the capacity of River Haven
 - b) Ventura Land Trust offering to help clear brush as needed.
 - c) Lisa Ecklund (Board of Education)
 - (1) Working on custom design tiny home project to be built by HS girls this summer.

- d) Mobile Health Pod now set up at entrance to River Haven
- e) The city wants to improve utilities situation
 - (1) Possibility of setting up solar power
 - (a) Judy Alexandre - local students could build solar units on each shelter.
- 5. Miguel Marquez - How to prevent future fires?
 - a) Jason Meek -Set up central location for propane
 - (1) New safety procedures.
 - (2) New tiny homes are the best first step.
 - b) Karol Schulkin - what is the cost of the Tuff Sheds?
 - (1) Jason Meek - ~\$4400/each, plus they have a 30-year lifespan
 - (a) 120 square feet per unit.
 - (2) Judy Alexandre - Temple Beth Torah decided to insulate interiors with painted plywood (costs a few hundred \$).
- 6. Judy Alexandre - Could we put real permanent tiny homes (i.e. not Tuff Sheds) at River Haven? Tiny homes are generally on wheels, which may provide a loophole.
 - a) Jeff Lambert - This could be possible.
 - (1) Looking into allowable capacity for more homes at River Haven.
 - b) Judy notes that permanent housing would require different kinds of supportive services than current River Haven setup.
- 7. Kate Mills - Are there green (eco) dollars for incentives (solar, rooftop gardens)?
- 8. Karol Schulkin - Could we use modular homes for the River Haven community center?
- 9. Judy Alexandre summarized the discussion:
 - a) Creating/wanting more (hopefully insulated) Tuff Sheds for transitional program.
 - b) City considering expansion
 - (1) solar/electric for units, plus other utilities
 - (2) Possibility for wheeled supportive permanent housing.
 - (a) Which would require more staff.
 - c) Open to ideas about how to improve the community center.
- 10. Jeff Meek noted that the ideal way for faith-based community to donate is to provide funds for (a year of) case management with each Tuff Shed donation.
- B. Point In Time Count update - discussion led by Jennifer Harkey of the COC
 - 1. Saw increase in the count in Ventura & Oxnard, but a significant decrease in Thousand Oaks.
 - a) Looking to reach out to local motels in TO to look for missed count.
 - 2. The app proved very useful.
 - 3. Lots of new volunteers.
 - a) Jeff Lambert - 40 volunteers in Ventura, only 6 had worked previous year's PITC operations.

4. Jennifer Harkey was part of outreach to Santa Clara River encampments
 - a) Eye opening experience, but very impressed with creativity of people living in tough situations.
 - b) Whole Person Care pod was set up for outreach.
 - c) Found people were willing to talk.
 - d) Connected people with Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and social services.
- C. Winter Warming Shelter
 1. Rob March noted that Steven Karnazes indicated that the shelter got sufficient funding to remain open until the morning of April 1st.
- D. City of Ventura (council goals, stakeholders group, Measure O, etc.) - led by Jeff Lambert
 1. Will see proposal for Measure O funding in budget proposal coming in April.
 2. Measure O Committee will likely meet in May to respond to the budget proposal.
 3. Budget needs to be approved in June.
 4. City Council wants goals to have money behind them for execution.
 5. Multiple opportunities to comment on the budget:
 - a) Draft budget - before the City Council in April.
 - b) Revised budget - Measure O Committee in May.
 - c) Proposed final budget - before the City Council in June.
 6. A 50 slide presentation on the housing report was presented to the City Council in March.
 - a) Obligated to release a housing production report by April 1.
 7. Kate Mills - Currently no plan to address affordable housing in 2018-19.
 8. Jeff Lambert notes that Ventura gave another \$5k to the WWS.

VII. Old Business

- A. Advocating for Very Affordable & Extremely Affordable Housing - next steps
 1. Inclusionary Housing - no update (Kate Mills).
 2. COC Housing Resolution (Jenn Harkey)
 - a) Final form going to COC board on 3/14.
 - b) Includes specifics & asks each city in Ventura County to declare a housing crisis.
 3. Talking to City Council members
 - a) Jerry Breiner volunteered to talk to Cheryl Heitmann & Christy Weir.
 - b) Judy will talk to Neal Andrews & Eric Nasarenko.
 - c) Jim Duran will talk to Mike Tracy.
 - d) Jeff Lambert will add item to agenda of housing subcommittee meeting (Jim Monahan, Neal Andrews, Matt LaVere)
 4. Petitions on affordable housing & homelessness
 - a) What is the desired number of signatures? (currently have ~130 on each petition)
 - b) Target delivering to city council during the budget approval process.

- B. 4th of July Participation - discussion led by Miguel Marquez.
 - 1. Toured a tiny house last month.
 - 2. Global Green is willing to be in the parade.
 - 3. Judy Alexandre - Are we willing to share cost with another homeless advocacy booth?
 - 4. Global Green will provide some VIP passes to local Home & Garden show from 3/16-3/18 at Ventura Fairgrounds.
- VIII. Reports (part 2)
- A. COC Board Meeting is at Ventura Investment Company in Camarillo
 - B. Human Services Agency - Melissa Ramirez.
 - 1. Busy in fire season.
 - 2. Giving money to people who lost homes and/or wages due to Thomas Fire.
 - 3. Housed ~50 families impacted by fire.
 - 4. Currently helping ~170 households.
 - 5. Received funding for the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program.
 - a) Focusing on homeless individuals with permanent disabilities.
 - (1) To help get social security & apply for permanent housing.
 - C. City Center - Jim Duran
 - 1. City Center is currently at full capacity.
 - a) Finalizing new onsite manager after last one retired.
 - 2. TenderLife - also at full capacity.
 - D. Other.
 - 1. People's Self Help Housing - have an office now
 - a) Looking for properties to create more SROs (single room occupancy)
 - E. Housing Authority
 - 1. Groundbreaking for new farmworker housing (Rancho Verde) on 3/28
 - F. Kate Mills - encourages people to contact their representatives to give feedback about budgets.
- IX. Adjourn: Next meeting is April 4, 2018, 3:15, 300 N Ventura Ave. we need a volunteer to bring a few copies of the agenda and minutes
- X. Meetings:
- A. Shelter and housing VSSTF sub committee 3/20/18; Orchard Community Church, library 3:00pm (Ron Mulvilhill ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com)
 - B. Faith sub committee of VSSTF March 28, 3 pm, Seventh Day Adventist Church Conference room (Pam Marshall, pojcat@verizon.net)
 - C. Homeless Prevention fund, VSSTF Inc. March 21, 4pm.; Unitarian Universalist Church conference room (Roland Barrio rbarrio100@msn.com)
 - D. City of Ventura Housing and shelter committee, probably 3/14/18 4 pm, city hall Homes For All (by invitation) (John Jones johnsandersjones@gmail.com)
 - E. Continuum of Care 3/15/18; 10-12noon location to be identified (Tara Carruth tara.carruth@ventura.org)
 - F. Open mic, city hall 1st Monday of the Month 4/2/18