

Monthly Meeting Minutes 4/4/18  
3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Service Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Gane Brooking, Sonja Flores, John Jones, Robert March, Pam Marshall, Kate Mills, Jan Schmutte, Leticia Velazquez

- I. Call to order
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of or changes to the agenda for 4/4/18 as emailed - MSC
- IV. Approval of or changes to the minutes for 3/7/18 as emailed - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report (Jan Schmutte) - Balance is \$3,721.46 (no change)
- VI. Reports
  - A. Winter Warming Shelter
    1. Thanks to Kathy Powell for leading effort to give sleeping bags to shelter guests on the last day of the shelter season.
  - B. Report on Board of Supervisors meeting - discussion led by Kate Mills
    1. Supervisor Bennett proposed that Ventura County dedicates itself to work with cities on housing, the permanent year-round shelter & a foul weather shelter.
    2. No money was allocated, but a matching fund was proposed
    3. Proposal was broad, but aimed at a concerted effort to move forward
      - a) Continuum of Care (COC) can make contact with every city in the county regarding their sheltering/housing plans.
        - (1) To help set up matching funds.
    4. Judy Alexandre notes that this is Conceptual leadership.
      - a) The door is open for progress, as COC staff had been stuck without direction or official permission.
    5. BoS voted 5-0 to approve Supervisor Bennett's proposal.
    6. City of Ventura wrote a letter to county requesting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) simultaneously with the county doing likewise.
  - C. Turning Point
    1. Judy Alexandre helped with the assembly of 4 new Tuff Shed tiny homes at River Haven.
      - a) Judy A. noted that conditions are rough at River Haven.
        - (1) Broken tables, no chairs, many domes require supplemental tarps.
        - (2) No site manager, and part-time case manager is on medical leave.
        - (3) Residents are on their own.
          - (a) Only come back to sleep because of the disrepair of the camp.
        - (4) Project is operating on a deficit.

- b) There is a need for the community to step up and revitalize the camp.
- D. Report from the city of Ventura re: housing and homelessness - Judy Alexandre led discussion
  - 1. MOU sent to BoS from the Mayor.
  - 2. Plan to meet monthly (next meeting on 4/11), Kate Mills requested to attend.
  - 3. Desire to have the city stakeholder group meet with the housing & homelessness subcommittee to coordinate efforts.
    - a) Jeff Lambert is working on this.
- E. Ventura Housing Authority - Sonja Flores led discussion
  - 1. Proposal for veterans housing site - Waiting to hear about who is getting the contract.

## VII. Old Business

- A. Where are we with the year round transition to housing shelter? Next steps, any strategy for moving forward?
  - 1. Jeff Lambert - Goal is to identify & acquire a site for permanent year-round shelter by end of calendar year.
    - a) We need to keep advocating with city council.
  - 2. Strategy on year-round-transition-to-housing shelter
    - a) Judy Alexandre - nothing is available in the approved zoning areas
    - b) Jerry Breiner - Need locations for shelter and housing
      - (1) Shouldn't be near each other.
    - c) Jerry Breiner - We don't know how much money the city & county will put into getting the shelter.
      - (1) HUD will likely only fund permanent housing.
    - d) Judy Alexandre - Experienced operators have a history of getting private funding.
    - e) Jerry Breiner - We are stuck in a loop:
      - (1) Operators want housing in place before they agree to come
      - (2) No one will buy a property without an operator lined up.
    - f) Kate Mills - We need to pressure the city to follow the recently passed state laws regarding housing & homelessness.
      - (1) Increasing density is a key to solution.
    - g) Sonja Flores - We need to apply pressure where Jeff Lambert recommends
      - (1) We should tell city council that we want them to follow through on their promise to build a shelter.
      - (2) Notes that the 4/11 planning commission meeting will vote on the General Plan Refinement, which will decrease areas available for housing (& also make it harder to remodel in a number of zones)
    - h) Judy Alexandre - **3 Advocacy Issues**
      - (1) General Plan Refinement

- (2) Meet with each individual city council member about Measure O, General Plan Refinement, Inclusionary Housing.
- (3) We support the city & county working together on the permanent shelter.

B. Petitions - Rob March

1. Currently have about 150 signatures.
2. Rob March will discuss strategies for getting more signatures with Pam Marshall.
  - a) Pam Marshall proposed having our homeless population sign (for instance, River Haven residents)

C. Housing developments

1. Inclusionary Housing - on City Council agenda for 4/23
  - a) Jeff Lambert encourages attendance
  - b) Judy Alexandre - We need knowledgeable speakers
  - c) Nexus study will determine in-lieu fees
    - (1) We need this information.
    - (2) Judy Alexandre asked Kate Mills to take the lead.
      - (a) Kate Mills noted that the agenda won't be posted until 4/19.
2. New Housing Developments
  - a) Judy Alexandre - Peoples Self Help looking into rebuilding of The Hamilton Hotel for very low income SROs.
  - b) Sonja Flores - Westview Phase 1 started
    - (1) Rancho Verde groundbreaking in Saticoy.
3. We need a letter to council requesting that they invite low income housing developers to participate in a roundtable.
4. Follow up from meeting with council members and chamber (Jerry Breiner, Judy Alexandre, Sonja Flores)
  - a) We continue to discuss how to approach city council members.

D. 4th of July Participation

1. No one has stepped up for staffing a booth.

VIII. Other Items

- A. Judy Alexandre - Noted that a major topic for the next meeting is direct services.
- B. Judy asked if we want a presentation on container homes and tiny houses?
  1. With the intention of getting city council members to attend.
- C. Judy will set up study session with city council on alternative housing.

IX. Adjourn: Next meeting is May 2, 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 4/17, 3pm Orchard Community Church library (Ron Mulvilhill [ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com](mailto:ron@housinginnovationsandsolutions.com))
- B. Faith VSSTF subcommittee 4/25, 3pm Seventh Day Adventist Church conference room Pam Marshall [pam@pojcat@verizon.net](mailto:pam@pojcat@verizon.net)

- C. Homeless Prevention fund, VSSTF Inc. April 18, 4pm.; Unitarian Universalist Church conference room (Roland Barrio [rbarrio100@msn.com](mailto:rbarrio100@msn.com))
- D. City of Ventura housing and Shelter subcommittee, probably 4/11, 3:30 pm city hall Mayor Andrews is chair.
- E. Homes For All, by invitation John Jones [johnsandersjones@gmail.com](mailto:johnsandersjones@gmail.com)
- F. Continuum of Care 4/19 10-12noon Tara Carruth ([tara.carruth@ventura.org](mailto:tara.carruth@ventura.org) ). location to be decided
- G. Open mic, city hall 1st Monday of the Month 4/9/18