

Monthly Meeting Minutes 10/2/19  
3:15 pm, 300 N. Ventura Ave, Ventura, CA 93001

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Kevin Clerici, Connor Finney, Sonja Flores, Loreen Hamilton, Jennifer Harkey, Meredith Hart, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Sandra Meyer, Marianne Norton, Melissa Ramirez, Maury Ruano, Jan Schmutte

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of the minutes for 9/4/19 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 10/2/19
  - A. Judy Alexandre - 2 changes requested - MSC
    1. Move Meredith Hart's report to beginning of meeting
    2. Discuss potential names for permanent year-round shelter
- V. Treasurer's Report - Jan Schmutte
  - A. Current balance - \$2,106.46. - no change
- VI. Update on program and services of the Salvation Army - Sandra Meyer
  - A. No new programs to report
  - B. Safe Sleep expansion (from 15 to 30 slots in Ventura) progressing
  - C. Shelter is currently full
  - D. Having success in placing people in permanent supportive housing
  - E. In the process of hiring a housing navigator (dedicated person who looks for housing for clients)
  - F. Judy Alexandre - Salvation Army is only group providing case management at One Stop
  - G. Loreen Hamilton - Christmas Assistance Sign Up on 11/8 & 11/9
- VII. Housing Advocacy Planning - Judy Alexandre
  - A. Homes For All - Sonja Flores
    1. Looking at properties with potential for developing affordable housing
      - a) Including school properties (some schools have space that could be used for teacher and staff housing)
    2. Judy Alexandre - What do want to be our advocacy focus?
    3. Sonja Flore - History of the housing maps
      - a) 6 months ago, asked for people to help research good affordable housing sites in Ventura
        - (1) Got input from Jerry Breiner and other people responding to the call for information
        - (2) Compiled list of sites & studied Ventura's GIS files for vacant areas > 2 acres.
        - (3) Looking at 2 general approaches:
          - (a) > 2 acres for affordable housing
          - (b) < 2 acres for special focused programs

- b) General Plan Update
    - (1) Ventura is working to hire a consultant to work on it.
    - (2) Ventura has to update its housing element by 10/2020
      - (a) Approved & submitted to the state
  - c) Affordable housing overlay program
    - (1) Overlay allows for affordable housing to be built in addition to the current zoning permission
    - (2) Mixed use - services to support housing
      - (a) Could be separate locations or combined use (housing and services)
  - d) Judy Alexandre - How can we focus for now?
    - (1) Sonja Flores - Asks for people to create narratives of their ideas to help influence the development of the general plan and housing element.
      - (a) Also asks for people to review the list of properties
        - (i) To add or remove as appropriate
  - e) Marianne Norton - What are opportunity zones?
    - (1) Brian Brennan - Designated for manufacturing/industrial
      - (a) Have associated tax breaks
  - f) Jennifer Harkey - Agricultural zones - How to get around SOAR?
    - (1) Jerry Breiner - It's unlikely
    - (2) Sonja Flores - Could be potential for farmworker housing
    - (3) Brian Brennan - SOAR areas can be developed, but any zoning changes have to go up for a vote
- B. Vulnerable Populations Housing Advocacy Network - servicing Ventura County
- 1. Identifying vulnerable populations in each city in the county
  - 2. Listing fees required to build in each city, including in-lieu fees
  - 3. Identifying barriers to building extremely affordable, very affordable & affordable housing.
  - 4. Oxnard Container Homes demo project - currently looking for site
- C. VSSTF Action Advocacy Plan - Judy Alexandre
- 1. Goal is to eliminate homelessness
    - a) Focus on extremely and very affordable housing
      - (1) 25% of Ventura residents earn < \$25k/year
      - (2) Vulnerable populations are elderly or on SSDI
        - (a) Living on \$800-1500/month
        - (b) Average rent in Ventura is \$2000/month
  - 2. Where should our emphasis be?
    - a) We have options on where to put our energy, for example:
      - (1) Low income housing development
      - (2) Affordable housing overlay zone
      - (3) Zoning changes

- b) Pam Marshall - Support development of housing for people with v. low and extremely low incomes
  - c) Sandra Meyer - We should be ready to support developers once we know their plans.
  - d) Marianne Norton - What does the affordable housing overlay require?
    - (1) Kevin Clerici - Lots of political will
    - (2) Sonja Flores - Substantial support from the community
    - (3) Maury Ruano - Lots of cities are pushing inclusionary housing ordinances
      - (a) It's a good time to also push for the overlay.
      - (b) Should consider inviting Sofia Rubalcava (Westside councilmember)
3. Summary of discussion - Judy Alexandre
- a) Initial advocacy should be to begin working on drafting an overlay zone
  - b) Next, back plans of low-income housing developers, after we see their plans
  - c) ACTION: Can someone write a document on overlay zoning ordinance?
    - (1) Sonja Flores - We have lots of information on overlay already
    - (2) Judy Alexandre - We will have an official vote on a letter about overlay zoning ordinance in December
      - (a) Sonja Flores will take the lead on the letter

## VIII. Reports & Updates

### A. City of Ventura - Meredith Hart

#### 1. Permanent year-round shelter

- a) Construction progress is good - still on track for 1/9/20 opening
- b) Showed a video tour of the progress (on City of Ventura Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cityofventura/videos/1146607895509621/>)
- c) Jerry Breiner - Will pet care at the shelter include flea treatments?
  - (1) Meredith Hart - VC Animal Services will be supplying flea treatments and vaccines.
- d) Jerry Breiner - Recommends that the shelter be wired with the fastest USB ports
- e) Brian Brennan - Food will be catered, so Mercy House is contracting out for food services
  - (1) Food will be delivered from Los Angeles, which is currently the cheapest option

#### 2. Outreach worker

- a) Should start in early December
- b) City council and County Board of Supervisors both approved the hiring

#### 3. River Haven & Safe Sleep are still doing well

### B. Naming of shelter - Judy Alexandre

1. Various suggestions have been made through the Safe & Clean, Housing & Homelessness Subcommittee.
- C. Homeless Prevention Fund - Brian Brennan
1. We helped 8 households in August (13 adults and 8 children) and one household in September as of 9/25 (2 adults and 3 children). Average cost per household so far this year \$1,122 (\$429 per person).
    - a) On average, those we have helped so far in 2019 have been paying 58 percent of their income in rent. Of those we have helped so far this year, 42% have been children.
  2. We received nearly \$3,000 in honor of Neal Andrews.
  3. Because of the income received in honor of Neal, good results from our year-end letter, \$2,500 from a fundraiser at Kathy Wertheim's home (Sundaes on Sunday), and a \$10,000 anonymous donation early in the year, we still have approximately \$5,000 available to help folks with rent.
    - a) However, we continue to provide more rental assistance most months than we take in, and will soon be short of funds if grants and donations do not increase. Send ideas, and please speak up if you are willing to invite your friends to an event at your home where they will hear about Ventura Homeless Prevention and meet someone we have helped recently.
- D. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Marianne Norton
1. Educational workshop on 9/12 at Poinsettia Pavilion
    - a) Focus on the permanent year-round shelter
    - b) Went very well! Impressed with the Mercy House presentation.
    - c) Will be working to apply lessons learned at the workshop.
- E. Agency Updates
1. Family To Family - Jan Schmutte
    - a) Got 223 people at recent fundraiser (had targeted 200)!
      - (1) Judy Alexandre - City Centre fundraiser also sold out
- F. Thanksgiving at Community Presbyterian Church - Judy Alexandre
1. Looking for volunteers
    - a) Will be volunteer planning meetings in October & November
    - b) Call Jerry Benot at the CPC to sign up
- IX. Next meeting is **November 6, 2019, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**
- X. Meetings:
- A. City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness, Housing and Safe & Clean Initiative - 1st Tuesday of every month
  - B. Faith Sub Committee 11/27/19 3pm, Church of the Foothills, Ventura, Marianne Norton ma4mail@aol.com .
  - C. Homeless Prevention Fund will meet 11/20/19 4pm at Unitarian Universalist Church Of Ventura on Ralston Ave, Ventura. Sue Brinkmeyer ([sbrink@glendale.edu](mailto:sbrink@glendale.edu))
  - D. Homes For All, contact John Jones ([johnsandersjones@gmail.com](mailto:johnsandersjones@gmail.com))
  - E. Ventura City Council, 1st Monday of the month, open mic.