

Monthly Meeting Minutes 6/5/19

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

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Karyn Bates, Gane Brooking, Cheryl Brown, Kevin Clerici, Betsy Erickson, Karen Flock, Jennifer Harkey, Meredith Hart, Margaret Holann (?), Robert March, Alexa Martin, Marianne Norton, Cappi Patterson, Dina Pielat, Melissa Ramirez, Clyde Reynolds, Jan Schmutte, Elizabeth R. Stone, Michael Tweet

- I. Call to order - Kevin Clerici
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of the minutes for 5/1/19 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 6/5/19 as emailed.
 - A. Kevin Clerici - United Way had a schedule conflict, asked to present in August - MSC.
- V. Treasurer's Report
 - A. Current balance - \$2,503.96.
 1. Payment made for Poinsettia Pavilion.
- VI. Housing Strategies and Immediate Needs - Kevin Clerici
 - A. Ventura City Council meeting on 6/3 - voted 7-0 to:
 1. Approve lease for Knoll Drive (location of permanent year round shelter)
 2. Approve partnership between city and county for shelter funding
 3. Approve contract with Mercy House to operate shelter
 - B. Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 to:
 1. Approve partnership between city and county for shelter funding.
 - C. Judy Alexandre - Housing strategies
 1. Shelter won't be successful without extremely & very affordable housing.
 2. Looking at several ways to bring changes to city:
 - a) Inclusionary housing
 - b) Mixed use housing
 - c) Zoning and ordinance changes.
 3. List of properties
 - a) Local group is studying list to determine how appropriate each location is for affordable housing.
 4. Legislation - # of state bills
 - a) Need to prioritize which ones we need to advocate for as a group
 5. Brainstorming ideas:
 - a) Tiny homes/Single Room Occupancy/Studio apartments
 - b) Changing permitting process for granny flats/adding 2nd units on properties.
 - (1) Seattle created a permit process to allow for it
 - (2) How can we streamline this?

- c) Developers seem to prefer building more units from cost perspective
- d) Communal living/small dorm styles.
- e) Tent cities - which work better when there are established rules
- f) Rehabilitation of (commercial) structures
- g) Demonstration project of container housing.
- h) Expand Homeshare - work with people to work out barter arrangements for in-home help.

(1) Could create an incentive for more homes to open.

- i) Assisted living roommates for caregiving.
- j) Overlay zone for mixed use of unused commercial properties near residential properties.
- k) Stricter rent controls.

(1) Renters' coalition

- l) Units for security guards at businesses.
- m) Financial assistance with first/last month payments for renters.
- n) Examine impact of AirBnB on housing market.

6. Wish to work with low-income housing developers.

- a) We could help in some parts of the process

7. Karen Flock - Ventura Area Housing Authority wants support for El Portal (on Ventura Avenue)

- a) Trying to clean it up & renovate.
- b) Come to meeting on 6/10 to support.
- c) Cappi Patterson - What will happen to people currently in building (and their pets)?

(1) Karen Flock - Plan is to make it possible for people to stay.

- d) Kevin Clerici - What about HOME funding (from HUD)?

(1) Karen Flock - Funding is being recommended.

(2) Judy Alexandre - moves that VSSTF writes a letter of support for HOMES funding (~\$900K) for development of El Portal - MSC.

VII. Shelter/Navigation Center Update - Meredith Hart

A. Construction starts next week!

- 1. 7 month timetable.

B. On track for 12/31 opening date.

C. Kevin Clerici - Asks to keep VSSTF informed of any delays/issues so that we can lend our vocal support.

D. How can the community contribute?

- 1. Meredith Hart - coordinating with Mercy House on lists of desired donations
 - a) E.g. mattresses, beds

E. Kevin Clerici - How many people will Mercy House hire?

- 1. Jennifer Harkey - Mercy House posted for Oxnard shelter online (Indeed)

F. Meredith Hart - Onboarding in October

- 1. Interviewing for Oxnard now

- a) Cappi Patterson - Oxnard is seeing lots of applications.
 - G. Michael Tweet - Some Ventura PD personnel have said that they are going to move people out of the river bottom once the shelter opens.
 - 1. Meredith Hart - Will talk to VPD to make sure peoples' rights aren't infringed.
 - a) If all beds are full, there should be no enforcement.
 - b) If beds are open, VPD will work to fill them.
 - H. Meredith Hart - Safe & Clean, Affordable Housing and Homelessness Committee
 - 1. Meeting 6/11 at 4pm
 - 2. Reporting on LUYV program with River Bottom residents to clean up trash.
 - a) 75 bags (!) picked up on first day
 - I. Meredith Hart - Tiny Home Communities Studies
 - 1. Looking at community in Santa Fe, NM
 - a) Government owned property run by non-profit.
 - b) ACLU likes this setup.
 - 2. Austin, TX - lots of undeveloped property available for them to use.
 - J. Meredith Hart - Reduced Barrier Fund - Biggest need but hard to raise funds for
 - 1. When people are ready to go into sober living, they need \$650 (non-refundable) for first month's payment, which can be hard to raise.
 - 2. No public funding, so working with local churches.
 - 3. Judy Alexandre - VSSTF, Inc. can accept funds for Homeless Prevention Fund
 - a) Funds are all donations.
 - b) HPF has never paid for up front expenses
 - (1) Normally ongoing payments for people with rental history.
 - (2) Could contact Sue Brinkmeyer about considering policy change.
 - 4. Jennifer Harkey - lots of sober living facilities are not habitable.
 - a) Meredith Hart - Working on making a list of better facilities.
 - b) Melissa Ruiz - Hard to get flexible funding from county to support this.
 - 5. Marianne Norton - Is there any organization large enough to fundraise for sober living support?
 - 6. Elizabeth R. Stone - No Place Like Home funding
 - a) For creating housing for people experiencing homelessness.
 - 7. Kevin Clerici - Group Challenge
 - a) Lots of money for sober living statewide, but no specifics.
- VIII. Approval of Op-Ed piece - Kevin Clerici
 - A. Want to credit the recent success at city council and to encourage the city to continue to make progress.
 - B. In current form, talks about the Monday & Tuesday decisions at city council and board of supervisors.
 - C. Judy Alexandre - will send out final draft to community once ready for publication.
 - D. MSC - submittal of op-ed.
- IX. Reports and Updates
 - A. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Marianne Norton

1. Workshop on 9/12 at Poinsettia Pavilion - 6pm-8pm (can arrive at 530pm)
 - a) Made deposit.
 - b) Will ask community for ways to get involved.
 - c) Requesting \$75 for a musician
 - (1) Prefer to hire a homeless or recently homeless person.
 - (2) MSC.
- B. Continuum of Care - Jennifer Harkey
 1. Dr. Nann (?) talked about documentary on homeless people in Oxnard.
 - a) Asking to connect with students dealing with social services (successful or not).
 2. Quarterly alliance meeting on 7/18
 - a) Workforce development
 - b) Housing rights
 - c) Looking for speakers.
- C. Vulnerable Populations Housing Network - Clyde Reynolds
 1. Workshop in May
 - a) Input on priorities.
 - (1) Need to narrow them down to have impact.
 - (2) Lots of funding to be released for housing.
 - (a) Asking low-income housing developers to talk about what increases housing costs.
 2. 3 issues being studied:
 - a) How to impact city fees
 - b) Explore alternative housing models
 - c) What can group do to support development of extremely affordable housing?
 3. Meeting on 6/21 to continue dialogue.
- X. Adjourn: NO MEETING IN JULY. Next meeting is **August 7, 2019, 3:15 pm, Catholic Charities Building.**
- XI. Meetings:
 - A. City Council Subcommittee on Homelessness, Housing and Safe & Clean Initiative - 1st Tuesday of every month,
 - B. Faith Sub Committee 6/19/19 3pm, Church of the Foothills, Ventura, Marianne Norton ma4mail@aol.com .
 - C. Homeless Prevention Fund will meet in 6/19/19 4pm at Unitarian Universalist Church Of Ventura on Ralston Ave, Ventura. Sue Brinkmeyer (sbrink@glendale.edu)
 - D. Homes For All, contact John Jones (johnsandersjones@gmail.com)
 - E. Continuum Of Care Alliance - 7/18/19 10am, Location TBD (tara.carruth@ventura.org) or Jennifer Harkey (Jennifer.Harkey@ventura.org)
 - F. Ventura City Council, 1st Monday of the month, open mic.