

Monthly Meeting Minutes 9/2/20

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Jerry Breiner, Brian Brennan, Kevin Clerici, Connor Finney, Judy Fox, Jaydon Gaines, Jennifer Harkey, Meredith Hart, Brian Hollander, John Jones, Jeff Lambert, Robert March, Miguel Marquez, Pam Marshall, Alexa Martin, Staci Millett, Carl Morehouse, Cathy Nye, Clyde Reynolds, Maury Ruano, Chris Russell, Jan Schmutte, Rafael Stoneman, Summer Ward

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Logistical Concerns - Kevin Clerici
- III. Approval of the agenda for 9/2/20 - MSC
 - A. Housing Is Key website - <https://landlordtenant.dre.ca.gov/index.html>
- IV. Approval of the minutes for 8/5/20 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Jan Schmutte
 - A. Current balance - \$2,356.46. - no change
- VI. Information Follow-up - Judy Alexandre
 - A. Letter regarding Mental Health Services as per the motion from last month has been sent to the Ventura City Council and to the Board of Supervisors
 - B. Letter sent to city about properties that have potential as sites for affordable housing development (Sonja Flores worked on this).
 - C. Census update - ~70% response in Ventura
 1. Low responses near the beach and in the hills.
 2. Need agency help to complete.
 3. Maury Ruano - what is happening with outreach?
 - a) Judy Alexandre - It is happening, but more volunteers are needed (many of the regular census volunteers are staying away due to COVID-19).
 - b) Brian Hollander - ILRC offers help for people filling out their census.
 - c) Jennifer Harkey - Sent updated count from camps, service centers.
 - (1) Outreach will take place during the 2nd & 3rd weeks of September.
 - d) Elizabeth R. Stone - working as an enumerator
 - (1) Still need more workers
 - (2) Situation is frustrating.
 - (3) Hard to build trust with people.
- VII. Discussion regarding plans for winter shelter - Meredith Hart
 - A. Talking with different religious leaders about locations for a winter shelter
 1. Including Jim Duran & Steve Karnazes
 - B. Can we set up a day shelter?
 1. Provide warm packs for foul weather (e.g. tarps, rain ponchos)
 - C. Please contact Meredith Hart with any ideas

- D. Dream scenario is 7 locations
 - 1. Maybe an unused preschool space
- E. Budget is \$15K (down from \$40K)
 - 1. Need to lean more on community partners for help.
- VIII. Discussion and planning for the 10/1/20 6:30 pm zoom Candidate for City Council Forum sponsored by VSSTF and Homes For All - Judy Alexandre
 - A. Focused on homelessness and housing only.
 - B. Kevin Clerici will invite the candidates.
 - C. All 11 candidates get 2 minutes to introduce themselves
 - D. Will have 12 questions, with each candidate answering 4 randomly selected from the list.
 - 1. To be followed by questions from participants.
 - E. Judy Alexandre and Kevin Clerici need suggestions for the preplanned questions (emailed please).
 - 1. Also need suggestions for the debate/forum format.
 - F. Brian Hollander - will send questions about accessible housing and the digital divide.
 - G. Miguel Marquez - what are your experiences dealing with our homeless population?
 - H. Pam Marshall - what is their commitment to very and extremely affordable housing?
- IX. Housing providers update
 - A. Connor Finney - disappointed with recent legislative session
 - 1. SB 1102 (duplexes) - failed at the last minute.
 - a) Speaker ran out the clock.
- X. Updates:
 - A. Continuum of Care (COC) - Jennifer Harkey
 - 1. Voucher program
 - a) 140 people in motels in Ventura/Oxnard/Thousand Oaks.
 - (1) Mostly seniors and those vulnerable to COVID-19.
 - 2. Vagabond Inn in Oxnard has agreed to sell
 - a) In negotiations with Mercy House to collaborate with Oxnard & Ventura County to renovate and turn the Vagabond into permanent supportive housing.
 - (1) Focus is to be on extremely vulnerable people (especially to COVID-19)
 - 3. Continuing to work on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds to help address homelessness
 - a) Focus on prevention and rental assistance.
 - B. Homes For All - Judy Alexandre
 - 1. Inclusionary housing ordinance
 - a) Meeting with Eric Nasarenko, representing VSSTF & HFA.
 - b) Hoping to meet with Lorrie Brown & Jim Friedman.
 - c) 3 years without a report on inclusionary housing.
 - (1) May speak during open mic at city council meeting.

d) Definition: If you are building market rate housing, you should set aside some units for low-income housing.

(1) Jeff Lambert - Ventura did not have an in lieu fee option.

C. The ARCH - Meredith Hart

1. With social distancing, 20 men & 12 women (at capacity).

D. City of Ventura - Meredith Hart

1. College United Methodist property - Judy Fox

a) 2 acre site - want to use property for low-income housing

(1) To turn it into a community!

(2) Still working with city & community to figure out the process

(a) Information gathering phase.

(3) Property will still belong to the church

2. Trash pickup in Santa Clara River bed started up again.

a) First Tuesday of every month

b) Seeing fewer people in the river bottom right now.

c) 6 truckloads of bags removed on 9/1/20

3. Kevin Clerici - Parks have reopened

a) No major problems

b) Restrooms at Mission & Plaza Parks are still closed.

XI. Adjourn meeting.

Next meeting is 7 October 2020, 3:15PM on Zoom.

Candidate Forum is 1 October 2020, 6:30PM on Zoom.

Meetings:

Date for the Safe and Clean, Housing and homeless committee not yet available

Homes for All, contact John Jones, johnsandersjones@gmail.com

Homeless Prevention Funds (VSSTF Inc), contact Sue Brinkmeyer, suebrinkmeyer@earthlink.net

Vulnerable Populations Housing Advocacy Network, contact Clyde Reynolds, cbreynolds@roadrunner.com