

Monthly Meeting Minutes 10/5/2022

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Kyler Carlson, Kevin Clerici, Jim Duran, Sonja Flores, Jennifer Harkey, Pam Kelley, Jacob Lesner-Buxton, Mariah Lopez, Simran Malhotra, Robert March, Maria Navarro, Kappy Paulson, Clyde Reynolds, Leona Rollins, Lee Sherman, Javier Villa, Summer Ward

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the minutes for 9/7/22 - MSC
- IV. Approval of the agenda for 10/5/22 - MSC
 - A. Maria Navarro - Added announcement:
- V. Treasurer's Report - Judy Alexandre - \$2,009.53
 - A. Still waiting on the bill from the candidates forum.
- VI. Discussion of General Plan Update - Simran Malhotra
 - A. Introduction
 1. Unveiled the General Plan alternatives at 2 local workshops.
 2. Meeting with various groups across Ventura.
 3. Pop-up events are starting across Ventura.
 4. 11 surveys available - 1 citywide and 10 more focused.
 - a) <https://www.planventura.com/alts-online-survey>
 - B. Q & A
 1. Judy Alexandre - The survey is difficult to follow.
 - a) Kappy Paulson - Bouncing between the 3 options makes it hard to keep track of the questions.
 - b) Jennifer Harkey - Hard to see the mappings and descriptions.
 - c) Simran Malhotra - There is an online mapping tool that helps.
 - (1) <https://raimi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6234931278544324b6adb115a4173f70>
 2. Maria Navarro - What is the plan for feedback outside of the online survey?
 - a) When will we see a more concrete map?
 - b) Simran Malhotra - Still collecting feedback with the survey through late October (likely to be extended).
 - (1) Once the feedback phase is complete, will release the raw results.
 - (a) Then begin analysis to see how the community is directing the city.
 - (b) Based on the results, if there is a clear direction, will go to the City Council and Planning Commission for further guidance.

- (2) Eventually, will release an updated map for another round of feedback.
 - 3. Clyde Reynolds - How are we dealing with the strong opposition to increasing housing and density?
 - a) Simran Malhotra - We want to hear from the whole community, not just a vocal minority.
 - (1) Will establish patterns based on demographics.
 - (2) Currently feel that they are getting feedback from a broad spectrum.
 - 4. Kappy Paulson - How many survey responses are there so far?
 - a) Simran Malhotra - At least 500 from citywide survey.
 - 5. Kyler Carlson - What is the likelihood that additional parcels will be looked at for possible development?
 - a) Simran Malhotra - Depending on the results of the Land use Alternatives survey, the potential intensification of residential neighborhoods may be included in the revised land use plan moving forward.
 - 6. Judy Alexandre - People seem most concerned with the immediate downtown area, without any actual decisions having been made yet.
 - a) Simran Malhotra - Downtown is mostly left untouched in all 3 options.
 - (1) The maps require some corrections/updates.
 - (2) Meeting with downtown businesses soon.
- VII. Candidate Forum Follow-Up Discussion - Judy Alexandre & planning committee
 - A. A huge thank you to John Jones, Debora Schreiber, and Maria Navarro, who did most of the organizing. And to Jeff Lambert, who served as MC.
 - B. Jim Duran - Thought the event was well done, and that the questions were good.
 - C. Kappy Paulson - It was interesting to see the candidates struggle with the questions.
- VIII. Advocacy Follow-Up - Jennifer Harkey, Kyler Carlson, Judy Alexanndre
 - A. Advocacy is at a place of transition.
 - 1. Inclusionary housing ordinance and housing element
 - B. Judy Alexandre - Come to the HOPES meeting to see, hear and speak on this issue.
 - C. Kyler Carlson - Homes For All focus
 - 1. Questions about how to focus advocacy.
 - 2. How do we prepare to get an inclusionary housing ordinance passed?
 - 3. What degree of advocacy do specific projects require to help push them through the Planning commission?
 - D. Judy Alexandre - To help reduce homelessness, affordable housing has to be a major part of the solution.
 - E. Jennifer Harkey - Homekey funding (to rapidly sustain and expand the inventory of housing for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and impacted by COVID-19) will likely be available in March-April 2023
 - 1. Having conversations with Ventura and the housing authority.
 - a) Motel conversions

- b) Expanding the ARCH to the upper floors.
 - 2. Released Requests For Proposals (RFPs) today to pursue a project in Oxnard
 - a) A city-owned building like on Knoll Drive.
 - 3. Supportive Housing
 - a) Need funding tied in (e.g. vouchers from HUD).
 - 4. Advocacy - Know that we will have to go to the City Council about this soon.
 - a) Supportive housing, conversions.
 - 5. As new council members are sworn in, they will need education on homelessness and affordable housing.
 - F. Clyde Reynolds - Vulnerable Populations Housing Advocacy Network - looking at:
 - 1. Housing Element - Ventura is having a stakeholder workshop
 - 2. Tenant Protections - Have an agreement by the City to pursue these.
 - G. Judy Alexandre - Inclusionary housing.
 - 1. At the forum, many candidates seemed to believe that the inclusionary housing ordinance would solve homelessness.
 - a) It can be a part of the solution, but is not the only thing.
 - 2. Need to be tracking the City Council agenda in order to advocate effectively.
 - a) We need to promote projects with supportive housing.
- IX. Presentation on County Strategy to end homelessness - Jennifer Harkey
 - A. This will be the focus on next month's meeting.
 - B. COC board meeting on 10/12/22.
 - C. Preparing to hire a homelessness services consultant to the Ventura County Board Of Supervisors.
 - 1. To help with strategies for
 - a) Addressing encampments.
 - b) Expanding outreach.
 - c) Best using grant funding.
 - 2. Hope to have the consultant on board by 12/2022 for 6 to 9 months.
 - D. Most recent strategy plan was adopted in June 2019.
 - 1. https://s33020.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Final_VC_Homelessness_Plan_1.9.19.pdf
 - 2. Need specific achievable goals.
 - a) Hope that the consultant will help with this.
 - E. Can get connected on COC website. <https://www.venturacoc.org/>
 - F. Q & A
 - 1. Judy Alexandre - how will we advocate for various aspects?
 - a) Portland loos, storage containers, etc.
 - 2. Maria Navarro - Can we have an info session?
- X. Homeless Prevention Fund - no report
- XI. Reports
 - A. City of Ventura - Leona Rollins
 - 1. At next HOPES subcommittee meeting (10/11/22 at 3pm), will talk about:

- a) Foul Weather Shelter trigger conditions.
 - b) Portland Loos
 - c) Tenant Protections.
 - 2. Collaborating with the County on a homelessness plan.
 - 3. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) - looking for partner organizations for homelessness prevention.
- B. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey
 - 1. Next alliance meeting on 10/20/22 at 10:30am.
 - a) Primary topics:
 - (1) Housing rights.
 - (2) Community action.
- C. Ventura County Housing Coalition - Maria Navarro
 - 1. Working on ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding
 - a) Hope to get \$20 million of unspent funding from the VC Board of Supervisors for affordable housing.\
- D. Vulnerable Populations Housing Advocacy Network (VPHN) - Clyde Reynolds
 - 1. Had meeting last week, got reports from each committee.
 - 2. Efficiency housing
 - a) Looking at ways to move the concept forward.
 - 3. Judy Alexandre - Increasing numbers of the vulnerable (unhoused) population are mentally ill and/or seniors.
- E. Faith Subcommittee - Pamela Kelley
 - 1. At the recent gathering, many congregations expressed interest in the gap needs.
 - a) Judy Alexandre - These are mostly hygiene issues.
- F. The Moving In Project - Kappy Paulson
 - 1. Current needs are twin and full beds, microwaves and tvs.
- G. City Center has 2 vacancies and Tenderlife has 3 vacancies currently.

XII. IMPORTANT: VSSTF needs a new chairperson for next year. Please consider new candidates.

XIII. Meeting adjourned until 11/2/2022.

Meetings:

City Council HOPES & Solutions Subcommittee (addressing issues regarding homelessness).

VSSTF Faith Subcommittee 3rd Friday of each month, 3pm Pam Kelley (pamjk3@msn.com), patio of Judy Alexandre