

Monthly Meeting Minutes 5/4/2022

3:15 pm, via Zoom video chat

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Attendees: Judy Alexandre, Marta Brown, Kyler Carlson, Kevin Clerici, Michael Dunn, Jim Duran, Sonja Flores, Jaydon Gaines, Jennifer Harkey, John Jones, Pam Kelley, Rebecca Kofman, Robert March, Edwin Marinez, Pam Marshall, Sandra Meyer, Maria Navarro, Kappy Paulson, Debra Schreiber, Summer Ward

- I. Call to order - Judy Alexandre
- II. Introductions - Judy Alexandre
- III. Approval of the agenda for 5/4/22 - MSC with a few changes
 - A. Added mention of a new city position for housing manager.
 - B. Moved Housing Element & Inclusionary Housing Ordinance earlier in meeting.
- IV. Approval of the minutes for 4/6/22 - MSC
- V. Treasurer's Report - Judy Alexandre - no change - \$2,316.46
- VI. Announcement and request for volunteers for 4th of July Booth - John Jones
 - A. VSSTF will share a booth with Downtown Ventura Organization (DVO) & the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund (VHPF) at the 4th of July Street Fair in Ventura
 - B. Need to find the wheel used at past events.
 - C. Need volunteers.
 1. For 7/3 (event prep) and 7/4 (staffing the booth)
 2. Contact John Jones johnsandersjones@gmail.com
- VII. Update information on Ventura Housing Element, Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, Proposed city budget - Sonja Flores
 - A. Housing Element
 1. California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will not certify the element yet.
 - a) HCD wants the Housing Element to be stronger.
 - b) Peter Gilli suggested adding more programs.
 - (1) Any changes would have to be brought back before City Council.
 - (2) Still moving forward with implementation as written.
 - (a) Will be working on 4 or 5 of the VSSTF/HFA recommendations in the next year.
 - B. Inclusionary Housing Ordinance
 1. Came before Planning Commission.
 - a) Draft
 - (1) Rentals - 15% of new units required a low-income level.
 - (a) VSSTF wants this to be at very low-income level.
 - (2) Sales - 15% of new units required at moderate-income level.
 - (a) VSSTF wants this to be at low-income level.

- b) Planning Commission fears that using VSSTF recommendations will slow development.
 - (1) There is no proof that this is true.
 - (a) A 2009 report from LA showed no slowdown in development when including more affordable housing.
 - (2) HCD was also pushing for lower income levels for the ordinance.
 - c) Expect a new draft within 2-3 months.
- C. Proposed city budget for next year
 - 1. We want the city to include funds to implement our recommendations.
 - 2. We asked for the \$465K set-aside, and it looks like it will be coming.
 - 3. Judy Alexandre - A small group requested a meeting with Peter Gili, to discuss various issues.
 - a) Peter Gilli is encouraged by the proposed budget and the latest city council votes.
 - (1) There's a new position in his department (Community Development) - housing manager
 - (a) Needs a name for the interview panel
 - (i) HFA nominated Karen Flock
 - (ii) Possible candidates: Amy Duganne, Tracy McCullough (sp?)

VIII. Action Items

- A. New Urgent Needs (gap needs) Subcommittee in VSSTF - Kappy Paulson
 - 1. Grants (through Continuum of Care) need to be for countywide efforts.
 - 2. Laundry Love
 - a) Goal is 4 sites, which cost about \$700/week
 - (1) Hope to be able to rotate through each site, so the service moves around the city.
 - b) First event on 5/14 on Westside
 - 3. Charging Stations (for various electronic devices)
 - a) Initial cost is \$540, but will need as much again to cover a second area.
 - b) Need volunteers to sit in the park with charges and information to hand out.
 - (1) Looking for volunteers to help build relationships with the homeless population.
 - (2) Judy Alexandre - It would be good to have this available throughout the city.
 - (a) One Stop
 - (b) Downtown
 - (c) Eastside
 - c) Need a volunteer to coordinate the whole effort
 - (1) Judy Alexandre - would Salvation Army or River Community Church be able to help?

- (a) Jim Duran - RCC may be able to help.
 - (b) Sandra Meyer - SA may also be able to help.
 - d) Jenn Harkey - Have we reached out to Backpack Medicine (James Boyd)?
 - (1) Kappy Paulson - they already carry chargers in their kits.
- 4. Storage Space
 - a) Storage units are \$150/month for 10' x 10' space.
 - b) Lockers - \$5000 for a unit with 24 lockers
 - c) The idea is for volunteers to escort people individually to their lockers.
 - d) Focusing on storing important papers and small items that can fit into a small locker.
 - e) Could try to set up multiple locations, but that would increase the necessary number of volunteers.
- 5. Bathrooms
 - a) Goal - Keep city bathrooms open from 0600-2200
 - b) Kevin Clerici - have requested extending the hours
 - (1) Issue with vandalism and destructive behavior in some of the bathrooms.
 - (2) Ideas:
 - (a) Hire a peer counselor
 - (b) Judy Alexandre - hire a security guard
 - (c) Kevin Cleric will price these.
- 6. RV Pump Stations
 - a) Trying to get the costs for 2 free pump stations
 - (1) One on Eastside and one on Westside
 - b) Possible Locations
 - (1) Maintenance lot on Sanjon Road
 - (2) County lot on Wells Road
- 7. Judy Alexandre - Thanked Kappy Paulson and team for their hard work.
 - a) Need to figure out how much we can get onto a grant.
 - b) Kappy Paulson - concerned about how many volunteers will be needed.
 - (1) Judy Alexandre - It will hopefully be easier to recruit once we have funding and an implementation plan.
 - (2) Jennifer Harkey - plans to meet with Kappy Paulson and Elizabeth R. Stone to discuss what needs to go into the grant proposal.
 - c) Judy Alexandre - Proposes that the New Urgent Needs subcommittee finalize the various ideas and start working on getting funding. - MSC
- B. Rent Stabilization Plan and needed actions - Maria Navarro
 - 1. An investment property company bought a 12-unit property in Ventura in March.

- a) In April, the company gave a 60-day eviction notice to all tenants (33 people, including children and high school students)
 - (1) Substantial remodel eviction - which requires no proof (!)
 - b) Working to prevent this eviction.
 - c) Sumer Ward asked for a list of the tenants being evicted.
 - 2. Asking for Ventura city council to enact a retroactive ordinance
 - a) To lay out rules for substantial remodel evictions
- IX. Point In Time Count - Jennifer Harkey
- A. VenturaCOC.org has news and announcements.
 - B. <https://s33020.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/VC-2022-Homeless-Count-Report-FINAL.pdf>
 - C. Countywide - 25% increase
 - 1. 7% unsheltered increase countywide.
 - D. Ventura - 382 unsheltered residents (about the same as 2020)
 - 1. 331 sheltered (an increase of 156 since 2020)
 - a) Human Services Motel Vouchers
 - b) Mercy House ARCH Shelter
 - c) National Health Foundation Recuperative Care
 - d) Salvation Army Shelter
 - e) Turning Point Safe Haven
 - f) Project Room Key Non-Congregate Shelter
 - g) Salvation Army GPD Vet TH
 - h) Turning Point River Haven
 - i) Turning Point Vet TH
 - j) The City Center
 - k) Tender Life
 - 2. 34% increase in the city overall.
 - E. Chronic homelessness
 - 1. Defined as:
 - a) Living unsheltered for 1+ years
 - b) Have a disability.
 - 2. Nearly doubled countywide
 - a) 209 in Ventura
 - b) Need permanent supportive housing (e.g. Project Room Key)
 - (1) We need VSSTF advocacy
 - c) Shocked by these numbers
 - (1) Working with Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC) to help people transition into housing.
 - F. Seeing an increase countywide in people fleeing from domestic violence
 - 1. COC got a grant to support these people.
 - G. Point In Time Count team did a great job
 - 1. Covered lots of ground.

- H. Got the report out very quickly, unlike many other SoCal communities
 - 1. Planning to present the report to the County Board of Supervisors on 6/7.
- X. Reports
 - A. City of Ventura - Rebecca Kofman
 - 1. Housing Services Manager position for running the Safe & Clean program.
 - 2. Next HOPES meeting is postponed.
 - B. Continuum Of Care - Jennifer Harkey
 - 1. Grants
 - a) Project Room Key - Still at full capacity
 - (1) FEMA funded through 6/30.
 - (2) In July, expect to switch to state funding.
 - b) Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant
 - (1) Round 3
 - (2) Request for Proposals (RFP) opens after the COC board meeting
 - (a) Looking for proposals against \$4.5 million in countywide funding.
 - (b) Focus is on housing, but more priorities to come after the board meeting on 5/11
 - C. VSSTF Faith Subcommittee - Pamela Kelley
 - 1. Calling churches to gather information.
 - a) See how various congregations might support local efforts, including the New Urgent Needs Subcommittee projects.
 - 2. Looking to gather interested congregations at the end of August.
 - D. Housing Coalition update - Maria Navarro
 - 1. Meeting in 2 weeks.
 - a) Discussing Inclusionary Housing panel for City Council members and activists.
 - E. Legislative Highlights - Pam Marshall
 - 1. CA State Senate is very busy.
 - a) Expect lots of news next month.
 - 2. AB 2547 - Housing Stabilization - to help prevent homelessness among older adults.
 - 3. Parking Mandates - cities use them more than necessary to block development.
 - a) AB 2097 - would help to prevent extra parking near public transit serviced areas.
 - 4. Currently, many bills are in the suspense file <https://sapro.senate.ca.gov/FAQs>

Meetings:

HOPES Committee (addressing issues regarding homelessness) canceled for May.

Faith sub committee 5/20/22, 3pm Pam Kelley (pamjk3@msn.com) patio of Judy Alexandre

