

September 9, 2009

Housing Options Meeting

Carolyn Briggs and Loretta McCarty, co-chairs

Guest Speakers: Jeff Lambert, Community Development Director
Lisa Wilkinson, Associate Planner

Present: Ken Finning, Debora Schreiber, John Jones, Clyde Reynolds, Muriel Steiger

I. Old Business

A. Gateway/Sobering Center: The various subcommittees continue to meet. They are looking for a site and exploring financing options. They are more fully defining roles such as how will the Center operate: with equal partners or one leader? Will it be a cooperative?

Right now they are analyzing what services are provided and what are the gaps. The model is to create a multi-service center in one place with basic services available 24/7 and case management provided Monday-Friday.

B. Sober Center: it is unclear whether Dan Frederickson and Jill Martinez are making progress.

C. HomeShare Program: some steps have been accomplished such as Title V funds enabled the hiring of an assistant for Muriel. One of the final steps is for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to let the Housing Authority know when the program can move into their office space. AAA also needs County Risk Management to complete their review of the program forms, releases and MOU. Once the MOU is executed, the program can begin.

II. New business.

City of Ventura Housing Element

Jeff Lambert and Lisa Wilkinson presented information about the status of the City's Housing Element. A lengthy comment letter was received by the State Department of Housing and Community Development. Staff is responding to the comments which primarily focus on the need for more data and an additional inventory of land.

They plan on taking the responses to City Council of September 28th. The response will be in a matrix format with each comment listed and the applicable response.

The land inventory discussion will be more detailed with housing production numbers provided. A map of the site will be available.

The City Council materials will be available to the public the Wednesday prior to the September 28th meeting.

Questions were asked about the siting of homeless shelters. The Draft Element now lists all zones being permissible, with homeless shelters as a permitted use.

The document also addresses extremely low income households as well, in response to state mandates.

The Planning Commission is not expected to review the document again. Staff hopes to have specific direction from the Council and look for concrete comments and recommendations prior to sending the document to the State for subsequent review.

Other City Projects

Jeff and Lisa also responded to questions about the status of other projects.

The Saticoy Wells Specific Plan is expected to go to City Council September 21st. The Planning Commission already approved the Plan.

The Parklands Development Agreement is scheduled for City Council in mid-October.

Strategic Planning will then focus on the Westside (Ventura Avenue area). It could be the site of a Redevelopment Project Area with the intent to include the Brooks Institute Campus.

The Midtown Corridors analysis will need to be revisited. At some point in the future staff will go back and look at the plan, address the single-family overlay and include the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) analysis they did of Midtown.

Staff will be looking for additional direction from HPC when analyzing and making decisions about the City overall.

Another item for review and comment is the Planning Submittal Process clarification. Community involvement occurred earlier and now staff is presenting a conceptual process for land use processing.

The City is also implementing a new computer system so any project can be tracked at any point in the process.

Harbor Church has requested a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the City Center Motel. They also need to Design Review Committee (DRC) approval for their proposed Day Services area. Eventually the CUP will go to Planning Commission.

City Planning staff are attending more community meetings to observe discussions and to explain the City Planning process, timelines etc.

Other

Bridges Out of Poverty 3 is calendared for October 13th. The Social Service Task Force Executive Leaders are looking for a small group of dedicated individuals, with commitment to the task force, to commit themselves to a Bridges 3 Team.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2009
4:30-6:00 PM**

NEW LOCATION

**CHAPEL LANE SENIOR APARTMENTS
11122 SNAPDRAGON STREET SUITE 100
VENTURA, CA 93004**