

DECEMBER 8, 2010
Housing Options Meeting

I. Introductions

Present: Ken Finning, Jill Forman, Patricia Hamilton, Loretta Mc Carty,
Clyde Reynolds, Muriel Steiger

Loretta McCarty called meeting to order.

II. Old Business

A. Gateway/Sober Center Project – update

Clyde Reynolds provided a brief update. Gateway is gaining momentum. The Gateway group provided city staff with 10 potential sites in Ventura. City staff is reviewing these sites and eventually City Council will discuss the possible locations. About half may not be appropriate but about 5 are in or near the Downtown and some are city-owned.

The group has met with 6 of the 7 City Council members. Early next year the City Council will go into closed session to discuss the sites. Once the City identifies the preferred site the Salvation Army can explore their resources more fully. They may have some resources to use for site control.

B. Home Share Program – update

HomeShare now has 7 matches.

The office is in need of a computer and printer. Housing Authority staff will find replacement equipment.

Program advertising was discussed. Clyde Reynolds shared that some of the best response he has received was a newspaper notice in the “in brief” column, written by Kevin Clerisi. Muriel and Patricia will try this resource.

The best place to find seekers is at the One-Stop. But they are finding that single men are hard to place and see the need for more SROs.

Clyde R. suggested that RiverHaven be a short-term solution before seekers are placed in housing. The primary point of contact is Our Place Shelter.

Ken Finning stressed the need to pursue a partnership with CEDC to find home providers. CEDC helps with pre-foreclosure loan modifications – these homeowners might benefit from a home seeker renting a room and providing

some rental income. Management at CEDC was interested – need to establish better lines of communication.

C. River Haven – update

Clyde Reynolds provided a brief update.

The maximum capacity is 23 residents. Management now screens out those with serious drug/alcohol problems. They are housing folks with a motivation to end homelessness. Hence folks are either on an employment track or a disabled track. General Relief pays for the housing at \$250 for a single and \$400 for couples.

The “community dome” has been framed and covered. It is about 20 feet around and 15 feet in height. With this new structure, RiverHaven will now be visible from the street.

It will be painted with Sherwin Williams donating the paint. Timing depends on the weather and availability of volunteer contractors.

Now they are looking at construction of “porches.” They may use aluminum grating material to create a porch at the entrance of each dome.

A couple of schools adopted RiverHaven for the holidays and are arranging donations for the residents.

III. New Business

The group discussed the number of shelter and housing options that are available or are coming on line. It was agreed that Jerry Briener will be invited to the next Housing Options meeting to discuss the VSSTF website and establish an active waitlist for RiverHaven and other housing options that would be posted on the website. One possible way this could be used is for staff at One – Stop to review availability prior to opening that day – and know whether openings are available for referral.

Announcements

Loretta McCarty shared that the construction loan for the 37-units Encanto Del Mar project closed on December 3rd. The groundbreaking was December 7th. The project has an estimated 13 month construction period.

Clyde R. applied for EHAP Capital Development funds of \$600,000. This is for a transitional housing facility with up to 2 years length of stay.

His application for funding for veterans' housing is being reviewed by Loan Committee at the state. This money would be a match for the veterans' grant

he is seeking. He will also submit a HOME application with the County for matching funds.

Next (2nd Wednesday) Meeting

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

January 12, 2011

4:30-6:00 PM

CHAPEL LANE SENIOR APARTMENTS

11122 SNAPDRAGON STREET, SUITE 100

VENTURA, CA 93004