

Ventura Social Services Task Force

Minutes of Meeting October 7, 2009

Attending - total of 30 (Neal Andrews, Paul Bramson, Jerry Breiner, Carolyn Briggs , Peter Brown, Cathy Brudnicki, Cindy Cante, Sherry Cash, Jan Christian, David Deutsch, Margaux Everett, Ken Finning, Bobbi Jo Free, John Jones, Karl Keller, Shelli Locklear, Jill Martinez, Donna Mason, Mike Merewether, Rose Ann Morrisey, Ken Porter, Frans Reijerse, Clyde Reynolds, Revis Robinson, Debora Schreiber, Karol Schulkin, Mark Stadler, Mary Stewart, Beth Sutherland, Daniel Zapata)

Meeting called to order by chair John Jones

Self-introductions performed.

I. Report on City Activity by Peter Brown

A. Salvation Army has filed to administer the Safe sleep program.

A meeting will take place between Task Force members, City Staff, and S.A. to hone criteria and decide on 3-5 lots.

Neighborhood outreach must be done. S.A. is open 24/7 which

will help to field calls with problems. A system will be set up. A

report will go back to Council in April. Options for bathroom

use: 1)inside facility 2) porta potty 3) camp toilet with

agreement on how to dispose of waste. Each lot will have a lot

captain. Experience elsewhere shows that parkers don't want to

jeopardize their right to park so rules are followed.

B. Recent discussion at Council re solicitation. City Staff directed

to look into the Santa Barbara ordinance. They distinguish

between active, passive, and aggressive panhandling. In some

parts of SB, active panhandling is illegal. There will be a

community meeting in November.

II. Kingdom Center by Revis Robinson

Nine churches have paid all or some money. The proposa I passed

the DRC. They want to severely limit parking on the site. Informal

meeting with planning committee took place. Probably will be 6 on

site parking spots and 3 handicapped. Others will park at Horizon

Foursquare Church or at next door corner lot. Will go to Planning on

Nov 17. A fundraiser is being held on Oct 25, 2-5 PM, \$100/person.

Intention is to open 10 units by December and eventually 29 units.

Sponsorship opportunities start at \$250.

III. Subcommittee reports (meeting times / locations at end)

A. Faith Communities by Bill Finlay

1. Funding proposals discussed. Auto repair program, funding to help with move in costs. Thanksgiving: will probably need pies and turkeys.

The question was brought up at VSSTF that City money cannot be

used for direct assistance to persons nor (most likely) could it be

used to help Kingdom Center because of its proselytizing religious

character. See below C3.

2. Candidates' Forum held October 1. 75 people in attendance, 13 of 15 candidates. Everyone except Maureen O'Hara signed the pledge (Melody Joy Baker later withdrew her support).

B. Homeless Prevention by Cindy Cattle

1. Fund is very low \$350. Six households were helped United Way Basic Needs Grant came in for the third year at a reduced level. ARRA federal funds not given to Ventura and the other big cities who applied jointly, but to unincorporated areas. Still looking into possibilities.
2. Joint meeting with Education Committee in October to discuss money requests. Possibilities are: notecard project, a banner, pop up tent for events, toys for give away with the wheel.
3. Request from Saima Khan for One of a Kind Christmas Event at Fairgrounds with profit to benefit VHPF. Lots of concern that there wasn't enough time to pull together such an event and questions about the plan. Steering Committee will look into further.

C. Housing Options by Carolyn Briggs

1. Home Share program still being planned.
2. No October meeting. In November will move location to Housing Authority on Snapdragon Lane at 4:30 PM.
3. Money proposals: seed money to develop flat subsidy plan: Home Share program, money for moving expenses, first and last, etc. **Motion made by Jan Christian and seconded by Rosanne Morrissey, that Steering Committee write and send a letter to Council asking that they revisit and lift the restriction on City money being used for direct service, thereby allowing more flexibility. Motion Passed.** The Council Subcommittee on Homelessness won't meet for 3-4 weeks. Some concern expressed on what this change would mean, competition with Social Service Agencies, whether to give money to VHPF from City funds, primary focus ending homelessness, giving money to Winter Warming, etc. The issue will be considered further and depends on City's response.

D. No Gateway Report

E. Community Education by John Jones

1. Money request would center on Street Fair booth expenses, web site maintenance, possible leadership event, general public meeting event, flyers, CAPS video.

2. Next issue of the street paper will likely include articles on WAV, Kingdom Center.

IV. New Business

V. Announcements

1. Winter Warming Shelter will open in Oxnard Dec 1. There is no bus this year. Possibly Faith Based could look into options?
2. Catholic Charities and Frans Reijerse is starting a Chair Share program to make furniture and appliances available to people in need.
3. VCTogether report, Cathy Brudnicki. Sept 22 was the kick off of this program. Resolution passed in support by County and then by several cities, including Ventura. \$30,000 raised in The Buck Starts Here campaign. Amgen has made a \$150,000 matching grant, good until Dec 4. \$9,000 being dispersed by Oct 15. Info or to donate: <http://vctogether.org/>
4. Turning Point starting Family Counseling program, sliding scale, contact David Deutsch. 746-5216
5. Kinetic Sculpture Race to benefit Turning Point October 24.

Respectfully submitted,
Debora Schreiber
secretary

Next VSSTF Meeting November 4, 3-5 PM

Upcoming events:

Regular Meeting Schedules October

The **Faith Community** Subcommittee meets every 1st Tuesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003.

November 3,

The **Ventura Social Services Task Force** meets every 1st Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 PM, at Family to Family, 303 N Ventura Ave # E, Ventura 93001. Nov 4, 3-5 PM

The **Community Education** Subcommittee meets every 2nd Tuesday, 3:00-5:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston, Ventura 93003.

The **Homeless Prevention** Subcommittee meets every 4th Wednesday, 4:00-5:00 PM, at Super September visor Bennett's offices, Government Center 4th Floor, Ventura 93003. **October 28 to be a joint meeting with Education**

**The Housing Options Subcommittee NOW meets every 2nd
Wednesday, 4:30 PM, Housing Authority, Snapdragon Lane, Saticoy.
No October meeting Nov 11**

Gateway meets third Friday at Salvation Army on Oak Street, at 2 PM.
Contact Nick Deitch to confirm before attending:
nick@mainstreetarchitects.com 652-2115

<http://www.onecityventura.org>