

East Ventura Community Council Minutes

Jan. 16, 2020

Marie Lakin called the gathering together at 7:10 pm

Marie laid out the agenda for the evening and shared that the board had met and would like to work on completing the Kimball Park and welcomed ideas for the potential \$10,000 city grant for a beautification project on city property...maybe the park.

Sgt. Rick Payne shared statistics about the crime rate in E. Ventura. Crime is down, mostly theft and burglary... a total of 12. This may not be accurate as the dept. was in the process of changing reporting procedures and the technology.

Lori Quick from the Area Agency on Aging shared information about the upcoming seminar on Managing the Maze of Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. It will be held at the Ventura Ave. Adult Center on 1/21/20 at 2:30 pm. She also shared that plans are in process for an East Ventura senior center and that work is being done with the Salvation Army for space. The senior strategic plan is still being developed.

Marlyss Auster from the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau shared her team's work in promoting the city to other cities, states and countries. She emphasized the importance of tourism dollars and that tourism added \$298 million to our city in visitor spending and tax revenue. She stressed the need to reach those visitors that stay in our hotels as they spend more money than the day visitor. She shared a delightful video that is used in the promotional outreach and the booklet Inspire Ventura. Both emphasize local people, businesses, stories and activities. The city provides most of the VVCB funding at a cost of \$968,000 a year.

Judy Alexandre shared that the Arch: All Roads Connect To Housing year-round 55-bed shelter will have its grand opening on 1/27/20 and donations of different types of items are needed. The shelter will be run by Mercy House. Judy also spoke about the new dedicated outreach worker and that those without shelter do not commit all of the crime and that they are more often the victims of crime. The need for housing that people can afford was stressed if we want to assist in the process of getting people off the streets.

City council members Jim Friedman and Lorrie Brown provided an update on the water litigation and answered many questions. Jim shared information re: golf revenue being about \$1 million to the general fund. There were several questions about housing, building, and the need for affordable housing, the question of a sufficient water supply and from some who do not want more housing. It was stated that the housing crises in all of California means the City of Ventura will need to build 5,000 units.

Marie closed the meeting. We meet again on 2/20/20

Submitted by: Judy Alexandre, secretary