

TO: VCAAA Advisory Council Members

FROM: Mel Silberberg, chair

DATE: June 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Livable Communities Report from June 10, 2015

Committee Members Present (3)

Jay Evans (Camarillo COA)

Rose Gossom (Supervisorial Appointee)

Mel Silberberg (Supervisorial Appointee)

VCAAA Staff Present

Elizabeth Renteria, Public Outreach Coordinator

Deborah Roberts, HomeShare Staff

Beth Shephard, Transportation Coordinator

Christine Voth, Manager, Business Strategy & Strategic Planning

Guests

Mike Culver, Director of Operations, Mobility Management Partners (MMP)

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM by Mel Silberberg, Chair. With all Advisory Council committee members being present, there was a quorum.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approval of minutes from last meeting** (J. Evans/M. Silberberg)
3. **Public Comments.** None
4. **Report: Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) State of the Region Report 2015.** Christine Voth reported on her attendance at the release event for the report and community briefing held on May 18, 2015. She pointed out that the document contains useful statistics and information relative to this committee, and to the forthcoming VCAAA Strategic Master Plan. Christine shared a copy of the report with the meeting attendees. A copy of the document may be downloaded for free at: <http://www.vccf.org/programs/civicalliance/SotR.shtml>

Mel asked what is done with the information in the document. It was felt that many organizations and units of government use it as a tool for improving life in Ventura County. When asked about the purpose of VCCA, she read, "*The Ventura County*

Civic Alliance is a coalition of civic leaders with a shared commitment to bringing economic, environmental and social equity interests of our region together to address priority community issues, increase civic engagement and foster community leadership. The Alliance is an initiative of the Ventura County Community Foundation."

Christine also distributed the brochure, *Ventura County's Most Livable Communities-Building Today for Better Future*, which was published by the Ventura County Community Foundation in 2009. The brochure lists the 10 tenants of the livable community and gives local examples.

5. **Report: County of Ventura General Plan.** Beth Shephard and Mel Silberberg attended focus groups regarding the update of the General Plan. Mel felt there was nothing of substance, and said the priority seems to be aware of topics such as preserving open space; and, affordable housing for seniors was not on their radar. On behalf of this committee, Mel submitted a letter (see May agenda packet for this committee), encouraging them to focus on the needs of the aging community, including Universal Design and affordable housing. Mel questioned what will be done with the letter. Mel emphasized that senior needs must be included in County plans and documents.
6. **Report: Meeting with County Planners Group** – Continued from the May meeting. This is an informal group that consists of planners from the County and local cities. Victoria Jump and Monique Nowlin recently attended one of their sack lunch meetings in Camarillo, and made all presentation. The result is that we now have a positive relationship with planners in each of the cities and at the County.
7. **Report: VCAAA Transportation Program** – Beth Shephard distributed the ElderHelp Transportation Program report for May 2015. She reminded everyone that funding for Medi-Rides has been spent for the current fiscal year; thus, rides will not be available until July 1. The report shows statistics for the month of May: transportation tickets provided (1,800), unduplicated individuals served (115) and total cost (\$4,780). Jay Evans inquired about the guidelines for the monthly spending of spending Medi-Ride dollars. Beth said she would need to revisit the guidelines; and this may be something the Advisory Council/Livable Communities Committee will want to review.

Mel requested that future reports contain*:

- (1) the amount spent for the preceding month and year-to-date costs;
- (2) the average number of rides awarded per Medi-Ride client.

Mike Culver reminded the group that Mobility Management Partners might be an alternative for some clients if they can identify a driver (such as a friend, neighbor, etc.) to provide the transportation. The process for a person to become certified to use the program usually takes about a month because the application must be reviewed by committee. He recognizes this may not be possible for many clients, but might be an alternative for some if they knew about the program.

8. **Report: VCAAA HomeShare Program** – Deborah Roberts presented HomeShare’s report for May. Jay Evans requested that future reports contain¹:
- (1) the number of providers not yet matched, and
 - (2) the number of seekers not yet matched. Both numbers would be as of the last day of the preceding month.

Jay asked what can be done to grow the program and increase the number of providers. Beth said at present, the true need is for more qualified seekers because only 30% of seekers do not have barriers to placement, and of those individuals, there is a compatibility issue. She said staff works very hard to facilitate a good match. Suggestions for attracting more providers:

- (1) Find Ventura County seniors who are behind in their mortgage payments and/or back taxes (re the National Council on Aging referrals of such seniors to HICAP) to see if any of them would be interested in becoming HomeShare providers.
- (2) Reach out to financial institutions and let them know about HomeShare.
- (3) Reach out to County of Ventura employees to advise them about the program.

9. **Event: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)** – Christine reported this will be an opportunity for interested parties to provide input to SCAG on traffic and congestion, housing, air quality and green spaces, public health and the economy. The event will be held at the Camarillo Airport on June 16 and 17. VCAAA staff will attend this meeting.

10. **Report: History of Age Friendly Portland (Oregon) Action Plan** - Christine provided copies of two action areas in the plan: Housing and Transportation. Background information was provided on each area along with recommended Action Items. This is an excellent example of what can be done in a community.

11. **Discussion:**

- Is Ventura County age-friendly for older adults who want to age-in place?
- What is an age-friendly community?
- What are Ventura County’s strengths and weaknesses for aging-in-place?
- What can this committee do to make Ventura County more ‘livable’?

¹ Regarding the monthly reports for Transportation and HomeShare, Christine stated she would work with VCAAA management/line staff on developing the categories that need to be tracked and included in future reports.

Christine provided handouts on the *AARP Livability Index, Age-Friendly Checklists for Housing and Transportation*²; and *Livable Community Indicators for Sustainable Aging in Place*³.

Mel said it appears planners pay attention to the hot items such as the need to maintain open space. It was agreed that more attention needs to be paid to making developments (affordable and all other housing) more senior friendly. High density building is fine provided there is accessibility for seniors and persons with disabilities. Mel asked if cities understand the term "livable community." Jay thinks they do. The question is how do we work within already built cities and insert the factors needed to enable a city to score high as a livable community. Mel suggested that attendees look at all the materials handed out today and be prepared to discuss them in September he said we should be well primed to move forward.

12. **For Discussion: Status of Committee Goals and Objectives; and objectives to be included in VCAAA's four-year Master Strategic Plan, 2016-2020.** (Handout) - Table to September meeting.
13. **Other Committee Involvement/Notification – if any:**
 - a. Health Issues Committee
 - b. Legislative Committee
 - c. Optimal Aging Committee
 - d. Outreach Committee
 - e. Senior Nutrition Committee
14. **Next Meeting Date – July 8, 2015**

Before the close of the meeting, Mel asked when it would be appropriate to elect a new chair for this committee. After discussion, it was requested that the election of a new chair be on the agenda for the September meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 PM.

² Excerpted from *Global Friendly Cities-A Guide* by the World Health Organization

³ Excerpted from document of same name by Stanford Center on Longevity and Met Life Mature Market Institute.