Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of August 8, 2006 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Clayton Hutcheson Building, Hall "B"

Minutes

Present:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority

Bobbi Boynton, P.B.C. Code Enforcement Division

Dominic Bricillo, Roseland Park Resident

Jorceline Cadet, P.B.C. Housing Authority

Shirley Cantelo, Old Trail Resident

Gerald Carsillo, Sun Court Resident/Roan Lane

Carlton Cartwright, TCCI/Children's Coalition, Inc.

Kim Ciklin, Commissioner Koon's Office

Tripp Cioci, Property & Real Estate Management

Matt Constantine, Adopt-A-Family

John Deese, Old Trail Resident

Renee Deese, Kenwood Estates

Deputy Dieujuste, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Royal Palm Estates)

John Dietz, Old Trail Resident

Dan Dumas, San Castle Community Leadership Inc.

Ed Frazier, Old Trail Resident

Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Tim Granowitz, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation Department

Joyce Harrell, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Anne Helfant, P.B.C. Attorney's Office

Sgt. Jimmy Hightower, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office

Janel Horne, P.B.C. Head Start

Ken Jackson, P.B.C. Code Enforcement

Kathy King, Lake Worth West Resid. Planning Group

Dave Kouns, Roan Lane Resident

Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident

Edward Lowery, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Lt. Ed Luty, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office

Michael Marquis, P.B.C. Engineering Department

Tonda Masson, Lake Worth Corridor Resident

Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Present (Cont'd)

Bilal Mujahid, P.B.C. Water Utilities Department

Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office

Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District

Ora Owensby, P.B.C. Zoning Division

Kim Parnett, P.B.C. Human Services

David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services

Juana Ramos, San Castle

Nancy Ramos, San Castle

Audley Reid, Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

LaToya Ricketts, Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Sharon Sheppard, Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA

Courtney Shippey, P.B.C. Health Department

Deputy Dwayne Thomas, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Schall Circle/Old Trail)

Claudia Tuck, P.B.C. Human Services

Erica Whitfield, P.B.C. Health Department

William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

CCRT Members Absent:

Diana Cunningham, P.B.C. Criminal Justice Commission Gerry Gawaldo, P.B.C. Palm Tran Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton, P.B.C. Water Utilities Don Loutsch, Children Services Council Willy Volk, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development Gail Vorpagel, P.B.C. Code Enforcement Division Dean Wells, P.B.C. Building Division

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Duane Gainer introduced himself and asked meeting participants to introduce themselves.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Mr. Gainer asked if anyone had corrections to the July 11, 2006 CCRT minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes.

Mr. Rafaidus commended Joyce Harrell for doing a good job on the minutes. He further commented that the minutes are a pleasure to read and are very comprehensive.

Ms. King commented that in addition to the announcement of hiring Ms. Marisol, she also attended as the community representative of Lake Worth West for the Putting Kids First event held in Belle Glade.

III. REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UPS:

Mr. Gainer stated that copies of the follow-ups from the July 11, 2006 CCRT meeting were available on the information table. He asked the group to contact him if anyone had questions.

Mr. Gainer also commented that in addition to the above follow-ups, at the last meeting, there was an extensive discussion regarding a comment made by the Sheriff's Office having difficulty with finding immediate or temporary placement for families that are homeless. It was mentioned that OCR would coordinate a meeting with Housing & Community Development, and Community Services Department to look into this issue. OCR staff contacted HCD and received information from Jim Gold regarding agencies in Palm Beach County. OCR will be doing further investigation on this issue.

IV. PRESENTATION: Claudia Tuck, Homeless Outreach Team

Mr. Gainer commented that he did call 211. He was given several contact agencies and one of the agencies was the Homeless Outreach Team. He spoke with Ms. Claudia Tuck, Director of the Homeless Outreach Team and he asked her to do a presentation for the CCRT group.

Ms. Tuck began by stating that she is actually the Division Director of Human Services; and one of the programs they operate is Homeless Services Program. One of the things they have been trying to do through the years, through the homeless team, is to identify what the needs are in Palm Beach County. HUD has charged all the communities, over a ten-year period, throughout the country to develop plans on how they will address homelessness. This was approximately two (2) years ago. The agency has begun having focus groups and is going to be working towards the development of a strategic plan for the County. Over the next few years, they are going to be looking at pulling all the different agencies/organizations together to really take a look at the issue. She talked about the program's annual budget and allocation of those funds to various programs that also provide assistance.

Ms. Tuck stated that one of the programs the organization developed in mid 1990's, in order to begin to address homelessness, was the Homeless Outreach Teams. At this point, she asked Kim Parnett, Supervisor of two (2) of the outreach teams to speak about what they do.

Kim Parnett began by stating that the program is called the Homeless Services Program. It encompasses more than just doing outreach. They do case management on a long-term basis; not just short term. Their goal is for the client to achieve some form of self-sufficiency, move into transitional housing, and find long-term placement. There are three (3) outreach teams. She supervises the office at the Health Department, located on 45th Street. Ms. Wendy Ols supervises another team located at the Health Department off Tamarind Avenue.

Ms. Parnett talked about calling 211, which is the beginning point for most homeless individuals in the community. She brought cards with information on how to reach the organization. She advised the group to take them and hand them out to clients or individuals that appear to need help. If you cannot access 211, there is also a 1-800 number to call. She further stated that appointments are scheduled with the Homeless Services Program; then the Outreach Team will meet with that individual in the office. Additionally, along with the Sheriff's Office, they meet periodically in the field to coordinate a one (1) or two (2) week outreach program, which they go to camps and street corners all over Palm Beach County

from Jupiter to Boca Raton, and west to Belle Glade trying to let people know about the program. She further commented that once they assess the clients' needs, they place them and assigns a case manager.

Ms. Parnett talked about a program called Jump Start. This program gives the client and case manager more time to work one on one. The organization is focusing more on a longer-term placement and case management. She asked the group for questions or comments.

Edward Lowery commented on the discussion at last month's meeting regarding the Sheriff's Office having difficulty placing families that they may come in contact with during their normal course of duty. The Sheriff's Office indicated extreme difficulty when it comes to finding facilities that will take a family. He also inquired about what should you do when you find a family on the streets that needs immediate assistance. The process of dialing 211 and finding suitable housing for them could take time. Ms. Tuck responded that CARP does have the emergency assessment center but it is for individuals. She further named some of the few shelters that target families; such as Adopt-A-Family, The Lords Place, and Homeless Outreach. Having available beds may be another issue.

Sgt. Hightower commented that he assigned two of his team members to Homeless Outreach, so he is familiar with the program. He further commented regarding him assisting with writing a grant several years ago that would provide funding for placing people in hotel rooms. Rooms were set-a-side or kept available for this type of circumstance. Ms. Tuck responded by stating that one resource is the County Human Services Division, which has a contract with the Children's Home Society for hotel/motel beds for families. There is a case manager on call in the evenings. Also the Florida Women Resource Center did have hotel/motel beds available, but she is not sure if the organization is active in this area.

David Rafaidus inquired about the statistics for people under the categories of homeless: street homeless people (some are homeless by choice), chronically homeless (substance abuse, mental illness), and situational homeless people. Ms. Tuck responded that they do a homeless count on an annual basis, and this year the count was 1,600. Ms. Tuck stated that you can't call the 211 hotline from a cell phone.

Kathy King inquired about how to advise someone that may be homeless. Ms. Tuck responded that they should call the 211 hotline.

Sgt. Hightower inquired about the County plans to set up a processing center like the one in Miami for homeless individuals. He stated that this would give people an address, which is also needed when applying for a job. Ms. Tuck responded that CARP does three (3) day emergency assessment. CARP assists anyone, not only people with a substance abuse problem. CARP has twelve (12) homeless assessment center beds. The center is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. They don't take families, only male or female adults. She further mentioned that the Lord's Place has several programs, such as Project Jump Start and Café Joshua. Café Joshua provides a café, mailboxes, telephones, haircuts, and dental services. She commented this is a great program. She mentioned that the organization also works with St. Ann's.

Ken Jackson had a concern regarding overcrowding of residential homes that may be used as a shelter for the homeless. Ms. Tuck responded that they are responsible for the shelters that are funded under her organization and they were asked to continue developing monitoring standards and guidelines for both housing and case management. She further commented that she would like to know if there is someone operating outside of the guidelines.

Tonda Masson, Lake Worth Corridor resident, commented regarding Mr. Jackson's concern. She stated that she has a concern with the shelters in her community regarding not notifying the residents of occupants that are a sexual predator. Ms. Tuck suggested that she contact Kathy Claub, Coordinator of the Substance Abuse Program. There was group discussion regarding this issue.

Bobbi Boynton inquired about the time period for someone to get an appointment. Ms. Parnett responded that they are very busy, and sometimes the appointments are booked up for at least two (2) weeks. One of the things they ask of the person is to call the day before an appointment by noon to confirm that they will be coming. If they fail to confirm, the appointment is opened up at noon for someone else who calls. This is why they also ask the client to call everyday at noon to see if they can get an appointment.

Ms. Boynton further commented that she knows of a family consisting of the mother and two (2) kids who are in need for somewhere to live. Ms. Parnett responded that their program does not work with children, only adults. Ms. Tuck recommended that she contact Adopt-A-Family or The Lords Place.

At this point, Mr. Gainer asked Matt Constantine, Representative from the Adopt-A-Family to talk about the program.

Mr. Constantine stated that Adopt-A-Family operates a two (2) year transitional housing program. The organization has thirty-two (32) apartment units located in Lake Worth. Also, in Lake Worth, the organization has twenty-five (25) units for people who are working or who earn less than 50% of the area median income. He mentioned that there is a different population now coming into the program. Meaning more two (2)-parent families, who were both employed, are now seeking assistance. The waiting list for beds is tremendous. He asked to meet with Bobbi Boynton after the meeting to get information on the family. Mr. Constantine's contact information is (561) 253-1361, ext. 104.

Sgt. Hightower inquired if the Communications Section for the Sheriff's Office could have available hotel/motel vouchers. Ms. Tuck commented that this is a good suggestion and she would like to talk with him further after the meeting.

Mr. Gainer commented that OCR has a list from Housing & Community Development of everyone being funded through the County and through the ESGP Program. Some of the programs deal with family, youth, battered spouses, etc.

Ken Jackson commented that he has worked with Ms. Tuck's office and he stated that it is a good program.

Mr. Lowery stated that he would be talking with other County agencies to see where we are in terms of facilities and resources to help those families that are in immediate need. He commented that he would be pursuing at least some meetings and hopefully coming up with a final strategy and recommendations to possibly acquire additional funding to address this particular issue. He further commented that having vouchers readily available for the Sheriff's Deputies is a great idea.

Mr. Gainer thanked Ms. Tuck, Ms. Parnett, and Mr. Constantine for coming and speaking to the CCRT group.

Mr. Gainer introduced Mr. Tripp Cioci, new representative for Facilities Development (FD&O).

V. DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Bilal Mujahid, Water Utilities, reported on the following:

- Donnel Avenue This is the first CCRT project where they did not get enough support to bring the project to fruition. Letters were sent out to the residents showing that petitions failed the 51% requirement. The department would like to discuss in further detail with OCR, the possibility of transferring the funds to the Robertson & Murray Project. Ms Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose suggested that funds are still needed to provide water improvements to the two properties in the Old Military Trail area, and indicated that it would be important to first complete previously approved projects than allocating funds to new projects. Mr. Mujahid agreed.
- Report of all the CCRT projects. He will email the report to OCR as soon as he gets back into the office.
- Sutton Terrace/Dillman Road Project The project is coming along. The residents should be able to connect to the water line next week.
- Old Military Trail Two (2) additional lots need to be provided with water.

Tim Granowitz, Parks & Recreation Department, reported on the following:

- Nealon Afron (Sarafica) The project is about 80% complete. Awaiting the installation of the irrigation pumps and electric service for a well. Once this is done, they will be able to turn the irrigation on, and then put in the remaining landscaping and grass. The project should be completed within the next thirty (30) days. He mentioned planning for a dedication/grand opening to be held in September.
- Caroline Drive/Royal Palm Estates Starting to receive bids back. The plans are nearly complete.
- Old Military Trail/Schall Circle The plans are 98% complete. Will be starting the bidding process.
- Kenwood Park Received funding from OCR to move forward with the lighting.
- Next Year's Projects & Budget Acquisition of properties: Watergate Mobile Home Park; Gramercy Park; Westgate CRA area (Joe Pitts State Property; property on Bridgeman Drive; Splash Pads (Glades Pioneer Park, Westgate Park); Property on Flamingo Drive.

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority, reported on the following:

- Neighborhood request for community cleanups The following areas have been completed: Prince Drive, Westgate area, and a homeless camp.
- Coastal Cleanup/Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful to be held on September 16th.
- Paint Your Heart Out to be held on October 23rd.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Canal Point Sanitary Sewer System The design has been completed. The sewer plant is located in the City of Pahokee. She is looking at working with existing contractors in Canal Point.
- Scenic Trailheads Working on trailheads around Lake Okeechobee. The project request forms have been reviewed. A recommendation is being made to the Board in September to approve \$600,000, which will be allocated to the following: 1) Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail Connector horse trailers; 2) Bathrooms & Shower Facilities, 3) Ampitheatre nature center, and 4) Market Depot. \$200,000 is being allocated from Dennis Eshelman office.
- Public Market Have not identified a site for this project. They are estimating at least 150 vendors participating in this project. The public market will consist of agricultural growers (produce), food products, and environmental. She is looking at encouraging more agricultural growers, value added food products, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Ora Owensby asked Palm Nolan to contact her regarding a site mentioned (20 mile bend).

Michael Marquis, Engineering, reported on the following:

- Clinton, Cambridge, Kidd & McConnell Projects In the process of sending the projects out for bid.
- Foss Road have some environmental issues that need to be addressed before moving forward with this project.

Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose inquired about an estimated timeframe for completion of the Cambridge and Clinton project. Mr. Marquis responded that if not done in-house, it would go out for public bid. This process can take three (3) to four (4) months. Bilal Mujahid asked if the project was east or west of Military Trail. Mr. Marquis responded the east side.

David Rafaidus, Community Services, reported on the following:

- David Rafaidus followed up on a comment made about having representation from the Salvation Army at each of the Emergency Operation Areas (EOA's). He spoke with Matt Cronin and he will be working with him on this.
- Mr. Rafaidus also commented that within the next few months, the Board of County Commissioners would be making a final recommendation for the monies that will be allocated for the financing of agencies. He would further like to share the results from the BCC meeting with the CCRT group, so that they can have a better understanding of what services the programs offer and locations of the offices within the County.

Also there is a Citizens Advisory Committee in addition to Human Services that is undertaking some of the things mentioned about homelessness.

Michael Owens, School District, reported on the following:

• Next week (Wednesday) school open. In regards to population, the School District is not expecting to see an increase.

LaToya Ricketts inquired about new schools. Mr. Owens responded that there is a new school opening up in Wellington.

Lt. Ed Luty, Sheriff's Office, reported on the following:

• Putting Kids First, and National Night Out Against Crime – The officers worked hard and are basically recovering from both events.

VI. RESIDENT/OCR STAFF UPDATES:

Dan Dumas, San Castle, reported on the following:

- Solid Waste Authority Doing a very good job.
- Code Enforcement Doing an excellent job.
- Sheriff's Office Lost the Community Policing Officer (CPO). Mr. Dumas is concerned and commented that San Castle has a very high percentage of rental housing. He further commented that the CPO was an asset to the community and requested assistance to obtain a replacement.

Mr. Gainer inquired about the status of a recruitment plan to replace CPO's. Lt. Luty responded that there is a plan to replace the deputy. This is a temporary issue.

Juana Ramos, San Castle, thanked Dan Dumas for maintaining the organization while she has been sick. She also thanked the CCRT for assisting with meeting the needs of the community. She especially thanked Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose for her ongoing assistance, expertise, and professionalism.

Kathy King, Lake Worth West, reported on the following:

• Putting Kids First event – The event was moved from John I Leonard High School to Wellington. The community felt that it was going to be a problem for the residents to get to Wellington. The Sheriff's Office asked LWW to host an immunization program with the Health Department on August 4th. LWW had their own event called Back To School Bash for the community. Over 300 people attended. She mentioned the various activities held at the event. Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose attended the event.

- Coastal Clean-up It will be held on September 16th at the Lake Worth Beach sites. If anyone is interested in helping out, see Ms. King to sign up and to get supplies for the event. The meeting will include planning for the fall programs.
- Paint Your Heart Out Ms. King is requesting contact information for this event.
- Ms. King commented that a resident had visited the community center regarding an issue with moving into a rental unit. She stated that the landlord promised to do the repairs after she had moved in and nothing had been done yet. Since this incident, the landlord contacted the resident to tell her that there will be an increase in the monthly rent. Ms. King asked for a contact person to assist the resident with this issue. The group suggested that she contact the Office of Fair Housing or Legal Aide. Bobbi Boynton commented that if there are electrical issues inside the dwelling, she should contact Code Enforcement.

Renee Deese, Kenwood Estates, reported on the following:

- Kenwood Park She inquired about the status of getting lights for the park. The lights are needed for Holiday In The Park, and Holloween In The Park events.
- Clinton & Cambridge She inquired about the status of improvements on the eastside.
- Kenwood Streetlights She inquired about the status of installation of streetlights. The community is really dark. There are a lot of homeless individuals, prostitutes, and transients.
- Speed Humps The existing speed humps are not effective in slowing down speeders. Someone needs to check them out and provide a solution to this problem
- Canals on Fern & Carver The canal is overgrown on the southside. She brought photos of the area.
- Putting Kids First Program She thanked Chrystal Mathews, Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, Edward Lowery, and Duane Gainer for their assistance. The Sheriff's Office really helped out a lot. Sgt. Dempsey and Sgt. Hightower brought lots of officer participation for the event. The community has served over 5,000 children in Palm Beach County since the beginning of the first event. Kenwood was the originating founder of the Putting Kids First Program.

Ms. Moguillansky-De Rose gave an update regarding the Street Lighting Project for Kenwood Estates. She commented that the project received funding from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund, funds from Commissioner Koons and Commissioner Newell's district reserves, and the CCRT Program. On July 1st, Engineering sent agreements to FP&L for them to proceed with the scheduling of the project. OCR was told that within the next two to three months, the lights should be installed. She further commented regarding the lights for the park. She talked about the funds allocated for the project. The Parks Department allocated \$16,000.00 for this project. OCR is recommending to the Board, the allocation for the additional \$4,000.00 needed to move forward with the lighting improvements. The item is scheduled to go before the Board on August 15th.

Ms. Moguillansky-De Rose further commented that in regards to emails about the canal, she forwarded those emails to Michael Marquis and he will be looking into the issue.

• Neighborhood Community Center - She is requesting OCR's assistance with funding to get a community center. Ms. Deese has already identified a site.

Mr. Lowery commented that OCR would take a look at the site.

Shirley Cantelo, Old Military Trail, reported on the following:

- Park site She stated that the site is in need of mowing.
- Also, she thanked Roads & Bridges for cutting back the debris along the ditch (between Alberta Avenue & Old Military Trail).

Edward Lowery, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Putting Kids First He commented regarding the activities held on the coast and in the Glades area for the kids. He has already received a request for funds for next year's budget for the event. He acknowledged Sgt. Hamilton and all the other deputies for doing a great job with putting together the application. He also thanked Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose and Chrystal Mathews for their support.
- Upcoming Fiscal Year Budget OCR is requesting all participating departments to submit their budget requests. OCR staff will be working on the preliminary budget documents, which will be going to the Board.
- CCRT areas OCR is conducting a reassessment. Some areas will probably be deleted or added to the CCRT list. He is requesting assistance with coming up with areas whom are in the most need from participating departments, as well as the Sheriff's Office.
- Newsletter/Gazette He commended LaToya Ricketts for doing a really great job with putting together the gazette.
- Website He commended LaToya Ricketts and Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose for doing a really good job with putting together the information for the website. The website is up and running and OCR is looking forward to adding new information to the website.
- Resident Education to Action Program LaToya Ricketts and Duane Gainer will be coordinating the program. The workshops will be providing training and technical assistance to area residents and community groups in the County. He gave kudos to Ms. Ricketts and Mr. Gainer.
- Street Lighting Program OCR has a limited amount of dollars for street lighting. FY '06, OCR was awarded approximately \$450,000. There are three (3) street lighting projects either underway or that will be going forward. The Limestone Creek street lighting project will be going before the Board on August 15th.
- Water Utilities On August 15th, \$28,000 to complete the water improvements on Ranch House Road will also go before the BCC.

Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Ms. Moguillansky-De Rose commented that Sun Court Street Lighting Project will go before the BCC in September.
- Audley Reid, OCR staff (Street Lighting Coordinator), is working with the community group from Woodcrest on the application, and is providing technical assistance to Lantana Homes with their streetlight application.

Ms. Cantelo thanked the Sheriff's Office deputies, and Fire Rescue for attending the Night Out On Crime last Tuesday evening, held at the Cross County Mall.

Chrystal Mathews, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- CCRT Reassessment A formal memo will be going out next week to Departments regarding requests made and the criteria for determining the CCRT areas.
- NPG The Application Review Committee will be conducting a site visit tomorrow, August 9th. The committee will be going to the Glades area and other areas that have submitted an application. She announced that on August 23rd, the Review Committee is scheduled to meet at PZ&B, 2nd floor conference, at 9:00a.m., to review and make recommendations on eligible applications. On October 17th, the NPG recommendations are scheduled to go before the BCC.
- 2005 NPG The deadline for project completion is October 18th. She stated that if there is a group that has not completed the project to please contact her as soon as possible. Also, she is asking that if a project has been completed, please submit your final report.

VII. QUESTIONS/COMMENS:

Sgt. Hightower made a comment about looking into doing something with 328 Urquhart Street property. According to him, the building is no longer needed.

VIII.ADJOURNMENT:

- The next CCRT meeting will be held on September 11, 2006 (Monday), 10:00a.m. 11:30a.m., at PZ&B, 2nd floor conference room, 100 S. Australian Avenue, WPB. The next GTAC meeting will be held on August 24, 2006, at 9:30a.m. 11:00a.m., at Canal Point United Methodist Church.
- The Office of Community Revitalization will be providing refreshments for the next meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes prepared by
Joyce Harrell, OCR Secretary

* Note: In reference to the Activity Calendar for September & October, you may contact Joyce Harrell at 233-5311 or make an announcement at the next CCRT Meeting. Thank You.