

SUMMARY OF MEETING
Glades Technical Advisory Committee
Belle Glade City Hall 10/26/2000

Present: Barbara Bell-Spence (City of Belle Glade), Terrence Downing and Carole Ann Huysse (Housing Partnership), Karen Batchelder and Phyllis Lilley (PBC Library Department), Douglas Green (Workforce Development Board), Peter Burnett (Street Beat, a Glades youth arts provider), Doug Chozianin (Construction Arts, Inc.), Jay Mendell (Florida Atlantic University), Sandy Mercer (Glades Community Development Corp.), Wendell W. "Bil" Phillips (Palm Beach County Metropolitan Planning Organization), Thomas Roberts (Neighbors Organized for Affordable Housing), Ken Schenck (City of Pahokee), Alice Thompson (Pahokee Chamber of Commerce)

Staff:

Vicki Silver, Chair (PBC Planning, Zoning, and Building Department/Planning Division)

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Following member introductions, Ms. Silver described the Rural Business Opportunity Grant proposal prepared by staff and County grantwriter Sandy Faraldo. If funded, this proposal will train residents for employment and business opportunities related to the Everglades Restoration Project and the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. A revitalization consultant will be hired to help complete/implement partially funded economic development projects and a comprehensive business plan will be prepared with input from all stakeholders to strengthen and expand existing local efforts to benefit the entire area.

CITY OF BELLE GLADE

Glades Positive Alternatives Partnership is finalizing its Hewlett Packard grant proposal to create a computer lab for hard to serve populations, such as young adults. A groundbreaking for the Business Park is being planned for mid-November. Construction of the first anchor tenant is anticipated by February, and the state has approved use of 100 acres for the first phase of the park. The County is seeking a transit grant to extend bus service to Clewiston, enabling Glades residents to access more job opportunities, and the County is also seeking transit access to the pending Wellington Mall.

COUNTY LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

Ms. Lilley reported that the Library system is still seeking people to participate in a focus group being formed by Libraries Director Jerry Brownlee to determine needed features and improvements.

CITY OF PAHOKEE

Mr. Schenck reported that the Skydive operation south of the city limits is expanding, and the City has requested a federal grant to expand the wastewater treatment plant to serve this facility and a potential fish processing plant, for which Mr. Chozianin has identified an interested developer to build this facility near Farmers Market Road.

GLADES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ms. Mercer reported that the historic preservation grant request was sent back for budget revisions; if rejected, GCDC will re-submit for design and renovation of the old downtown Belle Glade City Hall as a heritage center. She is also working with NOAH on creating the crafts guild.

STREET BEAT

About 70 young people are being served by this cultural non-profit, which recently began an arts instruction program for inmates at the juvenile correctional facility in Pahokee. Mr. Burnett also reported that they are seeking to rehab a former sugar building donated for use as a performing arts center in South Bay. Discussion followed about potential collaboration with the Housing Partnership and Glades Positive Alternative Partnership, both of which focus on youth programs, and Doug Green mentioned the need to address the prevention of criminal behavior, which limits the employability of young people coming to Workforce Development Board. Ms. Spence will work with GPAP to host a forum on these issues, including consideration of the Weed and Seed program. Their new website is www.streetbeatinc.org

The meeting adjourned at noon.