

SUMMARY OF MEETING
Glades Technical Advisory Committee
Belle Glade City Hall July 27, 2000

Present: Barbara Bell-Spence (City of Belle Glade), Doug Chozianin (Construction Arts, Inc.), Douglas Green (Workforce Development Board), Jay Mendell (Florida Atlantic University), Sandy Mercer (Glades Community Development Corp.), Wendell "Bil" Phillips (PBC Metropolitan Planning Organization), Pam Nolan (PBC Economic Development Office), Alice Thompson (Chamber Director, representing City of Pahokee), Michael Wright (PBC Housing and Community Development)

Staff:

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

CITY OF BELLE GLADE

Ms. Spence reported that the City will soon hire a new City Manager. Construction of the Business Park will be underway by September. Although the lease of the Drawbridge Restaurant expires in September, the City has no plans at this time to bid out the redesign of this building. (County staff has previously discussed with Ms. Spence the opportunity to design this building to open up to the Golf Course, taking advantage of its open space location.)

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Wright noted that this week's *Palm Beach Post* featured a very useful article about microloans available for small business development. He referred members to the Post web page for details on an entity called Working Capital Florida, Inc. He also noted that County staff members have been exploring the feasibility of providing sewer facilities to serve downtown Canal Point. Pam Nolan and the Chair reported on a recent meeting with Water Utilities at which various funding sources were investigated, but no sources have been identified to date.

CITY OF PAHOKEE

Ms. Thompson reported that the City was awarded a second state grant to rehab their Old High School, and the state has funded planters as part of the SR 715 improvements. The new Police Chief has greatly reduced loiterers and other crimes in the Rardin neighborhood south of downtown. The newly christened houseboat "Okeechobee" will be launched in Pahokee this fall. Two developing regions grant projects recently funded by the County are the Uniglades clothing business and the renovation of the Everglades Inn.

City Manager Ken Schenck reported by phone that the Palm Beach County Health Care District, which he chairs, is considering a proposal to reuse the Everglades Medical Center as a wholistic health care facility. Mr. Schenck also noted that FDOT improvements to SR 15 are underway, resulting in street tree plantings as well as lane alterations.

CONSTRUCTION ARTS

Mr. ChozianIn stated that he has been inquiring about the potential to construct affordable and middle class housing in the Glades. The firm wants to team with non-profit organizations and the 3 cities to increase the available housing.

GLADES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ms. Mercer mentioned that GCDC is preparing a state preservation grant application to design the rehab of the Old Belle Glade City Hall for community uses. Mr. Mendell suggested they consider Diversity Venture Fund, associated with the Community Foundation, as a possible funding source. Bess deFarber is the contact person in WPB.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Mr. Phillips explained that the South Bay Visitors Center/Transportation Museum was found eligible for FDOT enhancement dollars in the latest funding cycle. Funding will be available in FY 2002.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. Green reported that they are addressing training needs for high school dropouts and providing a GED lab. The Glades staff expects to move to the former Lake Shore Middle School by fall, which should provide more seating for applicants and more training space.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

