

Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
January 25, 2001 South Bay City Hall

PARTICIPANTS: Doug Chozianin, Karis Engle, Douglas Green, Michael Jackson, Fitzgerald Lamontas, Jay Mendell, Angela Morlok, Maria Nape, Theresa Newton, Larry Purnell, Ken Schenck, Carl Seibert, Michael Sklar, Barbara Bell Spence

STAFF: Vicki Silver, Sr. Planner, Chair

The Chair noted that the meeting is being held in South Bay to encourage the City's participation. Committee members thanked the City for its hospitality including great refreshments.

CITY OF SOUTH BAY

Mr. Jackson described the multiple development efforts underway along US 27, including the Park of Commerce (entrance road under construction), the nature park (first phase being completed by late February), expansion of the boat ramp park by the fall, pending development of a County Headstart center, rehab of a historic building as a Lake Okeechobee Welcome Center/Museum, and a planned middle class subdivision (funding still being pursued). He thanked County staff for technical assistance in procuring grants and helping with project management. A citizen police academy graduates its first class tonight; some may be hired or train for future employment.

CITY OF PAHOKEE

Mr. Schenck reported that a developer is considering redeveloping the former Everglades hospital as office space for various tenants and apartments for school staff. The City is also working with EPA and state agencies including the Health Department to improve the drinking water. As many as 20 blighted parcels may be redeveloped within the next year; these lots may be acquired by the City due to factors such as foreclosure or delinquent taxes. In some cases buildings will be demolished using CDBG monies. FDOT's Bacom Point Road improvements are nearly done and SR 15 will soon be repaved and receive new street lights. Funding is being sought to cover construction of the new fire station. A tilapia processing plant is still being pursued by Mr. Chozianin; however, staff noted that hiring Glades residents is the goal rather than working with Okeechobee prison inmates and churches, an approach reportedly being pursued.

CITY OF BELLE GLADE

Construction of the Business Park is underway. The City is actively engaging in clean-up activities, including the weekend of March 23-24 with assistance from Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful when all 3 cities will collaborate in clean-up. A meeting of downtown property owners has been scheduled for 2/15 at the Belle Glade City Hall prior to a code enforcement crackdown. The City is also working with the School Board and the County to reuse a part of the old Lakeshore Middle School.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND MPO

Ms. Morlok, who works closely with Ms. Nape at WDB through the Metropolitan Planning Organization, noted that next month the Board will consider approving reuse of the former Duke's Lounge building on Main Street as a one stop center. Although the grant to extend transit from the Glades area to Clewiston was recently rejected, FDOT Districts 1 and 4 have expressed a willingness to jointly pursue other funding for this project. Community support for this service will be helpful in advocating state funding.

GLADES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP

A survey of social service programs is being conducted under contract to the County. The contract of the heritage coordinator, Sandy Mercer, has been renewed.

EDGE CENTER

Mr. Seibert stated that they continue to seek self sufficiency through alternative funding sources.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 22 at Belle Glade City Hall.