

## **Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)**

**Meeting of February 28, 2002**

**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Belle Glade City Hall – Conference Room “B”**

### **Minutes**

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#### **Present at the meeting:**

Sue A. Bailey, Commissioner Tony Masilotti's Office  
Craig Bencz, P.B.C. Planning  
Doug Chozianin, Construction Arts Associates  
Douglas Green, Workforce Development Center  
Arthur Kirstein, IV, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension  
Ruth Moguillansky, P.B.C. Planning  
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office  
Wendell W. Phillips, P.B.C. Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Ken Schenck, City of Pahokee  
Carl Siebert, E.D.G.E. Center  
Vicki Silver, City of South Bay  
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing and Community Development  
Barbara Spence, City of Belle Glade  
Bruce Thompson, P.B.C. School District

#### **Absent:**

Henry Bittaker and Carolyn Williams, South Florida Water Management District  
Dan Brown, Palm Beach County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
John Brown, Business Loan Fund of the Palm Beaches, Inc.  
Jerry Brownlee, Palm Beach County Library Department  
Sandra Chamblee, The Glades Health Survey  
Helen B. Franke, Palm Beach Community College  
George E. Gadson, Florida Atlantic University  
Remar Harvin, Palm Beach County Housing and Community Development  
Clayton Hutcheson, Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service  
Carol Ann Huisse, Housing Partnership  
Gwendolyn Johnson, School District of Palm Beach County  
Chris Jones, Palm Beach County Department of Public Affairs  
Stewart Karbal, Workforce Development Center  
Karis Engle and Sandy Mercer, Glades Community Development Corporation  
Ken Montgomery, Workforce Development Board

Angela Morlok, Palm Beach County Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Theresa Newton, USDA Rural Development  
Alice Thompson, Pahokee Chamber of Commerce  
Curt Thompson, Army Corps of Engineers  
Greg Vaday, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council  
Leigh Woodham, Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center, Palm Beach Community College  
Kay Zaccagnino, School District of Palm Beach County

### **Welcome and Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. Ruth Moguillansky welcomed those present, introduced herself and Craig Bencz, and asked participants to introduce themselves and discuss their view of GTAC's purpose. Most Committee members described GTAC as having a coordination, networking, and technical assistance role. Additionally, the Committee's purpose was described in the following ways:

- Carl Siebert stated that the Committee assists in avoiding duplication of efforts in the region;
- Douglas Green stated that the Committee has a role in attracting new business, as well as bringing new ideas to the region.

Ms. Moguillansky stated that the Committee could have an informal role in the future in reviewing plans affecting the Lake Region, and may also broaden its role in coordination and technical assistance activities. Ms. Moguillansky stated that it should be up to the Committee to make a decision regarding its future role and purpose.

Pam Nolan discussed the opportunity for the Committee to provide input on regional issues, and the need to place less emphasis on discussing member projects.

Ms. Moguillansky suggested that the Committee develop a mission statement and goals for adoption at the next meeting.

**Consensus reached:** There was a consensus among Committee members to move forward with developing a mission statement and goals prior to the next GTAC meeting.

### **Glades Town Hall Meetings Update**

Ms. Moguillansky provided a summary of GTAC's background and history, and provided background for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) presentation of the Glades Town Hall Meetings. She stated that after the Glades Assessment Report's presentation to the BCC, Commissioner Masilotti requested additional input on priorities in the Lake Region. In response, the Glades Community Development Corporation coordinated community town hall meetings in South Bay, Pahokee, and Belle Glade to obtain feedback on the needs and priorities of the Glades communities.

Ms. Moguillansky went on to explain that the town hall meetings produced the following three (3) regional priorities, which were presented to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on February 26, 2002:

- Regional water treatment plant;
- Jobs (Economic Development); and
- Community centers/facilities.

Ms. Moguillansky explained that per BCC direction, staff is to move forward with a water treatment study in the Glades, and is assessing its role in the development of a conceptual plan for the Glades area. On March 26, 2002, funding recommendations will be brought to the BCC, which will include funding for the Glades study.

Discussion ensued regarding the funding source for the regional water treatment plant study. Ms. Moguillansky stated that the County is funding \$100,000 of the study-approximately 50 percent of the total cost - which will be matched by South Florida Water Management District to complete the study.

Ms. Silver recommended that GTAC invite persons and organizations requiring public input to the meetings so that they can utilize the Committee's regional membership. Discussion ensued regarding the role of GTAC, including the importance of measurable accomplishments in the Committee's future efforts.

### **2002 GTAC Meeting Location and Dates**

There was a consensus of the group to meet bimonthly rather than monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month at Belle Glade City Hall, Conference Room B, from 9:30 – 11:00 am. The next Committee meeting will be held on April 25, 2002.

### **Participant Updates and Comments**

- Bill Phillips, MPO: The MPO has been working with American Heritage Railway, who will potentially be locating in South Bay. The MPO is also working on a business plan for "Black Gold Express", a steam train tourist operation that creates the potential for ancillary business/facilities that complement tourism development, such as restaurants and hotels. The business plan will be completed within the next two months.
- Douglas Greene, Workforce Development Center: The Workforce Development Center has relocated to 1085 Main Street in Belle Glade. Mr. Greene reported that he met with representatives from Meditech, a biotechnology and industrial business considering locating in South Bay.

Mr. Greene reported that over 1,000 people have enrolled in centers for training, job development, and other training offered by the Workforce Development Center.

Mr. Greene stated that there is a need for beautification efforts following the completion of demolitions in Belle Glade. He reported that S.R. 715 coming into Belle Glade is a gateway and particularly in need of beautification.

Discussion ensued, and Mr. Phillips explained the Local Agency Planning (LAP) certification process to the Committee. Mr. Phillips also discussed potential funding sources for sidewalk and transportation improvements in the Glades communities.

- Vicki Silver, City of South Bay: Ms. Silver reported that South Bay's deadline for the cottage/depot project is March 14, 2002. She also reported that funding is being researched for the development of a lakefront park. Ms. Silver went on to explain that Angie Morlok with the MPO has mapped out a potential route for a regional tourist train, and that an exhibit for the railroad cottage museum has been prepared and will be presented at public libraries in the region.
- Barbara Bell Spence, City of Belle Glade: Ms. Smith reported that the infrastructure for Belle Glade's business park would be completed within the next week. There have been discussions with businesses that may relocate to the park, and the business park's streets will be named following public input.

Ms. Spence also notified the Committee that a consortium of funding is being developed to accomplish the goals of Belle Glade's redevelopment plan. Ms. Moguillansky reminded Ms. Spence that a Finding of Necessity resolution must be passed before the County can proceed with the delegation of authority for the creation of a Community Redevelopment Agency.

Ms. Spence offered a tour of the Lake Region for new members of GTAC to familiarize them with the Lake Region.

- Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office: Ms. Nolan reported that Analytica is working on a regional business plan for the Lake Region. She went on to say that interviews were held as part of this process, and there is a consensus that a regional economic development entity is needed in the Lake Region.

Ms. Nolan stated that there are two critical concerns to redevelopment in the Lake Region. The first concern, jobs, is being addressed through the business park development, Section 108 assistance for business start-ups, and the Assistance for Small and Emerging Business grant program. Each of these programs are complementary to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) project as well as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP).

Ms. Nolan reminded the Committee that the municipalities of Belle Glade, South Bay, and Pahokee have state-designated Enterprise Zones. There will eventually be a website for the Enterprise Zone areas, which will include parcel data. Belle Glade is currently working on converting their parcel data to GIS.

Ms. Nolan stated that by mentioning that grant opportunities for businesses will be available, and that the grants are for competitive countywide funds. She stressed the need for communication with municipalities to ensure that contracts prepared subsequent to grant funding are carried out properly.

- Doug Chozianin, Construction Arts Associates: Mr. Chozianin provided the group with a short history and background of a proposed aquaponics program in Pahokee. He reported that the total cost of the project has been reduced from \$13 million to \$10.5 million, and 80% of the project has been funded. He will be looking into additional funding sources. In addition to the aquaponics project, a project has been initiated in Opa-Locka that converts hazardous wastes to usable materials. A similar project may have potential for location in Pahokee.
- Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing and Community Development: Mr. Sklar reported that new applications for the ten percent Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) set aside will be available within the next two months.
- Ken Schenck, City of Pahokee: Mr. Schenck reported that the company that leased the Pahokee marina is doing well. Also, 15 dilapidated structures are to be demolished within the next two months.

### **Questions/Comments**

Ms. Moguillansky thanked those present for their participation, and indicated that she would meet with Pam Nolan and draft a mission statement and goals for the Committee based on today's discussion. The draft mission statement will be forwarded to Committee members for review and comments.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Minutes prepared by:

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Craig Bencz, Planner II