

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of September 26, 2002

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Belle Glade City Hall – Conference Room “B”

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Douglas Green, Workforce Development Center
Barbara Spence, City of Belle Glade
Caroline Tompkins Blell, Glades Community Development Corp. (GCDC)
Doug Chozianin, Construction Arts Associates
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Planning
Felicia Everett, City of South Bay
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office
Alice Thompson, Pahokee Chamber of Commerce
June Howard, EDGE Center
Theresa Newton, USDA Rural Development
Vicki Silver, City of South Bay
Lelia Menefee, Workforce Development Center
Raoul Pierre-Louis (Representative for John Brown), Business Loan Fund
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing and Community Development

Absent:

Sue A. Bailey, Commissioner Tony Masilotti's Office
Henry Bittaker and Carolyn Williams, South Florida Water Management District
Dan Brown, Palm Beach County Convention and Visitors Bureau
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 Huysse, Housing Partnership
Gwendolyn Johnson, School District of Palm Beach County
Chris Jones, Palm Beach County Department of Public Affairs
Stewart Karbal, Workforce Development Center
Arthur Kirstein, IV, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension
Ken Montgomery, Workforce Development Board

Absent: (Cont'd)

Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation
Angela Morlok, Palm Beach County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Ken Schenck, City of Pahokee
Carl Siebert, E.D.G.E. Center
Bruce Thompson, P.B.C. School District
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 9:45 a.m. Duane Gainer welcomed those present. Mr. Gainer explained that he would like the meeting to again focus on defining GTAC's role.

Mr. Gainer went on to request comments and corrections for the committee minutes from the May 23, 2002 meeting. There was one correction to the minutes on page 3, paragraph 4 – Their suggestion should be incorporated. It was moved that the minutes be approved and seconded.

Review and Discussion of Committee Role and Tasks

Ms. Spence stated it was mentioned in the minutes that GTAC should be focusing on the Glades Tier. She stated it was her understanding the Glades Tier involves focusing mostly on the unincorporated. Mr. Gainer responded that the tier work was just a suggestion of what GTAC could play a major role in. He also confirmed that the County only has authority over unincorporated Palm Beach County. Ms. Spence inquired that if GTAC is to focus on the Glades Tier, there should be more of an effort to recruit others from the unincorporated areas. Someone responded that the group was to provide Mr. Gainer with a list of people to contact, so that they will be included, in addition to any information pertaining to the Glades Tier. Mr. Gainer responded that some people did not agree that the responsibility for tier development should be assigned to GTAC. Discussion continued with concerns and policies & regulations regarding the Glades Tier.

Mr. Gainer gave a brief summary of why and how the Glades Tier was created. Someone intervened by inquiring how do you do the outreach in those unincorporated areas. She feels that GTAC's only responsibility is to provide assistance to the residents. Pam Nolan stated that the Glades Tier could follow the same process as the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT).

Each area needs to select a leader to attend the GTAC meetings. Discussion continued regarding a neighborhood leaders training program called REAP (Resident Education to Action Program) being provided by the CCRT. Mr. Gainer proceeded to explain the CCRT process for identifying CCRT areas and how CCRT operate as a team. Someone inquired that in order for GTAC to survive and be well attended, GTAC has to do something for the community in helping make it a more enjoyable place to live. The Neighborhood Partnership Grant is only available for unincorporated areas to apply. Therefore is GTAC responsible for identifying those areas? Michael Sklar responded that HCD did a six (6) year study for identifying unincorporated areas as low-to-moderate income areas. There needs to be someone within the communities who is willing to step forward and organize the community. Someone asked what could the committee do to assist the neighborhoods in selecting a group leader. Mr. Gainer stated that one of the roles of GTAC was to inform the County of what is going on in the Glades, as well as inform the Glades communities of what the County is doing and what programs are available.

Mr. Green commended Vicki Silver for her years of leadership. There were such things achieved such as the committee constantly spoke about Palm Tran, extending roadways, and Pam Nolan was an asset in achieving certain goals. He commented that GTAC's leadership is very important and should be a committed position. His view is that if GTAC is to continue to be functional, goals need to be set within timeframes. The public needs to see that something is being projected and accomplished. Mr. Green inquired if Mr. Gainer had contacted the three gentlemen from each city. Mr. Gainer responded not yet, but he did speak to them at a follow-up meeting of the Town Hall meetings. Mr. Gainer responded to Mr. Green's comment pertaining to GTAC leadership by saying that he felt that is one of the most important things GTAC needs to re-establish. Mr. Gainer said that his responsibility to GTAC is different than the responsibilities that Vicki had, and that the leadership of the group must come from the group. He suggested that they start thinking about the leadership structure or a possible chairperson (maybe Vicki).

Someone inquired regarding the latest phase of areas of hope. She feels that top priorities for these areas needs to be established. Also the committee needs to establish an Agenda for each meeting. Mr. Gainer stated that he is here to provide staff support to the committee, such as minutes typed and mailed, and scheduling meeting room for monthly meetings. The GTAC group responsibility is to establish an Agenda, and set priority items to be worked on.

Someone had a suggestion for members to volunteer to act as liaison for some of these outlining areas and work with Mr. Gainer to setup meetings in these areas to present the Glades Tier Project and explain the purpose. The objective is to find out from the residents what they feel their needs are in the community. This will be a basis for an agenda of activities. Mr. Gainer stated that everyone

seems to agree on the above suggestion and he believes the group would like to continue to meet. Discussion ensued on how to go about encouraging a neighborhood's interest in participating in neighborhood projects.

Participant Updates and Comments

Doug Chozianin stated that he is working on two (2) projects in the Glades area:

- 1) Pahokee Aquaphonics Growth Plans – will create lots of jobs. Received 80% of the funding; without the other 20% the program cannot move forward. Received \$8 million out of \$10 million that is needed; and
- 2) Plasma Pyrolysis & Verification - generate electricity and getting rid of hazardous material. Plasma - hot gas 11,000 degree centigrade hotter than the sun. Pyrolysis – breaking up of harmful compounds into individual elements. Verification – turning those harmful compounds into glass. He attended the EPA, in Washington, DC, and they love the system. He does not want this information leaked out because he does not want it to be copied. Tires and hazardous waste helps generate these elements. He further discussed this program with the group.

Additional reports were received from Vicki Silver, C. Bell, D. Green, B. Spence, A. Thompson, J. Howard, M. Sklar.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Next Meeting 10/31/02 at 9:30 am.

Minutes prepared by:

Duane R. Gainer, Senior Planner

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