

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of May 22, 2003

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Belle Glade City Hall – Commission Chambers

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Duane Gainer, P.B.C. PZ&B, Planning Division
Tameka Wilson, P.B.C. PZ&B, Planning Division
Angela Morlock, MPO
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown)
Denny Abbott, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance

Absent:

Sue A. Bailey, Commissioner Tony Masilotti's Office
Caroline Tompkins-Blell, Glades Community Development Corp. (GCDC)
Ralph Butts, City of Belle Glade
Doug Chozianin, Construction Arts Associates
Steve Cramer, Metropolitan Planning Organization
Felicia Everett, City of South Bay
Douglas Green, City of Belle Glade, Workforce Development Center
June Howard, EDGE Center
Kelly Johnson, Glades Initiative
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District
Lelia Menefee, Workforce Development Center
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Wendell Phillips, P.B.C. Metropolitan Planning Organization
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)
Barbara Spence, City of Belle Glade
Andrea Stephenson, Glades Initiative
Alice Thompson, Pahokee Chamber of Commerce
Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation
Kay Zaccagnino, P.B.C. School District

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Gainer introduced Tameka Wilson, FAU Masters Program, Intern for Planning Division. He informed the group that Alejandro Ulloa resigned. Next the group introduced themselves.

Mr. Gainer asked if anyone had corrections to April's minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes. Mr. Gainer commented regarding the comment made at last month's meeting about GTAC attendance. Mr. Gainer stated that he e-mailed Sue Bailey, Commissioner Masilotti's office, GTAC's last two (2) months minutes. Also, he stated in reference to last month's meeting, his response was correct regarding the CCRT funding as opposed to the Neighborhood Partnership Grant funding. Mr. Gainer discussed both programs with the group.

Review and Discussion of Committee Role and Tasks

Mr. Gainer brought a map of the Glades for review. The map is color-coded and shows the industrial, commercial, conservation, single-family homes, density, and municipality areas. He stated that the CCRT program was established to focus efforts and resources on residential neighborhoods in unincorporated Palm Beach County that are in need of stabilization and/or revitalization. The map is a start in helping identify municipality and unincorporated areas in the Glades. One of his major tasks is to reassess all of the neighborhoods. Mr. Gainer briefly explained the reassessment process. Discussion ensued on whether certain areas were within municipalities or in unincorporated county.

Members inquired about the criteria used in selecting CCRT areas. Mr. Gainer responded that crime, income levels, infrastructure deficiencies (water, drainage, sewer, roads, sidewalks, septic tanks), streetlights, and the need for recreational facilities are some of the criteria used in selecting CCRT areas.

Denny Abbott inquired if each criteria used carried the same weight. Mr. Gainer responded he is in the process of weighing each criterion to be considered in the reassessment process. Mr. Abbott further commented that he finds it very hard to believe that the Glades is ranked second because the Glades has a 17% unemployment rate, which is far higher than any place in the County; the infrastructure (water) is far worst than any other area in the County; and the crime rate is significantly high. Mr. Gainer talked about each of the above-mentioned criteria to be used in the CCRT area reassessment process. He stated that the area reassessment process should be completed by the end the summer. He feels very good about the report. His concern is that each area is treated fairly.

Mr. Gainer inquired if anyone is aware if the water utility statements show the area as municipality or unincorporated. No one knew if the statements included that information.

Angela Morlock asked who submits the projects. Mr. Gainer responded that each Department and resident representatives make recommendations for the CCRT projects based on pre-established criteria. The CCRT then reaches consensus as a group and makes a recommendation of the projects to the BCC for approval. She requested a list of the different Departments to contact for funding information. In addition, she requested a list of projects proposed for the past five (5) years from each Department. She feels that the City and County Departments should meet, so that the City may have input on what projects are priority. Mr. Gainer talked about each Departments involvement in completing projects.

Ms. Morlock stated that last week, she gave a presentation at the Rotary Club in Pahokee. She noticed there is a lack of knowledge about the different programs and funding. Ms. Morlock commented that GTAC should be a place where we can learn from each other. GTAC is a great avenue for communication. In order to use this group, we need to get the cities knowledgeable in working with the County, so that some of the projects in the Glades can move ahead. Discussion ensued about past attendance and present attendance at the GTAC meetings.

Mr. Gainer stated that Jennifer Stein Pellechio, from the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC), contacted him about a maintenance agreement needing to be signed between Palm Beach County and SFRPC. Discussion ensued regarding whether the City or the County would be the contact entity for signing the agreement. Ms. Morlock stated that Jennifer could contact her regarding the agreement.

Participant Updates and Comments

Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown) reported on the following:

- They have a lot of money for the Glades regarding businesses. He is seeking interested applicants to apply. The program is for new businesses or to expand a business.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that he would be coordinating the NPG Workshop on May 27th in the Glades area.

Ms. Morlock mentioned that she is involved with the Student Locomotive Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Next meeting is on June 26, 2003 at 9:30 am.

Minutes prepared by:

Joyce Harrell, Secretary
P.B.C. PZ&B, Planning Division

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