

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of September 25, 2003

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Belle Glade City Hall – Commission Chambers

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Douglas Green, City of Belle Glade, Workforce Development Center
Bret Baronak, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Denny Abbott, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance
Dale Erickson, Lyn-Dales Fruit, Canal Point
Roswell Harrington, Sam's Investment, Canal Point

Absent:

Sue A. Bailey, Commissioner Tony Masilotti's Office
Debbie Blauvelt, Glades Community Development Corporation
Caroline Tompkins-Blell, Glades Community Development Corp. (GCDC)
Ralph Butts, City of Belle Glade Community Development
Doug Chozianin, Construction Arts Associates
Steve Cramer, Metropolitan Planning Organization
Felicia Everett, City of South Bay
June Howard, EDGE Center
Kelly Johnson, Glades Initiative
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown)
Lelia Menefee, Workforce Development Center
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District
Angela Morlock, Metropolitan Planning Organization
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
Tameka Wilson, P.B.C. PZ&B, Planning Division
Kay Zaccagnino, P.B.C. School District

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Gainer introduced himself. He stated that currently he is working in the Planning Division's County-wide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) but as of October 1st The Revitalization staff will be assigned to the Office of Community Revitalization (OCR). The Office of Community Revitalization will be under the direction of Edward Lowery, Manager. The OCR will be expanding what basically the CCRT has been doing, which has been mostly residential. The new philosophy will be to look at commercial, infill, economic development or whatever it takes to revitalize the neighborhood. Mr. Gainer introduced Bret Baronak, Sr. Planner. Mr. Baronak stated that he would be coordinating all of the above-mentioned components for the new focus CCRT areas. Mr. Gainer asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Review of Minutes (April 24, 2003 Meeting)

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the minutes. No corrections.

Discussion – CCRT Focus Areas Study

Mr. Gainer briefly explained the Sr. Planner's functions prior to him being hired and his current assigned duties and responsibilities. He was told that he would not be entirely devoted to the Glades and that he would also be working with Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, & etc., and District 1 (North Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens & Jupiter). He would continue to be the contact person or staff liason for GTAC. Mr. Gainer proceeded by giving a brief history on GTAC. GTAC was established years ago to be a regional group that would represent all of the Glades. GTAC's purpose is to be the vehicle by which the County would keep the Glades people informed of County programs and the Glades would keep the County people informed of the Glades issues and needs. Every year the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) look for a report from the GTAC Committee on what happened, what didn't happen, what they wanted to happen, what was going wrong, and what needed more attention. Ms. Silver prepared this report called the Glades Assessment Report. The BCC approved the report in February 2001. One of the things that the Comp Plan did when the County looked at the Managed Growth Tier System is it was decided that the Glades Tier should be developed separately dealing just with the Glades and the Glades issues. He was hired to be the lead person for this assignment. When the Planning Division looked at the Managed Growth Tier System again, it was decided to place the Glades Tier under another section (Long-Term Planning Section) in the Planning Division. Mr. Etim Udoh, Sr. Planner was hired and has been working with the Glades Tier Project. Mr. Gainer stated that prior to Mr. Udoh coming on board, he wrote in the plan that GTAC would oversee and discuss policies prior to submittal to the Planning Division. He further stated that

his responsibility is to staff the GTAC meetings and do whatever they need him to do. A Chairperson should be nominated to facilitate the GTAC Meetings.

Mr. Gainer discussed the process of the CCRT Focus Areas Study and Recommendations Report with the group. He stated that a total of 104 areas were identified during the reassessment process. Some data was missing from the Glades area portion of the report. Toward the end of the process, it was determined that the areas could be divided into three Types of areas, A, B, and C. Type A requires more assistance than B, B requires more than C, etc. There were Type A and Type B areas in the east and west. The Glades had three Type A areas. The following three Type A (3) areas were selected for the CCRT to focus on next: 1) Canal Point (Glades), 2) Kenwood Estates (Lake Worth), and 3) Wallis Road West/Southern Boulevard Pines (between Haverhill & Jog Road).

Mr. Roswell Harrington stated that about ten years ago, a charrette was done that covered some of the wishes and dreams of Canal Point. The biggest problem with Canal Point is broken promises. For example: the water system. The water system in canal point extends a mile north of Mr. Erickson's property (Lyn-Dales Fruit. Canal Point is a linear town. It runs north and south along St. Rd. 715. He stated that Mr. Erickson still has a 4-inch asbestos line sitting in the front of his property, which was suppose to be replaced but they ran out of money. The looping of the water system has not been completed. **Another example: the Fire Department. He was the last person of the Canal Point Alliance Club, which started the Volunteer Fire Department, in Canal Point. He and Mr. Erickson both were volunteers for the Volunteer Fire Department. It was promised, that when Pahokee took over the Fire Department, Canal Point was going to be getting a new fire station. Instead, Pahokee sold the land where the fire station was going to be built. Every thing was set up but Pahokee never had the 40% to put in for their part. The land is now being leased. Mr. Erickson commented that if the new fire station had been built, he would have been two (2) miles within the new fire station. Now he is over five (5) miles from the fire station. There is no fire hydrant within $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of his property and this has an impact on insurance. The water line connects here.**

Mr. Erickson stated that Pam Nolan's, Economic Development Department has been very helpful with his business. He was able to increase the number of employees from 2 to 9 full-time employees.

Mr. Gainer responded to the fire station issue. Nothing has been mentioned at the CCRT Meetings from the CCRT Fire Department Representative regarding this issue. Mr. Gainer invited them to attend the CCRT Meetings where these types of issues are discussed.

Mr. Douglas Green commented that he has visited the Erickson property. As far as he can recall, this has been an ongoing problem for years. He feels the best way to handle this issue would be for both Pahokee and Canal Point to get together and solicit the Commissioners involvement with this issue. One fire station cannot serve both cities.

Mr. Gainer expressed a concern with getting the Commissioners, Mayors, and City Managers support at the GTAC Meetings. There are big issues in the Glades. He presented the idea of sending letters to these people with Patrick Rutter, Chief Planner, Planning Division. Now that Revitalization is no longer under the Planning Division, he will bring it to the new Office of Community Revitalization Manager's attention. In the near future, Bret Baronak will be working with the Canal Point residents in appointing a Community Representative to attend the CCRT Meetings.

Someone felt that until you get some political involvement in this process, you might as well forget it. The GTAC Meetings are held in the Belle Glade City Hall and there is no representation from the City of Belle Glade at the GTAC Meetings.

Someone inquired about the status of the Glades Tier. Mr. Gainer responded that the policy is not nearly ready. Discussion ensued about updating the policies for the Glades Tier.

Mr. Green commented regarding the following identified CCRT areas: Canal Point, Fremd Village, Padgett Island & 715 Avenue "L". He is a member of the Weed & Seed Program, which does revitalization also. The GTAC Committee should work more closely with the Weed & Seed Program. Mr. Gainer responded that the Weed & Seed Program attends the CCRT Meetings. Mr. Green stated that 4th through 6th Streets area definitely want more revitalization than Avenue "L". The Avenue L" Street consists of mostly businesses, car dealerships, etc. Mr. Gainer asked if 4th through 6th Streets are incorporated or unincorporated areas. Mr. Green responded they have met the criteria of the Weed & Seed Program. Discussion ensued regarding the activity in those areas.

Mr. Harrington gave Mr. Gainer a copy of the charrettes document to read and he could contact him if he had any questions. Mr. Bret Baronak commented that he would like to schedule an informal meeting to talk about water, sewer, fire department, and other county issues.

Mr. Harrington inquired about the Glades Tier. Mr. Gainer told him to contact Lorenzo Aghemo, Director, Planning Division.

Mr. Gainer stated that if there were no other questions or comments the meeting is adjourned.

Participant Updates and Comments

No participants updates.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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