

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of October 23, 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
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Felicia Everett, City of South Bay
Roswell Harrington, Sam's Investment, Canal Point
Lillie Latimore, City Manager, Pahokee

Absent:

Denny Abbott, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance
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
Dale Erickson, Lyn-Dales Fruit, Canal Point
Douglas Green, City of Belle Glade, Workforce Development Center
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
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 welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce himself or herself.

Review of Minutes (9/24/03 Meeting)

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections.

Group Discussion

The meeting began with Ms. Latimore inviting everyone to attend a Legislative meeting on November 12th in Belle Glade. Ms. Latimore stressed that she is seeking serious and concerned people to address issues in the Glades. Mr. Harrington stated that he is one of the reasons that the sewer line is being placed in Canal Point. Ms. Nolan commented that the project is almost on its way. She is waiting on the State Appropriation document. Mr. Gainer commended Pam Nolan for doing such a good job and getting things done.

Mr. Gainer briefly commented on the New CCRT Area Funding Recommendations Report in regards to District 6. He distributed copies of the report. The CCRT will go to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on December 16th for approval. The CCRT gave funds toward the initial study for the Canal Sewer Project in Canal Point. Pam Nolan commented that there were two (2) studies, totaling \$14,000.

In the Glades prior to the planning departments Focus Areas Study, there were three (3) CCRT areas, Canal Point, Okeechobee Center/Fremd Village, and Padgett Island. In the new assessment report, it shows six (6) areas, Avenue "L", 715 Mobile Home Park, and Royal Palm Way/NW 17th Street, as well as the original three. As a result of the new assessment study of neighborhoods, three (3) areas (out of 104 countywide) were selected to focus on next: Kenwood Estates, Wallis Street West/S. Blvd. Pines, and Canal Point. Staff will meet with the neighborhoods for suggestions about what they would like to see happen in their neighborhood. Last year, the Board allocated \$2.5 million and this year the Board increased the funds to \$2.9 million. At the bottom of the report, he reviewed three (3) new programs to be implemented:

- 1) Business Facade Improvement Program - \$100,000 startup money; \$5,000 per business;
- 2) NPG Program – Funded \$225,000 – Neighborhood groups, formalized or in formalized, come together requesting up to \$20,000 per project.
- 3) New Focus Areas. This is preliminary funding for start-up projects.

Ms. Latimore inquired if this was just for unincorporated. Mr. Gainer stated yes, and no. Ms. Everett asked Mr. Gainer if he would provide a description of these programs. Mr. Gainer responded, yes.

Pam Nolan inquired if it was possible for South Bay and Pahokee to apply for the NPG program. Mr. Gainer stated, yes.

Mr. Roswell Harrington will be meeting with the Canal Point community to discuss some ideas they may want to see happen. Mr. Gainer also suggested that Mr. Harrington contact Patrick Rutter at (561) 233-5300 regarding a previous concern.

Participant Updates and Comments

Roswell Harrington reported on the following:

- United Sugar Corporation – informed employees residing on the property located in the community of Bryant (the oldest community in the Glades) that they would have to move by May 15, 2004. The buildings are going to be demolished, including the church and the auditorium. Mr. Harrington talked about the Rosenwald Foundation. The foundation was involved in education during the early years for Blacks. Discussion ensued regarding the effect the United Sugar Corporation's decision will have on Canal Point. He talked about issues with the Land Use Codes regarding Canal Point. He also talked about the Glades Tier Policies.

Group discussion ensued regarding Pahokee, and Canal Point annexing. He mentioned that Commissioner Greene is sponsoring a tour on October 31st of all the municipalities in her district. The County can still only put money basically in unincorporated areas; except with maybe the understanding of possible annexation. Ms. Everett commented that the City of South Bay does not have unincorporated areas. The city is in need of money.

Pam Nolan reported on the following:

- State Appropriation Funds – funding information is missing on the report. On November 12th, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. a meeting is being held in Belle Glade.

Mr. Harrington commented that we couldn't build anything in Canal Point without the sewage system. Mr. Harrington gave a brief history on the water plant in Canal Point. Ms. Latimore stated that one of the things she will be doing is evaluating the water system starting November 1st. Mr. Harrington and Ms. Latimore agreed to meet and discuss this issue.

Ms. Nolan mentioned an article about rural success growing in the Glades. How did these programs help this area: workforce, doing a business plan for the area, and the EDGE Center. They have had good success through the program.

Mr. Harrington inquired about the next CCRT meeting. Mr. Gainer responded that the meetings are held the first Monday of each month. Mr. Harrington asked if the CCRT could have a meeting in the Glades. Mr. Gainer stated he would bring this suggestion to the next CCRT meeting. He explained what the CCRT meetings consist of and what it does. Ms. Latimore stated that she is looking for support for businesses.

Mr. Harrington commented that there use to be a statewide organization for world water development or small water plants or facilities. Ms. Nolan commented there is such an organization. It is called the Rural Water Association.

Mr. Gainer stated that although he is no longer involved with the Glades Tier Project, he was asked if there were any issues to bring forth to the Legislative Group regarding the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. He is still the contact person but he has not heard anything. The Scenic Trail is requesting \$2.5 million from Tallahassee. Mr. Harrington stated that at Triangle Park, the restrooms needs to be hooked up because this is the only public restroom on this side of the canal. Discussion ensued regarding if the municipalities are going to benefit from this because there are things that the municipalities are going to have to do. Mr. Harrington mentioned the Pahokee Charrette and the Pelican River Trail is where you are supposed to pull people off. Mr. Gainer stated that he has a report on this dated 1995. Ms. Everett asked Mr. Gainer to send her a copy. Discussion ensued regarding all the charrette documents. Mr. Harrington stated that Alice Thompson would be the contact person.

Mr. Gainer asked Felicia Everett if she had anything to report. Mr. Everett commented that she is seeking funds. Ms. Everett commented that she had prepared a wish list. Mr. Gainer asked her for a copy of the list.

Again, Ms. Nolan commented that they are having problems with the Market Depot Project. She inquired about funds to assist with completion of the project. Mr. Gainer responded there maybe some facade money available through the Business Improvement Grant Program. He stated that he would like for her to bring this to the CCRT and also to bring the question whether unincorporated or not for any of the grant programs (NPG, Home Beautification/Home Rehab). Ms. Nolan also inquired about the status of the Market Depot Project in the Glades. Ms. Everett responded that she does not know what transpired with the project. The project was already started when

she started working there. Ms. Everett mentioned that the next project proposed is the South Bay Marina, a \$2.2 million dollar project. Discussion ensued regarding activity involving both projects. Discussion ensued regarding solving issues with completing the Market Depot Project.

The group decided not to meet again until January 2004.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Minutes prepared by:

Joyce Harrell, Secretary
P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

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