

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

**Meeting of March 25, 2004**

**9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Belle Glade City Hall – Commission Chambers**

## **Minutes**

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

Debby Blauvelt, Glades Community Development Corporation  
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development  
Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade (Representative for Barbara Spence)  
April Warren, P.B.C. PZ&B  
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

### **Absent:**

Denny Abbott, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance  
Sue A. Bailey, Commissioner Tony Masilotti's Office  
Caroline Tompkins-Blell, Glades Community Development Corp. (GCDC)  
Ralph Butts, City of Belle Glade Community Development  
Doug Chozianin, Construction Arts Associates  
Dale Erickson, Erickson Farms  
Felicia Everett, City of South Bay  
Joe Glucksman, Florida Housing Corporation  
Douglas Green, City of Belle Glade, Workforce Development Center  
Roswell Harrington, Sam's Investment Corporation  
June Howard, EDGE Center  
Kelly Johnson, Glades Initiative  
Lillie Latimore, City Manager, Pahokee  
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown)  
Lelia Menefee, Workforce Development Center  
Sandy Mercer, Canal Point Citizen  
Matt Mills, City of Belle Glade

**Absent:** (Cont'd)

Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District  
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)  
Andrea Stephenson, Glades Initiative  
Clifford Stuart, Stuart Farm  
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 9:30 a.m. Mr. Gainer welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce herself or himself.

**Review of Minutes (January '04 Meeting)**

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the February 26<sup>th</sup> minutes. There were no corrections.

**Participant Updates and Comments**

**Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:**

- Neighborhood Partnership Grant (NPG) – The program is limited to community beautification projects for up to \$20,000. The deadline for submitting applications is May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Pam Nolan inquired whether OCR was organizing the community outreach going on in Canal Point. Mr. Gainer stated that William Wynn, of OCR, is involved with a visioning process for Canal Point. William Wynn commented that he and Bret Baronak are working on a visioning charette process to be implemented in Canal Point. They will be meeting with the community very soon.

Ms. Nolan commented that her office, Economic Development, and County Engineering is trying to assist with the sewer in Canal Point. Mr. Wynn inquired if there was an issue with the funding for the project. Ms. Nolan discussed the funding requests for the residential part and two (2) appropriation requests for the project. The total project cost is \$1.6 million. She further mentioned the departments that have assisted with the funding of Canal Point Sewer Project.

## **Participant Updates and Comments** Cont'd

Mr. Gainer commented that the OCR staff did an analysis and came up with 104 CCRT areas that showed a need for revitalization or redevelopment. The CCRT has selected to focus on three (3) of those areas: Canal Point, Kenwood Estates, and Wallace Street West area. Bret Baronak, of OCR staff, submitted a grant to Treasure Coast Regional Planning to implement a visioning charette process for the Kenwood Estates area. As a result of this, OCR received a grant for \$10,000. Mr. Baronak and Mr. Wynn are working together on this project for Kenwood Estates. Ms. Nolan asked to be informed about the meetings regarding the visioning process for Canal Point. She is interested in attending.

Ms. Nolan discussed in detail the construction process for the sewer project. She commented that the project would take approximately a little over two (2) years to complete.

Ms. Nolan mentioned the School Board property; which is an old historic school (Elementary School) on five (5) acres in Canal Point. One of the stipulations in order to purchase the property is the property has to remain for educational purposes. The group had a concern about why the property is not being used. Discussion ensued about what might be going on with the property. The group feels, since the property is located in downtown Canal Point, this is a good location.

### **Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade (Repr. for Barbara Spence), reported on the following:**

- Relay For Life – An event will be held on Friday, and Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Infill Housing – consists of 22 homes; 14 of the homes are under Noah, and 8 are individual properties.
- Looking for a site to place townhouses.
- Abajon Estates (single-family housing) – Groundbreaking on April 9<sup>th</sup> (behind Winn Dixie Plaza, 900 S. Maine Street).
- Completing two (2) replacement houses for clients.
- Still working on emergency housing. They just completed a house.

Pam Nolan inquired if whether there were any plans for the commercial area in the CRA. She responded, she does not know. Mr. Gainer asked for an update on the CRA from Barbara Spence.

Ms. Nolan asked if Jimmy Beeno is still the City Manager. Ms. Jackson responded, yes, Jimmy Beeno is the Acting City Manager and he has resigned. The new City Manager is Mr. Houston Tate.

## **Participant Updates and Comments** (Cont'd)

**Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), reported on the following:**

- Extension of bus transportation for the Clewiston/Belle Glade area will be extended to the Winn Dixie Plaza on State Road 80. Hopefully by the summer, the route should be in place.
- Working with District 1, Clewiston, Glades to Sebring. A study was completed to get bus transportation connections to those areas. Another concern is for the people that may be employed by Scripps and that may not have transportation. This will also be a great service for those people. There is talk about putting tri-rail in the area.
- Steam Locomotive – She was invited to Mark Foley's office and she met his staff. He is very well versed with the projects. She spoke with The Work Force Alliance, and the Business Development Board about the meeting, and they will be sending a letter to Mark Foley's office looking forward to his support and interaction in helping move this project forward. Working with South Bay to schedule the tri-city meeting with the three (3) cities; along with other County officials. This project will bring jobs for the area. Ms. Morlock mentioned that an area in Pennsylvania did a similar project with putting in a rail and steam locomotive. It brought tourist, and businesses to the area, such as hotels, etc.

**Debby Blauvelt, Glades Community Development Corporation, reported on the following:**

- Rehabilitation of old Belle Glade City Hall (next to the old fire station) – most of their time is being spent on this project. The building was built in 1929 and has been vacant for many years. The City of Belle Glade leased the building to GCDC for fifty (50) years. Before GCDC can move into the building, it needs to be completely renovated. She discussed the funding for the project. Hopefully the building will be ready by the end of this year or the beginning of 2005. She also discussed the programs that will be offered. The total project cost is estimated at \$500,000 to \$600,000. Ms. Blauvelt discussed getting local contractors involved with working on the project.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that at the March 1st CCRT Meeting, the Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) invited Ms. Wanda Gadson, with the Community Financing Consortium, Inc., to give a presentation informing the group about what the organization had to offer. Mr. Gainer invited attendees of the GTAC meeting to come to future CCRT meetings. OCR is inviting a speaker to do a presentation each month.

## **Participant Updates and Comments** (Cont'd)

### **Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:**

- Economic Set-a-Side Program – is coming up. The program is for businesses and is handled by Housing & Community Development. The contact person is Michael Sklar, with HCD, at 233-3623 or Clement Clark.

### **Group Discussion**

Mr. Gainer mentioned that OCR has a quarterly newsletter, which should be distributed soon. He will place GTAC attendants on the mailing list to receive a copy.

Mr. Gainer commented on the addressing system. This was an issue at the February GTAC meeting. He briefly mentioned some of the issues with FPL, Fire Rescue, and residents of the Glades area.

April Warren commented that in 1999, she and others went into the Canal Point area and assigned every resident an address on the County addressing grid. It took many visits. They placed notices on door handles for the residents to respond by acknowledging whether they received the new address. The group communicated with, sent copies of maps and all the information was sent to FP&L, Bell South, Post Office, and 911. The information was coordinated with the Property Appraisers Office to make sure all the site address was correct. Discussion ensued about what was mentioned at the February GTAC meeting and what systems used in other neighborhoods to place addresses for Fire Rescue and the Post Office. It was mentioned that most of the residents are using P.O. Boxes.

Ms. Warren commented that if the community is willing to discuss it, she is willing to come and answer any questions and do what she can.

Mr. Gainer commented that he would follow up on how the 911 system works with being connected to the Bell South telephone book. Discussion ensued about the 911 system. Ms. Warren commented she would touch basis with Mr. Gainer on this.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Gainer stated that if there are no other questions or comments, the meeting is adjourned. The next meeting will be on April 22, 2004.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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