

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of May 27, 2004

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Belle Glade City Hall – Commission Chambers

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Kathleen Cole, P.B.C. Human Services (Belle Glade)
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade, Community Development (Representative
for Barbara Spence)
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Alan Schafner, CEO, EDGE
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Absent:

Denny Abbott, Employer Services Executive, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance
Debby Blauvelt, Glades Community Development Corporation
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
Kelly Johnson, Glades Initiative
Lillie Latimore, City Manager, Pahokee
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown)
Sandy Mercer, Canal Point Citizen
Matt Mills, City of Belle Glade
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Absent: (Cont'd)

Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural Development
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

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. Mr. Gainer welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce herself or himself.

Review of Minutes (April '04 Meeting)

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

Participant Updates and Comments

Duane Gainer, Office of Community Revitalization, reported on the following:

- Kenwood Estates Visioning Charrette Process - Kenwood Estates is one of the three CCRT areas selected and approved by the Board to focus on: Kenwood Estates, Canal Point, and Wallis Street West.

William Wynn commented that OCR received a grant for \$10,000 from Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council spent a week in the area (Kenwood Estates Neighborhood) to find out the things needed and wanted by the community. Once the analysis was completed, two (2) community meetings were held on May 15th and May 21st displaying videos, pictures, and maps showing these things and Treasure Coast's ideas of what Kenwood Estates should look like in the future. Mr. Wynn further mentioned the visioning process for Canal Point and Wallis Street West areas.

Pam Nolan commented that the visioning plans and designs proposed for the community should be realistic. A discussion ensued regarding the importance of coming up with attainable plans and having a realistic approach. The group discussed that they sense the resident's frustration. The group discussed other charrettes that were done in the past. Mr. Schafler had a concern about what are the next steps involved in

implementing the plans/recommendations for the community, once the design and the plans have been proposed. The group feels the problem is there is no follow up on any of the plans or studies done for the Glades area.

At this point, Mr. Gainer continued his report for OCR.

- Home Beautification Program – The program will go before the BCC for approval on June 8th. This program is designed to give funds to different agencies to do minor repairs. The program's goal is to make a visual impact in the neighborhood immediately. Each homeowner could qualify for up to \$3,000, which would be for landscaping, exterior doors, windows, exterior painting, driveway repairs, and fencing repairs.
- Officer Next Door Program – This program is for law enforcement officers that would like to purchase or build a home in one of the designated CCRT areas. The loan amount is up to \$120,000 (low interest rate); with an additional loan up to \$30,000 (through HCD). The \$30,000 loan is not repayable if the officer remains in the home for the duration period of the first loan. The officers are required to bring home their clearly marked squad cars.

Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade, Community Development (Representative for Barbara Spence) – reported on the following:

- Currently working on the infill housing (14 houses). Construction contracts are being signed with Wachovia and Community Finance Consortium. Anticipate groundbreaking in two (2) months.
- Lake Shore Park – The project is in process. The basketball court, and tennis court needs renovating. Additionally, two (2) bathrooms will be built in the park.
- Abajon Estates (homes, shops & theatre) – Groundbreaking will be held on June 11th and the ceremony will be at the Lake Shore School.
- Hand Park – renovation will start on June 1st.
- Weed & Seed of Belle Glade – has received its designation as a weed & seed community.
- City Manager position – is still pending. Presently, Mr. Houston Tate is the Acting City Manager.
- New Chief of Police – Chief Albert Slydell is the new Chief of Police.
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William Wynn, OCR, reported on the following:

- REAP (Residents Education to Action Program) – is scheduled to be held in Belle Glade beginning September 8th for five (5) weeks. The meeting will have different presentations given during these sessions. He explained that the program was initially designed to educate the community about County government, and how to become an organized community.

Mr. Gainer commented regarding the PEACE presentation given by Rev. Duncombe at the May 3rd CCRT meeting.

Kathleen Cole, P.B.C. Human Services (Belle Glade), reported on the following:

- She commented that Human Services works with families that have an emergency or crisis, such as: losing a job, reduce from full-time hours to part-time hours, or desiring a different career to better themselves. Human Services basically works with the client in looking at their future. Most of the clients are migrant workers. Discussion ensued regarding housing, and education for the migrant workers.

Alan Schafler, CEO, EDGE Center, reported on the following:

- Main focus is helping stockbroker businesses pass the incubators.
- In the past months, their scope has been broadened to do some of the things mentioned here today and coordinating a lot of situations. They have become more active in working to bring outside businesses into the area. He will be attending a meeting with SBA (out of Miami) on Developing Outside Financial Resources. The SBA is planning to set up a western satellite office in the EDGE Center's office.
- Youth Entrepreneurship Program - will be held on next week. This will assist the youth with writing business plans, start businesses, and develop financial education. EDGE has a loan fund in the amount \$115,000 at five percent (5%). This will accomplish some things that the youth may want to do.
- A meeting was held on May 26th with Florida Housing Corporation to discuss developing their scope of work and the EDGE Center will be their local community representative to write their business plan, and monitor scheduling. Florida Housing is building an assisted living facility.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gainer stated that if there were no other questions or comments, the meeting is adjourned. The next meeting will be held on June 24, 2004. He will bring refreshments.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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