

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of July 22, 2004

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Belle Glade City Hall – Conference Room “B”

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Commissioner Mary Kendall, City of Belle Glade
Arthur Kirstein, P.B.C. Clayton Hutchinson
Edward Lowery, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural Development
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Alan Schafler, CEO, EDGE
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)
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
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
Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade, Community Development (Representative
for Barbara Spence)
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
Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural Development
Barbara Spence, City of Belle Glade, Community Development

Absent: (Cont'd)

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 9:30 a.m. Mr. Gainer welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce herself or himself.

Review of Minutes (July '04 Meeting)

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the minutes. Corrections: 1) Iris Jackson's report made should read – change New City Manager - Irma Plumer to Irma Plummer, and Infill House Groundbreaking on July 19th was changed to July 30th. 2) Pam Nolan's report made should read - Impact Fee Program - maximum is \$10,000, no more than 50% of the total impact fee for businesses; and 3) Alan Schafler's report should read – Since inception the EDGE center raised \$1,500,000 to serve clients.

Participant Updates and Comments

Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:

- Brownfields Program – Maggie Smith, Planning Division, asked him to distribute brochures on a conference coming up in Sarasota next month about Brownfields.
- Distributed copies of OCR's Quarterly Projects Progress Report.

William Wynn, OCR, reported on the following:

- REAP Program – REAP is a course given by OCR. The program was designed to inform and teach people in the community about County government. OCR thought it would be a good idea to hold a course in Belle Glade. The course will entail a five (5) week session, beginning on September 8th thru October 6th on Wednesday's from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mr. Lowery would like for Mr. Wynn to send a brochure to the churches in Belle Glade.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Ms. Nolan along with USDA will be meeting today with City Managers and Pahokee Marina to discuss some grant/loan program opportunities handled through the USDA.
- The deadline for applications for the Development Regions Program was on June 8th.
- Canal Point – On July 13th, the City of Pahokee approved the Inter-local Agreement with the County. The project will be presented to the BCC on August 17th for approval. Ms. Nolan discussed the funding for this project.

Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural Development, reported on the following:

- USDA has assisted with funding of projects or organizations in the Glades handled through the Economic Development Office.

Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD), reported on the following:

- Congratulated Elena Escovar on her promotion as Planning Manager.
- July 1st was the deadline to submit applications for the Economic Development Set-a-Side Program. Received approximately five (5) applications from the Glades.
- In the process of doing Environmental Reviews on Regular Cycle (the Community Development Block Grant Funds): Canal Point (Phase I Environmental Assessment) is one of the projects.
- In October, HCD will be opening up the regular cycle application process for '05/'06. The maximum amount that could be applied for by non-profit organizations is \$250,000; including other stipulations.

Edward Lowery, OCR, reported on the following:

- Quarterly Progress Report – This report shows current projects that OCR is involved in.
- Currently working on other brand new initiatives beginning '04/05: Neighborhood Home Beautification Program (exterior improvements); and Business Façade Assistance Program (assistance with exterior improvements to the property, and commercial signage); and Officer Next Door Program (assistance to sheriff deputies to purchase their first home; which will be in a CCRT area. You may contact Commission on Affordable Housing, Keturah Joseph at 233-3650 or 233-3660. Ms. Joseph will be initiating the application process).

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

Commissioner Mary Kendall inquired about a program that the School Board was trying to put together around the lake for teachers handled through Tony Smith's office. Mr. Lowery commented that he could not speak for Mr. Smith but he feels that Belle Glade should take the lead in trying to get this done. Mr. Lowery also stated that a presentation should be made to the Affordable Housing of Palm Beach County. He suggested that she contact Ms. Joseph and Remar Harvin, Director of HCD.

Alan Schafler, EDGE Center, reported on the following:

- Article in the Palm Beach Post – focused on the expanded role of the EDGE Center. Over the past six (6) months to one year, the EDGE Center has been conducting itself as a Regional Economic Development Center. Mr. Schafler gave examples to the group of how the organization reached out to businesses and work more proactively with the City Managers in their economic development activity.
- Funds raised in 2004 by the organization has exceeded last year by 422%.

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

Ms. Morlok commented that her area of specialty is transportation. One of her responsibilities with MPO is to work with Work Force Alliance to better improve mobility options, so that people could get to work.

- One of her success stories is putting in a bus route between Clewiston and Belle Glade approximately two (2) years ago. Also working with District One to see if that bus route could be extended.
- Tourist Train – The organization already has the equipment. She is seeking assistance with funding, etc. This project would have a great impact in the Glades.

Commissioner Kendall made a comment about traveling on State Road 80, second block south of Avenue "A", the entrance turning left into the Marathon Service Station is in need of repairing. Ms. Morlock responded that she would pass this information on.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gainer stated that if there were no other questions or comments, the meeting is adjourned. The next meeting will be held on August 26th.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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