

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

**Meeting of November 18, 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)
Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade, Community Development
Edward Lowery, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural Development
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)
Barbara Spence, City of Belle Glade, Community Development
Houston Tate, City Manager, City of Belle Glade
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 Center
Ralph Butts, City of Belle Glade Community Development
Albert Dowdell, Police Chief, City of Belle Glade
Dale Erickson, Erickson Farms
Joe Glucksman, Florida Housing Corporation
Douglas Green, City of Belle Glade, Workforce Development Center
Roswell Harrington, Sam's Investment Corporation
Mark Huggins, USDA Rural Development
Diana Hughes, City of Belle Glade
Renesheia Inman, City of South Bay
Kelly Johnson, Glades Initiative
Arthur Kirstein, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension
Lillie Latimore, City Manager, Pahokee
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown)

Absent: (Cont'd)

Sandy Mercer, Canal Point Citizen
Matt Mills, City of Belle Glade
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District
Stephanie Rice, Belle Glade Fire Dept.
Alan Schafler, CEO, EDGE
Andrea Stephenson, Glades Initiative
Clifford Stuart, Stuart Farm
Alice Thompson, Pahokee Chamber of Commerce
Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation

Welcome and Introduction

Edward Lowery began the meeting by discussing the preliminary CCRT budget for FY '05. He stated that \$250,000 was allocated for a spray park in Belle Glade. Mr. Gainer is preparing the Agenda Item, which is scheduled to go before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on December 21st.

Mr. Lowery mentioned the Hurricane Assistance Program through Palm Beach County Housing & Community Development's (HCD) SHIP Program. Over 300 applications were received from the Glades and are being processed. If you have any further questions, you may contact Ms. Keturah Joseph at 233-3660. HCD's efforts have been very successful. Mr. Remar Harvin should be commended for coming up with such a needed program.

Ms. Barbara Spence had a concern about the design plan for replacement houses through HCD's Commission on Affordable Housing Program. She inquired about a contact person to meet with about the design. Mr. Lowery stated that she should send a letter to Mr. Remar Harvin and Ms. Keturah Joseph requesting an update or requesting a meeting to address this issue.

Mr. Lowery stated that the County is concerned with the number of residents and the conditions of the mobile home parks within Palm Beach County. He is aware that quite a few mobile home parks were damaged and that residents are homeless because of the living conditions. He informed the group of an analysis that will be completed by PZ&B Planning Division as well as possibly by a private-sector consultant to see if mobile home parks are provided the same over sites as single-family homes, condos or apartment buildings. He further discussed an issue with mobile home parks being bought out by developers and people being displaced. Mr. Lowery feels this is a great opportunity for the Glades to have input in the review process. He suggested that maybe a letter is written to PZ&B Planning Division or County Administration inquiring about how the process is going and how you could get involved.

Ms. Spence expressed a similar situation relating to living conditions and stated that mobile home parks even more have code enforcement issues. Mr. Lowery commented that we needed to work together in terms of how to solve this. It would be a good idea if a plan is created giving the mobile home park property owner other alternatives to be looked at for the property. Mr. Lowery commented that CDBG, and SHIP funds cannot be used toward mobile homes. As far as home programs are concerned, they can only assist those units that have been certified by the state.

Review of Minutes (October '04 Meeting)

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

In response to a concern made at the last meeting about if there was assistance for churches that had occurred damages during the hurricane, Mr. Gainer stated that Housing & Community Development's programs funds are for homes. Mr. Lowery further commented that if the church used the building as a shelter for the residents, he believes there may have been funding made available to assist with damages.

Participant Updates and Comments

Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:

- Mr. Gainer distributed copies of the preliminary CCRT funding recommendation report for FY'05. He reviewed the report with the group.

Mr. Lowery suggested that a way to get your projects on the above-mentioned list is to attend the CCRT meetings. Also Mr. Lowery talked about leveraging dollars with other resources.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Development Regions Grant Program – The program will open on January 17th and the maximum amount is \$50,000 per project. The new applications will be on Economic Development's website in December. She informed the group that the program is for public improvement projects or a business project and/or public/private partnership. She briefly explained types of projects that would be a public improvement project. The group discussed projects that could be considered public improvement projects and gave suggestions of things that would improve the Glades. Mr. Lowery stated that OCR could assist in the future with funding. He briefly mentioned projects that OCR could provide assistance with, such as welcome signs, and streetlights.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following: (Cont'd)

- Regional Water Facility – She inquired about a contact person with the City of Belle Glade that is involved with this project. Mr. Tate responded that she could contact Ken Robinson, Utility Director and Stacy Rimes, Finance Director. Ms. Nolan further discussed funding involving this project. She mentioned that Greg Patch would be scheduling a meeting to discuss the project.

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

- Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program – received \$5 million dollars to assist small and emerging businesses. One of the criteria is that the population has to be at least fifty thousand (50,000) or less. She brought applications for the group. The group asked questions in relation to applying for the grant. Ms. Newton stated that the organization has until June 30, 2005 to show efforts toward spending the funds.

Ms. Spence inquired about the EDGE Center's involvement with the Rural Business Enterprise Grant. Mr. Tate suggested that someone from the EDGE Center be invited to give a presentation.

Houston Tate, City of Belle Glade, reported on the following:

- He is very happy to be here. The meeting is very informative. He will be meeting with staff and following up on some of the programs mentioned.

Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade, Community Development, reported on the following:

- Met with Remar Harvin, HCD, and they discussed the funds requested from HCD.
- Hispanic Festival – will be held on Saturday, November 20th.

Barbara Bell-Spence, Community Development, reported on the following:

- Still in the process of working with the County regarding the hurricane disaster relief.
- Working on the CDBG applications.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

Someone inquired about the status of completing SW 14th Street. Mr. Tate responded that the project was on the BCC consent agenda and was approved for \$85,000 for the Engineering. Mr. Houston further discussed the financial aspect involving completing this project. The total project cost is \$800,000. Mr. Lowery asked Mr. Houston to send OCR a letter, if he needed any further financial assistance to help with this project.

Ms. Jackson stated that Community Development is also working on the debris removal program.

- Still accepting applications for the In-fill Housing Program.
- Haitian/Hispanic Festival – will be held on Sunday, November 21st, 1:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.

Mr. Gainer stated that he responded by emailed to the person that inquired about the need of a daycare in the Glades. The group discussed this issue.

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

- Started the survey on the Belle Glade/Clewiston bus to see if there is a need to extend to Hendry County. She would like to give a presentation to GTAC in January.
- Working with Prime Time – this is an after school program for middle school children.
- Bus Transfer Station – this would eliminate the buses from going back and forth between the west and east coast. It will include a maintenance facility. She is looking for a location site.
- Train Locomotive – still working with the U.S. Sugar for the use of the train tracks.

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

- CDBG Applications – are now available. The deadline for submittal of applications is January 7th at 5:00p.m.

Mr. Lowery stated that OCR found additional land for the expansion of Rev. Leon Campbell Park.

Questions/Comments:

The group agreed to cancel the December meeting.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gainer stated that if there were no other questions or comments, the meeting is adjourned. The next meeting will be held on January 27th.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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