

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

**Meeting of February 24, 2005**

**9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**City Hall of Pahokee**

## **Minutes**

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

Abdul Cumber, City of Pahokee  
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Cynthia Hammond, City of South Bay  
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident  
Renesheia Inman, City of South Bay  
Arthur Kirstein, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension  
Lillie Latimore, City Manager, Pahokee  
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)  
Classie Smith, City of Pahokee Resident  
Barbara Spence, City of Belle Glade, Community Development  
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  
Mark Huggins, USDA Rural Development  
Diana Hughes, City of Belle Glade  
Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade, Community Development  
Kelly Johnson, Glades Initiative  
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown)  
Sandy Mercer, Canal Point Citizen  
Matt Mills, City of Belle Glade

**Absent:** (Cont'd)

Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District  
Stephanie Rice, Belle Glade Fire Dept.  
Andrea Stephenson, Glades Initiative  
Clifford Stuart, Stuart Farm  
Houston Tate, City Manager, City of Belle Glade  
Alice Thompson, Pahokee Chamber of Commerce  
Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation

**Welcome and Introduction**

Mr. Gainer thanked Ms. Latimore and the City of Pahokee for providing the facility to have the meeting today. He announced that the GTAC meetings would be done on a rotating basis to be held at the Glades cities. A revised schedule for the GTAC meetings was distributed. The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2005 in South Bay. Mr. Gainer asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Review of Minutes (January '05 Meeting)**

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the minutes. Pam Nolan had prior corrections to minutes and revised copies of the minutes were distributed at the meeting. Mr. Harrington had corrections on page 3, paragraph 3 – change Stewart Martin Foundation to Mott Foundation; and on page 3, paragraph 6 – change land owned by PRIDE to land leased by PRIDE.

**Participant Updates and Comments**

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

- Clewiston Belle Glade Bus – Two and one half (2 ½) years ago, 100% funding was approved by the Florida Department of Transportation. The funds will end on September 30, 2005. In December '04, a survey was done to monitor the bus route. The bus attendance is doing quite well. The route goes from Belle Glade Community College to Clewiston. She discussed her observations about her visit on the bus with the group. A report of the survey should be completed by next month. She will be meeting with the County Administrator to seek funds from both counties. Ms. Morlok answered the group's questions.

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

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

- Steam Locomotive Tourist Train – This project will create jobs. There are actually two (2) projects: Railroad Maintenance Facility, and State Railroad Museum. The American Heritage Association has agreed to be responsible for the operation of the steam locomotive. Three (3) project managers were selected to implement this project. The train could also be used as a commuter between the cities. Ms. Morlok further talked about plans regarding the train's activity and purpose.

**Alan Schafler, EDGE, reported on the following:**

- Mr. Schafler brought copies of a report on statistics of the organization since 1997. He reviewed the report (not including this fiscal year beginning in October) – They have assisted more than 500 clients in the lake region, created 52 businesses, created 107.5 jobs, and raised more than 1.5 million dollars in capital. He gave the statistics for FY 2003 and 2004. He briefly mentioned some of the programs that were created through the organization. The EDGE has a contract with Palm Beach Community College to do certifications and registrations for doing business; which they work very closely with SBA. On next Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Workshops will be held in Pahokee from 10:00a.m. 12:00p.m. & 6:00pm – 8:00p.m., on How to Start a Business and How to Raise Under \$5,000 in Capital. They also offer assistance with completing loan documents, grant documents, and business plans. The organization is in the process of creating a unique form of financial services. He further talked about plans for this program. Mr. Schafler answered the group's questions regarding jobs created, and vocational training programs.

Ms. Latimore inquired about putting together a list of all the positions, along with job descriptions, and then creating a vocational training program that would facilitate each job descriptions. Ms. Nolan suggested that she attend the meeting on Monday (Workforce Alliance & the colleges). Ms. Latimore stated that she has the meeting on her calendar.

Ms. Barbara Bell-Spence mentioned that also a meeting would be held on Saturday, at 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. at the City Hall with State Representative Taylor. The discussion will be about jobs. Also businesses will be attending that will be bringing jobs to the Glades area.

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

Ms. Nolan commented that GTAC should have representation from the Workforce Alliance and Palm Beach Community College and any other non-profit groups that have contact with the Glades. The group discussed a need for other organizations having representation at the GTAC meetings. Mr. Gainer briefly explained why GTAC was created about ten (10) years ago. Ms. Bell-Spence commented that the Glades have no direct representation on the upper level boards, such as the Economic Development Board, and the Workforce Alliance Board. There was discussion about past and present attendance and acquiring more participation at the GTAC meetings.

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

- Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail – Economic Development has requested 2.5 million for the project. She talked about the amenities involving this project.

Ms. Latimore is seeking sponsorship for an information station when entering the City of Pahokee. Arthur Kirstein suggested that she contact Army Corps of Engineers. Ms. Nolan also suggested that she contact Ray Liberti, marketing person for the Glades area (hired by Commissioner Masilotti). It was suggested that Mr. Gainer invite Mr. Liberti to speak at the GTAC meeting.

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

- New CCRT Projects (funds from completed projects that did not use all the funds) – received a request for funds from the City of Belle Glade for the Recreation Department. He is requesting that any neighborhood group or any municipality from the Glades submit your request to OCR for things that you feel would improve or would like to see happen for the Glades. Ms. Bell-Spence stated that the request submitted was for fencing, lighting, signage, and a park trail to complete the park project. Someone asked Mr. Gainer to send him a copy of the form to submit such request.
- NPG Program – The grant is for up to \$20,000 per project. This year \$225,000 was allocated for the program. There is no cash match and you don't have to be 5013C. He gave examples of past projects done. NPG applications were distributed to the group.
- Business Fascade Program – He is starting to work on the requirements and qualification for the program for the 104 CCRT areas.
- REAP Program – He stated that he would be the coordinator for the program this year.

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

### **William Wynn, OCR Staff, reported on the following:**

- Neighborhood Home Beautification Program (NHBP) – On February 15<sup>th</sup>, the Board approved the program, which will be administered by the Rebuilding Together of the Palm Beaches. The Board allocated \$225,000 for the NHBP, which will be utilized by the CCRT residential neighborhoods. There is a maximum limit of \$3,000 per house. There is no income limit. The assessed value of the property cannot be over \$125,000 and the property has to be owner occupied. He further explained the qualifications for the program. He stated that he would email the application and resident consent form to City of Pahokee, South Bay, and Belle Glade. Mr. Wynn answered the group's questions.

### **Questions or Comments:**

Mr. Harrington mentioned that the Perkins Season starts on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Nolan commented regarding assessments relating to the city's incurring an engineering expense. Her concern is getting assistance to help pay for the engineering services and assessments. The group discussed getting funds to assist with these cost.

Ms. Latimore commented regarding getting involved with different grants. Her concern is that Pahokee is under staffed, in addition to having lack of expert staff. She needs assistance with staff for capital improvement. She mentioned that she could even use an Engineer or a Planner.

Ms. Nolan stated that in addition to accomplishing having funds available, implementation is very important. She further mentioned the lack of a master development for the three (3) cities and Canal Point. If it cannot be done through Planning, we need to look at how to make the grant funds work so that they can access the funds. The group began to discuss and share ideas of resolving the issue of needing a plan in place. Ms. Nolan suggested that the group meet with Edward Lowery to discuss how to go about coming up with a plan that will facilitate the Glades with this issue.

Ms. Nolan also stated that Treasure Coast funded Mizner Park. She thought it would be a good idea to meet with Treasure Coast to discuss issues relating to funding.

**Questions or Comments:** (Cont'd)

Arthur Kirstein, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension, commented that Palm Beach County is one of the second leading nurseries in the state and 99% of them are on the eastern side of the County. We are losing approximately 20 to 30 nurseries per year; primarily because of the weather. He talked about the process of working in the unincorporated area relating to the permitting process. Mr. Gainer stated that there have been some changes made over the last three to four years that would make it easier for the unincorporated. Mr. Kirstein further stated that agriculture in the Glades brought 170 million dollars to this County. Mr. Kirstein stated that the Glades are the highest labor usage agricultural business in the United States. The group discussed the agricultural business in the Glades

The next meeting will be on March 24, 2005 in the South Bay Commission Chambers.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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