

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of March 28, 2005

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

City Hall of South Bay

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

David Broadbent, Canal Point Resident
Lt. Chris Calloway, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office/Community Policing
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident
Renesheia Inman, City of South Bay
Iris Jackson, City of Belle Glade, Community Development
Lillie Latimore, City of Pahokee
Matt Mills, City of Belle Glade
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Don Nystrom, North Dade Community Development
Thomas Padgett, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office & Canal Point Resident
Alan Schafler, CEO, EDGE
Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation
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
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)
Sandy Mercer, Canal Point Citizen
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District

Absent: (Cont'd)

Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural Development
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Stephanie Rice, Belle Glade Fire Dept.
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade, Community Development
Andrea Stephenson, Glades Initiative
Clifford Stuart, Stuart Farm
Houston Tate, City Manager, City of Belle Glade
Alice Thompson, Pahokee Chamber of Commerce

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Gainer asked everyone to introduce himself or herself. He thanked Ms. Inman and the City of South Bay for providing the facility to have the meeting today. The next meeting will be held at the Canal Point Community Center.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that he received a telephone call from Mr. Larry Caracio, Palm Beach County Code Enforcement, stating that he was referring Don Nystrom to attend the GTAC meeting. Mr. Gainer briefly talked about the Community Revitalization Office programs and assistance offered to Palm Beach County communities. Next, he asked Mr. Nystrom to speak.

Mr. Nystrom stated that North Dade Community Development had purchased thirty-six (36) units in Pahokee in an unincorporated area of Joe Luis Avenue, that they wish to make affordable housing. He mentioned that he has knowledge of other grants, and low interest loans that would assist with improvement for rural areas that were impoverish. In addition he has been communicating with Ms. Latimore for funds. He briefly mentioned some of the qualifications for applying for these grants. The organizations are looking to create jobs, affordable housing, businesses, & etc. to the Glades area. Mr. Nystrom basically talked about what is going on with the Joe Luis Avenue project. Mr. Nystrom answered questions asked by the group, which was about the property being purchased, zoning permits, and construction start date.

Review of Minutes (February '05 Meeting)

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the minutes. First correction made by Mr. Harrington on page 5 (Questions & Comments) – delete the first paragraph (referring to the Perkins Season). Second correction made by Ms. Morlock on page 3 (Steam Locomotive) – Three (3) projects: Railroad Maintenance Facility, State Railroad Museum, and Steam Locomotive.

Participant Updates and Comments

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

- A workshop was held, in conjunction with SBA, in Pahokee – There were two (2) sessions. Over sixty (60) participants attended. They had participants to follow-up on workshops regarding “Home-Based Businesses Under \$5,000”.
- Anticipating a Two Day Forum – This will be on financial services providers, including all of the county local providers.
- Continuing with the youth entrepreneurship concerning certification registration.

Mr. Gainer stated that he would be emailing Mr. Schafler and Ms. Williams information regarding the Business Facade Program for their input. This program will provide facade improvements for businesses located in the CCRT neighborhoods or adjacent to the CCRT neighborhoods. The Board allocated approximately \$200,000 for the program. He briefly explained the process of the program to the group. He stated that the program is still in the developmental stage. Mr. Gainer answered questions regarding the program.

Mr. Gainer briefly mentioned OCR Neighborhood Beautification Program, which William Wynn, OCR staff person is handling. The Solid Waste Authority is assisting with the implementation of this program. The grant is up to \$3,000 per property owner for exterior home improvements. Mr. Gainer and Mr. Wynn answered the group's questions.

Ms. Latimore announced a job training workshop coming up held by Palm Beach Community College; funded by EDGE Center. She is requesting the group's assistance with identifying subcontractors in advance for the workshop. Also they will be identifying types of jobs and skills. The next workshop meeting will be held on March 30th, at GCDC, at 3:30 p.m. She invited the group to attend the meeting.

Mr. Gainer asked David Broadbent if he had any comments. Mr. Broadbent stated that he is Vice President of the Glades Initiative seeking to do some work with medical agencies in the Glades.

Participant Updates and Comments – (Cont'd)

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

- Steam Locomotive, Museum, and Maintenance Facility – Still working on these projects. She is in the process of identifying sites for the Maintenance Facility.
- Belle Glade Clewiston Bus Route – Over the past few years, the MPO obtained a \$176,000 grant from FDOT, which will expire on September 30, 2005. She is seeking other funding to continue the bus route. Ms. Morlock discussed trying to get the route expanded into some of the other cities; Palm Beach County to Ft. Meyers.

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

- In the process of negotiating on new land to build town homes in the intercity areas.
- Completing the two (2) replacement homes.
- Swore in New City Commissioner, Ray Torres Sanchez.
- In-fill Housing Program – In Covenant Gardens, started placing the foundation for six (6) homes.
- Great American Cleanup – will be held on April 23rd at the City Hall.
- Black Gold Jubilee event – will be held on April 9th at the Belle Glade Marina.

Mr. Gainer stated that Ms. Bell-Spence brought to his attention a concern with Community Policing in the Glades. He looked into the matter and requested that someone from the Sheriff's Office attend today's GTAC meeting. Mr. Gainer spoke to Col. Gauger and today Mr. Thomas Padgett, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office/Community Policing Division is representing the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Padgett stated that he is the Community Policing Officer for Fremd Village (The Pahokee Housing Authority). In addition, there are two (2) other Community Policing sites: 1) Padgett Island, and 2) Okeechobee Center (Belle Glade Housing Authority). Another community policing site was 715 Mobile Home Park, which is no longer a policing site. The deputy stated that he has not had any contact with the property owner. At this time, the Sheriff's Office is in lacking of a couple of deputies. The deputies are really working hard. He asked the group for suggestions to take back to the neighborhoods and also to Sheriff Bradshaw. Mr. Grainer stated that one of the things that OCR is working on that have an effect on the neighborhoods is the street lighting issue. He talked about the non-thorough fare program, which sixty (60) lights per year are designated. Normally these streetlights are for crime spots. In order to identify a crime spot, a deputy would have to verify that location. He talked about OCR street lighting process and LETF funds. He mentioned various funding allocated to the

program. Mr. Gainer stated that he would have more information for the group later. The group gave suggestions in regards to funding.

Questions or Comments:

Mr. Harrington stated that at the last Tri-City meeting, it was voted on a cruise and that the three (3) cities considered hiring a central Planner. Ms. Latimore mentioned that the planner that is currently working in Belle Glade is willing to take on the responsibility. He will be meeting with the City Manager.

Mr. Harrington also mentioned that at the April 26th Board of County Commissioners workshop, the land use codes and the EAA are being presented. Mr. Gainer stated that he did follow-up on this issue and that he was told that it was decided not to invite everyone to the meeting. The meeting is a public meeting and the meeting was properly announced.

Mr. Harrington mentioned that Highway 27 Safety Committee, which took on the role of interfacing with the Florida Department of Transportation on the road projects going on in the Glades no longer existed. He inquired about getting a group together to meet with DOT and get a DOT representative involved. He talked about DOT problems in the Glades.

Mr. Harrington made reference to there not being any Heritage Trail Maps at The South Florida Water Management.

Mr. Harrington inquired about the status of the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. The group discussed this issue. Mr. Gainer explained how OCR and Economic Development is involved with this project.

Mr. Gainer asked Matt Mills if he had any comments. Mr. Mills commented that the Children Fishing Contest event would be held on, April 2nd, the week prior to the Black Gold Jubilee event.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that if anyone has an event coming up to please notify him, so that it could be placed on OCR/CCRT/GTAC Activity Calendar.

Lillie Latimore, City of Pahokee, reported on the following:

- Ms. Latimore commented that she has a concern for the children. She inquired about increasing the summer youth job program. Mr. Gainer stated that he will contact Denny Abbot, Workforce Alliance to discuss this issue and he further commented on funds through JTPA. He also stated that it might be too late for this year to increase the summer youth job program. It would have to be considered for next year.

Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation, reported on the following:

- GCDC involvement with South Florida Water Management & Palm Beach Community College – A job-training seminar will be coming up soon. Ms. Moore-Williams discussed identifying jobs to be created and the training of students as well as setting up a job-training program.
- GCDC is looking at economic development – One of the programs they have been looking at is Youth Build. Through Youth Build, this will be an opportunity to take high school dropouts and certificates of completion, or people underemployed, and put them through a series of trainings. Particularly to help them obtain a GED and to help them to obtain the types of skills which can make them marketable. This will help them to obtain their own jobs or create their own businesses. We are looking at the developers in the Glades hiring from the Glades. The Youth Build Grant deadline is in June. GCDC is putting together partners to apply for the grant. Last year they were not successful in getting the grant.
- JP Mortgage Foundation – GCDC has identified more than fifty (50) individuals that are Creole or Hispanic speaking residents who need English as a second language in order for them to be able to compete for jobs. There are two on-going programs: 1) In Pahokee – St. Mary's Capital Church – for Spanish speaking residents; and 2) Belle Glade – First Baptist Haitian Church – for Creole speaking residents. Also Barry University has a Spanish GED program already in place. They are also looking for a similar program for the Creole speaking residents.
- Old Belle Glade City Hall – GCDC received a grant from the State of Florida for \$50,000 to do the architectural design and construction bid documents. They have another grant with the State of Florida for \$90,000 to do construction, which has to be brought before the governor.
- Weed & Seed Project – still working with the City of Belle on this project. Brenda Oakes is the contact person. Belle Glade is now a designated weed & seed site. The City of Belle Glade has also issued RFP's for its after school program for the following: FCAT, Skill Bank Program, and After School Program; and location of the programs are: SW 4th, Canal Street to Avenue "E", SW 5th, and SW 6th Street.

Ms. Moore-Williams stated that the Clewiston to Belle Glade bus service is really important to the Glades. There are a lot of people that live in Clewiston and that work in Pahokee, South Bay and/or Belle Glade. This bus route bus is their only means to get to and from work. Ms. Moore-Williams suggested that the GTAC Committee write a letter of support for the bus transportation program to continue. Mr. Gainer will discuss this issue with the OCR Manager, Edward Lowery.

Mr. Harrington inquired about the suggestion made inviting the CCRT to come to the Glades. Mr. Gainer stated that he did talk with Mr. Lowery but a decision was not made. It would be hard because of the number of people that attend the CCRT meetings. He will speak with Mr. Lowery again about this.

The next meeting will be held on April 28th at the Canal Point Community Center.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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