

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

**Meeting of April 28, 2005  
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

**City Hall of South Bay**

## **Minutes**

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

Denny Abbott, Employer Services Executive, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance  
Gerald Adams, Assistant Manager for City of Belle Glade  
Bret Baronak, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
David Broadbent, Canal Point Resident, Pastor of Canal Point  
United Methodist Church  
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Tilak Harrell, City of South Bay  
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident  
Renesheia Inman, City of South Bay  
Lt. Ed Jablonski, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office  
Lillie Latimore, City Manager for City of Pahokee  
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Deputy G. Schettini, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office  
Alan Schafler, CEO, EDGE  
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade, Community Development

### **Absent:**

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  
Arthur Kirstein, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension  
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown)  
Sandy Mercer, Canal Point Citizen  
Matt Mills, City of Belle Glade

**Absent:** (Cont'd)

Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation  
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District  
Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural Development  
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development  
Thomas Padgett, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office & Canal Point Resident  
Stephanie Rice, Belle Glade Fire Dept.  
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)  
Andrea Stephenson, Glades Initiative  
Clifford Stuart, Stuart Farm  
Alice Thompson, Pahokee Chamber of Commerce

**Welcome and Introduction**

Mr. Gainer introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce herself or himself.

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

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

**Participant Updates and Comments**

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

Mr. Gainer brought copies of OCR brochure, and OCR Gazette for the group.

- Street Lighting Program – Mr. Gainer gave a brief history of CCRT street lighting projects. Mr. Baronak has been assigned to handle the Street Lighting Program. He asked Bret Baronak to give an update. Mr. Baronak commented that OCR is in the process of establishing a street lighting process. Last year, the Board of County Commissioners allocated \$490,000 for residential streetlights in CCRT areas. Mr. Baronak stated that he is currently working on finalizing the process and criteria for the street lighting program; which will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

The group discussed the maintenance and cost of streetlights in residential neighborhoods.

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

### **Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:** (Cont'd)

- Business Facade Improvement Program – Mr. Gainer has been assigned to handle this project. He stated that he is in the process of putting together a proposal establishing the criteria for the program. The program is a matching grant program. Individual businesses can apply for up to \$15,000. Business owners with multiple businesses on the same site can qualify for up to \$50,000.

Mr. Harrington commented in reference to the Business Façade Improvement Program. He stated that businesses in the Glades might have a problem qualifying for the program because of cash match. He further talked about hurricane assistance from FEMA, and the SBA Loan application. Also Mr. Abbott commented about the effect the storm had on businesses in the Glades.

Mr. Abbott also commented that businesses in the Glades should be on a different scoring system regarding cash match. The group began to discuss the scoring process for cash match in relation to the Glades businesses competing. It was suggested that businesses in the Glades should only have to compete with businesses in the Glades.

- Mr. Gainer inquired about how things were going as a result of the hurricane damages, funds, and FEMA. The group began to discuss issues that related to the SBA Loans. Mr. Harrington mentioned that he received a telephone call from FEMA the day before submittal of the SBA application. Mr. Schafler commented that he has been working with a business owner for three (3) months with hurricane related damages; which the business owner was denied twice for a SBA Loan. Mr. Harrington commented that if businesses don't get financial assistance, this would affect employment, social activities, etc. Ms. Latimore had a concern about not having adequate funds to support starting a new business. The organizations that are providing this support do not have the appropriate budget to support this need. The group began to discuss the importance of meeting the needs to assist these businesses. It was mentioned that lack of development in the Glades contributes to this problem. Mr. Gainer suggested that the group invite the Commissioner's aides to the GTAC meetings to hear their concern.

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

### **Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:** (Cont'd)

- Mr. Gainer began to discuss the process for the funding recommendations. The Board of County Commissioners has allocated \$2.9 million dollars. A meeting is scheduled on May 12<sup>th</sup> to meet with the CCRT members/departments. The departments have been requested to submit a list of recommended projects. He stated that this is the time to contact your County Commissioner aides with your concerns. He mentioned monies had been earmarked for South Bay. Pam Nolan requested approximately \$60,000 for a project (Park of Commerce) in South Bay.

Mr. Gainer talked about unused funds from past CCRT projects. He suggested to the group that they begin to come up with things that would improve the Glades and submit any suggestions to OCR. The group wanted to know what type of projects that could be approved for these funds. Mr. Gainer gave the group some examples.

Deputy Schettini inquired about requirements for neighborhood speed humps. Mr. Baronak stated that if the request comes through the CCRT, there is no specific requirement involving the volume of traffic. A justification, and petition would need to be done showing neighborhood support. The city bus or school bus cannot go into neighborhoods that have speed humps.

Mr. Gainer asked Ms. Inman if the City of South Bay had another project going on other than the Park of Commerce in relation to requesting funding from the CCRT. Ms. Inman stated that they are requesting funding for Highway 27 in the amount of \$50,000. Also, a project for Sputnam Road, they are requesting funding from CDBG. Mr. Gainer stated that OCR would be going to the Board in October with the funding recommendations for the next program year.

Mr. Gainer also mentioned that Pelican Pump Co. requested rezoning of property in Canal Point. He will be doing a site visit of the property after the meeting. The group shared concerns about acquiring information for the land use meeting, which the GTAC group was invited to attend.

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

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

- Steam Locomotive Train – Already have the equipment that is needed. The American Railroad Heritage Association is handling the negotiation with U.S. Sugar.

The group discussed addressing the need to extend the night route to accommodate students attending classes at PBCC. Another option is taking a look at Palm Tran/Tri-Rail.

**Gerald Adams, City of Belle Glade, reported on the following:**

- Informed the group that the Economic Development Public Hearing meeting is scheduled today, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30p.m., 301 North Olive.

Mr. Gainer thanked Rev. Broadbent for providing the refreshments for the meeting.

Mr. Gainer announced that the next GTAC meeting would be held on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Belle Glade.

Mr. Gainer mentioned a letter from Southwest Regional Planning regarding the Big Water Heritage Trail.

## **Questions or Comments:**

Mr. Harrington commented on the Old Canal Point Elementary School site. The site would be excellent for a museum, etc. Mr. Gainer stated that William Wynn, OCR staff, contacted the School District and they have no plans of selling the property.

Also, Mr. Harrington brought copies of a flyer about the Big Water Heritage Trail. He spoke with Jennifer Pelachio and he sent her a letter in support of the flyer. He also talked about the fact there are no kiosks on the east side of the lake in Belle Glade, Pahokee, and Canal Point. In response, Ms. Pelachio stated that she had used all the funds and she would be requesting additional funding at the second draft to put additional kiosks.

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

Mr. Harrington commented about DOT repaving of roads.

Again, Mr. Gainer announced the next meeting would be held on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Belle Glade, Conference Room "B".

Minutes prepared by:

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

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