

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of May 26, 2005

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

City Hall of Belle Glade

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

David Broadbent, Canal Point Resident, Pastor of Canal Point
United Methodist Church
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. OCR
Cynthia Hammond, City of South Bay
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident
Richard Harris, City of South Bay
Lillie Latimore, City Manager for City of Pahokee
Bob Marx, Workforce Alliance (Rep. For Denny Abbott)
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Ken Robinson, City of Belle Glade
Alan Schafler, CEO, EDGE
Deputy G. Schettini, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade, Community Development
Houston Tate, City Manager, City of Belle Glade
William Wynn, P.B.C. 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
Arthur Kirstein, P.B.C. Cooperative Extension
Raoul Pierre-Louis, Business Loan Fund (Representative for John Brown)
Sandy Mercer, Canal Point Citizen

Absent: (Cont'd)

Matt Mills, City of Belle Glade
Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District
Theresa Newton, USDA/Rural 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 her or himself.

Review of Minutes (April '05 Meeting)

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the minutes. Mr. Harrington had a correction on page 3 (bottom of page) – Mr. Harrington mentioned that he received a call from FEMA (change FEMA to the lender, NDC (National Development Corporation)).

Participant Updates and Comments**Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:**

- The Business Frontage Improvement Program – Denny Abbott, Workforce Development arranged a meeting with members of the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce to inform them about the program. Mr. Gainer stated that the program would not start in July. It has been suggested that the program start in October in the Glades. At the last GTAC meeting, Mr. Gainer discussed the draft of the program with the GTAC group. Discussion entailed about the applications and concerns about scoring criteria for cash match in relation to the businesses from the Glades competing with businesses from the coast. The following are suggestions made at the last GTAC meeting: 1) A pool of money is used for just the businesses in the Glades; and 2) Only the businesses in the Glades compete with one another. Mr. Gainer relayed the information to Mr. Lowery about the concerns.

The group further asked questions and discussed concerns regarding The Business Frontage Improvement Program, such as: Cash match, conforming to city/county policies, cost incurring (permits) prior to application approval, and contract completion deadline.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

William Wynn, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Neighborhood Home Beautification Program (NHBP) – The program was created for the property owners in the 104 CCRT areas of Palm Beach County. The program's focus is to target interested property owners in the CCRT areas that apply in clusters of homes. The program has been allocated a total of \$225,000 over the past two (2) Fiscal Years. The maximum beautification limit per property is \$3,000. The Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) has collected over 300 applications from property owners within the 104 CCRT areas. The property owners in the City of Pahokee submitted almost 200 of the applications collected. OCR staff will be doing a windshield survey of Pahokee, South Bay, and Belle Glade to determine how many homes in the Glades will have the possibility of being beautified in the NHBP. Mr. Wynn stated that OCR is working along with Rebuilding Together of the Palm Beaches, a non-profit. The Solid Waste Authority (SWA) has supplies available to donate and there are volunteers that will sometime donate man-hours on various SWA projects.

Mr. Gainer stated that both programs would have an immediate visual impact on the community. He further talked about getting bids from certified contractors.

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

- Street Lighting Program - The program is still in the developmental stage. There has not been a process to implement a street lighting program. Mr. Baronak is now working on the process of how to divide the funds allocated for the 104 CCRT areas.
- Funding Recommendations for FY '05/'06 - A meeting was held on May 12th with the CCRT members to discuss the projects recommended. Approximately \$2.9 million dollars have been allocated for the program. He mentioned that Reneisha Inman, City of South Bay, requested \$300,000 for some road improvements. Mr. Lowery informed the city that he would only approve \$100,000 to South Bay at this time. The funding recommendations will be presented to the Board on October 18, 2005 for approval.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

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

- (REAP) Resident Education To Action Program - The program educates residents on how to get a neighborhood active in revitalization, redevelopment, beautification, 5013C, fund raising, grant writing, and working with county departments. The program is a six (6) week course, one night a week for 2 ½ hours. OCR will be scheduling a six (6) week course to be held in the Glades. The program has been offered for two (2) years and OCR has received positive feedback about the program. He will have more information about the dates at the next meeting.

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

- Enterprise Zone (EZ) – The program will end in December '05. Legislation has allowed for enterprise zones to reapply. The Palm Beach County EZ includes portions of Belle Glade, South Bay, and Riviera Beach & West Palm Beach. The City of Pahokee has its own EZ. Ms. Nolan stated that each of the cities has coordinators for their zone. She is working on the re-designation of the Palm Beach County enterprise zone. The deadline to reapply is November. The state is holding workshops this July. She will be sending out this information to the communities.

Mr. Harrington asked if Canal Point was included. Ms. Nolan commented no and she further explained the bases for selecting enterprise zones.

- Belle Glade Business Park (Phase II) – The USDA has received all applications submitted for this year. A USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant application requesting \$900,000 and an Enterprise Florida Rural Infrastructure Fund totaling \$490,000 was completed.
- Pahokee Marina – The USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant application for \$600,000 and a US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grant application for \$400,000 was completed.
- Canal Point – The approximate amount of the project is \$1.6 million dollars. A total of \$400,000 was requested from USDA, and an inter-local agreement from HCD for \$105,394.00 will be completed. The project is moving forward.
- Development Regions Grant Program – She requested that Belle Glade, and Pahokee submit their contracts to her. Discussion entailed about the projects.
- Public Farmers Market – The application has been submitted. She thanked everyone for their letters of support. This is an opportunity for growers. A feasibility study and business plan will be completed, and identifying a site for the project.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

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

- Okeechobee Scenic Trail – EDO and OCR coordinated efforts with Todd Bonlarron, Legislative Representative, to request \$2.4 million for this project. The application/letter to the Governor were completed. Ms. Lillie Latimore stated that MPO already sent a letter of support.
- A State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) – requested \$3,000,000 for the aging water/sewer lines submitted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).
- Herb Marlowe, with Larry Arrington, Analytica, will be in the Glades visiting stakeholders for interviews and requesting a list of names from the City Managers. Analytica has been contracted to develop/create a model for a future regional economic entity to be approved by the Cities and County stakeholders.

Mr. Allan Schafler commented that The Edge Center has prepared a detailed initiative for the County and is awaiting a response. A copy was sent to Houston Tate, Tony Smith, and Pahokee. He is requesting letters of support from the GTAC group to Commissioner Masilotti.

Comments and discussion were made regarding the implementation of a Regional Economic Entity.

Mr. Schafler stated that a Tri-Cities Area Town Meeting would be held on June 13, 2005, 5:30p.m. at Belle Glade City Hall Commission Chambers. The topic of discussion will be a project between Palm Beach Community College (PBCC) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) regarding training and transportation.

Angela Morlock, MPO, reported on the following:

- Ms. Morlock commented that the Clewiston Belle Glade demonstration route expires on September 30th. The program was extended another year. Also, Ms. Morlock is working with Denny Abbott about getting appropriate lighting for the Palm Tran bus pick up at the community college.
- Ms. Morlock commented that MPO is working with SFWMD and the School Board regarding hours.
- Ms. Morlock commented that she is looking at car/van pools as an option for businesses with more than forty (40) employees. MPO has funds to contribute toward this arrangement.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

Mr. Harrington had a concern with the bus route going to the Palm Beach Community College. Currently, the last bus pick up is around 8:00p.m. He feels there is a need to provide transportation for the students taking night classes. Ms. Morlock stated that she is discussing this with Palm Tran.

Comments and/or questions:

Ms. Bell-Spence announced that on June 13th, a Tri-City Meeting is being held.

Mr. Tate commented that the Tri-City Meeting would be about READY.

Mr. Harrington requested to meet with Mr. Gainer after the meeting.

Mr. Marx, Workforce Alliance, inquired about a date to submit applications for the Business Frontage Program. Mr. Gainer commented that it has not been determined yet. The funds have already been allocated for the program. Once the draft of the process or procedure is approved, OCR will present it to the Board for approval. The applicant will have thirty (30) to sixty (60) days to submit an application.

Mr. Harrington commented about training courses mentioned at the last meeting. He would like to be informed once the funds are available. He has several people that are interested in the program.

Ms. Morlock commented regarding the three projects: Railroad Maintenance Facility, State Railroad Museum, and Steam Locomotive. She is working with the cities and The American Railroad Heritage Association in moving the projects forward.

Mr. Gainer informed and encouraged the GTAC group to attend the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) meetings. The next (CCRT) meeting is on June 6, 2005, 10:00a.m., located at PZ&B (2nd Floor Conf. Room); West Palm Beach. OCR is looking at relocating the meetings to the Clayton Hutcheonson Building.

Mr. Gainer announced that the next GTAC meeting would be held on June 23, 2005 in Pahokee, at the Commission Chambers.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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