

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of June 23, 2005

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

City Hall of Pahokee

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Gerald Adams, City of Belle Glade, Assistant City Manager
David Broadbent, Canal Point Resident, Pastor of Canal Point
United Methodist Church
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. OCR
Linda Hamilton, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident
Richard Harris, City of South Bay
Lillie Latimore, City Manager for City of Pahokee
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)
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.
Allan Schafler, CEO, EDGE
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 (May '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 reviewed follow-up issues from the May 25, 2005 GTAC meeting:

1. Canal Point residents requested OCR's assistance regarding organizing a community.

Follow-up: Mr. Gainer stated that he is currently researching to find a branch of government that could help with establishing a more structured community.

- The Business Frontage Improvement Program – The program is still in the developmental process. County Administration is discussing merging the program with other County Department's programs. Mr. Gainer stated that he would not be accepting applications as he anticipated on July 3rd.

Pam Nolan commented that the insurance criteria requirements maybe the cause of lack of participation in the Glades. The group began to discuss and made suggestions about assisting businesses that have insurance issues.

Participant Updates and Comments

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

Mr. Houston Tate inquired about an approximate time The Business Frontage Program will open up. Mr. Gainer stated that October 1st would probably be the earliest.

- Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail – Mr. Gainer attended a meeting that was called by P.B.C. Economic Development Office. The meeting was to discuss an appropriation request to Tallahassee for approximately \$2.4 million dollars. The project was awarded \$1 million dollars. Ms. Nolan discussed the plans for the Trail. The area of focus is Lake Okeechobee connecting to Hendry County.
- Resident Education to Action Program (REAP) – REAP is a six (6) week program. The topics of discussion are designed to educate in: 501(3C) status, code enforcement, community policing/officers, crime prevention, youth involvement, & etc.. There will be a session held in the Glades, and one in Palm Beach. Mr. Gainer asked for a representative from South Bay to serve on the REAP Committee. He announced that the session in the Glades would begin on September 1st through October 11th, Thursday's, 6:00pm – 8:30pm., in the Governmental Center. In reference to the REAP Committee, Ms. Latimore stated that Ms. Arrie Patrick would be the representative for Belle Glade. Also, Deputy Linda Hamilton made a suggestion that Deputy Thomas Padgett be the representative for the Sheriff's Office.
- Mr. Gainer reviewed the follow-ups on issues presented by Mr. Harrington, such as: Homeowners Association, and Grass Roots Neighborhood Council/Committee/Association. He stated that the following actions are required by Palm Beach County: 1) a process called limited special district, 2) form a non-profit, and 3) receive a designation, such as an urban infill revitalization area. He will give Mr. Harrington a copy of the above-mentioned information.
- Funding Recommendations for FY '05-'06 – Mr. Gainer mentioned that the following changes were made: 1) funding reduction for South Bay project, 2) funding for Park of Commerce project, 3) additional funding for Canal Point Sewer, and 4) other communities for streetlights, speed humps, etc.

Ms. Latimore recommended creating a profile specifying by each district, the distribution of funds for the five (5) districts.

Participant Updates and Comments: (Cont'd)

Mr. Gerald Adams commented regarding Workers' Compensation and Insurance eligibility criteria for The Business Frontage Improvement Program. He stated that in reference to Workers' Compensation, most small businesses do not have more than five (5) employees, and he suggested looking at a blanket program. In reference to the insurance requirements, small business owners may not be able to afford the \$500,000 insurance policy requirement. The group discussed County requirements set for business owners in order to do business in Palm Beach County. Ms. Nolan suggested maybe using insurance as matching fund.

Angela Morlock, MPO, reported on the following:

- Working with the cities to get projects moving. The American Heritage Trail Association is in discussion with FEC. There are two (2) major items for discussion: 1) use of the tracks, and 2) purchase of the land. She is looking at obtaining potential funding for the project.

Mr. Gainer mentioned the Cape Hart Perkins Fund. Ms. Morlock stated that she is familiar with it.

- Ms. Morlock will be attending the next Tri-City meeting.
- Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail – She talked about having a shuttle service.

Mr. Harrington inquired about the old Canal Point School property. Ms. Morlock commented that she had placed calls to the School District.

- Local Transit Center – will include transportation services from Palm Tran, taxicabs, railroad, and bikeways. MPO is working with the School District on this project.
- Belle Glade/Clewiston Route – The original route extended to the community college. The route will now be extended to the Belle Glade Shopping Plaza.

Participant Updates and Comments: (Cont'd)

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

- Disaster Relief Recovery Fund – This is a State CDBG Program where the State received \$100 million dollars. Approximately two (2) weeks ago, Tony Jennings was in Stuart soliciting applicants for the program. HCD is waiting on notification of applicants that were approved to receive the funds. Mr. Sklar stated that the program was instituted in February. In regard to applying for these funds, HCD staff visited non-profit agencies, municipalities, and County departments regarding any damages as a result of the hurricanes. Comments were made about lack of knowledge about the program opening up. At this point, the group asked questions and discussed funding issues relating to unincorporated areas and other communities affected by the hurricanes in the Glades.

Mr. Gainer inquired if the GTAC group could assist the residents of Canal Point in getting help with housing through the Disaster Relief Recovery Fund. Mr. Sklar suggested contacting Mr. Remar Harvin, Director of HCD, inquiring if whether there is any assistance that HCD can provide for Canal Point. Mr. Gainer stated that he would write the request.

Mr. Harrington commented regarding a historical house in Canal Point that has hurricane related damages. Mr. Gainer stated that he would follow-up on this issue.

Mr. Sklar inquired about the status of the crossroads project. Mr. Harris commented that it is not complete.

Mr. Harrington commented about the fencing on old Lock in Canal Point. He and Mr. Gainer visited the site about four (4) months ago. Mr. Gainer stated that he is still working on this issue. Ms. Nolan commented that South Florida Water Management District owns the property. She suggested inviting SFWMD to the GTAC meeting.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Enterprise Zone Meeting – She sent a notice to everyone except Pahokee about the meeting to be held on August 1, 2005, 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m., at the Economic Development Office.

Comments and/or questions:

Mr. Harrington commented regarding a potential hurricane emergency facility in Canal Point. The facility could be used as a before and after hurricane post facility. The facility cannot qualify as a shelter because it has too many windows. The group discussed getting approval from the Red Cross. Mr. Gainer stated that he would follow up on this.

Sgt. Hamilton commented that she is new to the area and this is her first GTAC meeting. She will be contacting Ms. Morlock about a grant program that opened up. Sgt. Hamilton stated that she did community policing in Texas.

Pam Nolan inquired about having representation from code enforcement to the GTAC meetings. Mr. Gainer commented that the Glades have only one (1) Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Larry Carascio.

Mr. Harrington commented about an intersection, traveling east on Southern Boulevard/off State Road 98 that is degrading. He further inquired about the status of closing off road on State Road 98 for construction of drain system. Mr. Gainer stated that he would contact FDOT. The group discussed scheduling of road closing when going under construction.

Mr. Gainer announced that the next GTAC meeting would be held on July 28, 2005 in South Bay.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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