

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of July 28, 2005

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

South Bay City Hall

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Gerald Adams, City of Belle Glade, Assistant City Manager
Allen J. Davis, City of South Bay
Linda Hamilton, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Cynthia Hammond, 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
LaToya Ricketts, P.B.C. OCR
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
Duane Gainer, OCR
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
Autrie Moore-Williams, Glades Community Development Corporation
Tammy Moore, South Florida Water Management District

Absent: (Cont'd)

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
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. Wynn announced that he would be the OCR Coordinator for today's GTAC meeting. Mr. Wynn introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce her or himself.

Review of Minutes (May '05 Meeting)

Mr. Wynn asked if there were corrections to the minutes. Pam Nolan commented regarding the Enterprise Zone Meeting. She stated that although Pahokee is not a part of the Palm Beach County Enterprise Zone, they are still invited to attend the meeting held on August 1, 2005, 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m., at the Economic Development Office.

Participant Updates and Comments**William Wynn, OCR, reported on the following:**

Mr. Wynn reviewed follow-up issues from the June 23, 2005 GTAC meeting:

1. Mr. Harrington requested a schedule of all roadwork projects going under construction in the Canal Point area and in Palm Beach County.

Follow-up: Mr. Harrington was absent. Mr. Wynn brought a copy of the schedule to the meeting. Ms. Nolan asked for the schedule and she will provide Mr. Harrington with a copy at the next GTAC meeting.

Mr. Wynn mentioned that the City of Pahokee had decided to go with the low-pressure sewer system, not the gravity sewer system. Ms. Nolan stated correct. Mr. Wynn further inquired about the maintenance cost for both the low-pressure system and the gravity system. Ms. Nolan stated that the low-pressure system's maintenance cost would be significantly less than the gravity system.

Participant Updates and Comments

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail - She received appropriations of \$1 Million dollars for the project. Ms. Nolan stated that she met with Kevin Johns, Edward Lowery, and Duane Gainer for review of the draft for the Tourism Master Plan. The following items were discussed at the meeting: contract to develop entrance-ways onto the trail, working with the local community, hiring of personnel (Planner), entrance way into Pahokee, and focusing on projects that have not been completed, etc.

Lillie Latimore inquired about funding to do tourist projects related towards transportation. She stated that someone had submitted an application for funds toward doing a tourist project for \$50,000, which was denied. She inquired about getting funds and she explained plans for the project. Ms. Nolan stated that the Okeechobee Scenic Trail Project is still in the developmental stage. Discussion entailed between Ms. Nolan and Ms. Latimore regarding the new project. Ms. Nolan would like to meet with Ms. Latimore to further discuss the project.

- The Business Frontage Program - \$200,000 was allocated for this program. Ms. Nolan mentioned a similar program that was implemented in Atlanta, GA., called The Livable Community Center City Initiatives. The program looks at a block in the community for implementing the design of sidewalks, bicycle paths, landscaping, and frontage of the buildings. Ms. Nolan requested that a major focus area is chosen for each of the cities in the Glades. Ms. Nolan also mentioned a need to have a list of stakeholders in the Glades.

Mr. Allen Davis commented regarding a contingent plan for the business park. He is requesting assistance with locating all the railroads. Ms. Morlok stated that MPO is working with U.S. Sugar regarding the train tracks. Pam Nolan commented that she has all the maps on railways. Ms. Nolan suggested that Mr. Davis contact PZ&B GIS Section for copies of the maps. Mr. Wynn asked Ms. Nolan to send copies of the maps to South Bay, Pahokee, Belle Glade, and Gary Hines. The group discussed if whether Florida East Coast Railroad comes to the Glades.

Ms. Morlok mentioned that MPO has ten acres in Belle Glade; which will be a transportation park. The contract will be placed out for bid. Pam Nolan requested a copy of the plans for the design.

Participant Updates and Comments

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

- Van Pooling Program – Working with The South Florida Water Management District for providing training for positions opening up in the Glades. MPO staff will be visiting SFWMD sites for the purpose of transportation routes, and possible van pooling for them. The group discussed job training for anticipated future jobs coming up in the Glades.

Ms. Nolan announced that the Enterprise Zone Meeting will be held on August 1, 2005, at 10:00a.m., at the Economic Development Office. Ms. Nolan requested that Richard Harris, and Barbara Bell-Spence attend the meeting.

Deputy Hamilton, Sheriff's Office, reported on the following:

- Deputy Linda Hamilton stated that the community policing officers are currently operating in the Okeechobee Center. She talked about the Harmony In The Street Program being offered at the center. Approximately fifty (50) children are attending the program daily. A graduation will be held on July 29, 2005.
- National Night Out – This event is for residents to meet, and greet your neighbor. The Sheriff's Office is working with Belle Glade on this event. The event will be held on August 5, 2005.

Mr. Wynn asked how many CPO Sheriff's Officers assigned to work in the Glades areas. Deputy Hamilton stated there were five needed, but currently she has four (4) Deputies.

Mr. Wynn invited Deputy Hamilton to attend the August 9th Monthly CCRT Meeting, 10:00a.m., Clayton Hutcheson Building.

Ms. Nolan inquired about the selection process for identifying problem areas. Ms. Hamilton stated that the Captain and the Major selects these problematic areas by looking at statistics. Ms. Hamilton reiterated that she is short of staff in the Glades area. Ms. Nolan mentioned the Glades area is an area that needs more attention.

Ms. LaToya Ricketts of OCR inquired if whether there were crime watch programs going on in any of the assigned areas in the Glades. Ms. Hamilton replied that crime watch is another aspect of community policing; which is not under her direction.

Ms. Cynthia Hammond asked if the programs at the Okeechobee Center were exclusive to only the youth in the area or could youth in other areas be in the program. Ms. Hamilton stated that the program site was moved centrally so that resources were accessible to all the youth of the Glades. The targeted age group is 7 to 12 years of age.

LaToya Ricketts, OCR, reported on the following:

- OCR Gazette – Ms. Ricketts stated that she is in the process of publishing the next addition of the gazette (newsletter). Ms. Ricketts is requesting the group's input regarding events, and department programs opening up be received by August 12th to be published. She would like to spotlight some programs from the Glades.
- Resident To Action Program (REAP) – The first session starts in the Glades on September 1st – October 6th. The program is a 6-week course, one night a week. She brought REAP brochures for distribution. Ms. Ricketts commented that Aurie Patrick, Richard Harris, and Barbara Bell-Spence is participating on the REAP Steering Committee.

Deputy Hamilton inquired if residents living in public housing could qualify for programs offered by OCR. Ms. Ricketts commented regarding the Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program (NPG). Mr. Wynn stated that the Housing Authority could apply for the grant on behalf of the citizens or residents.

Deputy Hamilton further commented regarding programs that will be starting up at the community center. A meeting is scheduled for August 13th, at the Okeechobee Center, to discuss programs that will enhance and involve the community. The group discussed and made suggestions regarding organizations for grants or donation contributions.

Angela Morlok, MPO, reported on the following:

- Belle Glade/Clewiston Route - Working with the two cities regarding putting together a table itemizing all the different components in the plan, working with people on the estimated cost, and different possibilities of funding.

Mr. Adams commented regarding \$50 Million dollars already allocated by the Commission to the Glades areas to purchase Slim's Fish Camp. Ms. Nolan responded that she spoke to Ken Robinson and the asking price for the property is \$2.5 Million dollars. Ms. Nolan inquired about the Bond money once it is approved that is going to Parks & Recreation. Mr. Adams stated that this is part of Belle Glade's Parks system.

Ms. Morlok inquired about seeing contractors across the street from Slim's Fish Camp. Mr. Adams stated that is part of the tour island project. A hiking trail is being constructed. The group began to discuss bond money projects, and the need for boat ramps in the Glades and on the coast.

Ms. Nolan recommends that Mr. Adams contact Ross Herring, with PREM regarding his concerns.

Comments and/or questions:

Ms. Ricketts informed the group regarding the group of young professionals that is affiliated with The Urban League of Palm Beach County. They are seeking to assist with implementing programs in Palm Beach County, especially in the Glades. They have funding available for outreach in the community. She stated that if anyone has a project that needs funding to contact The Young Professionals.

Deputy Hamilton is soliciting for two (2) high school female student athletics in the Glades area. Adidas Sports is offering athletic sponsorship for two (2) female student athletes from the Glades area. Mr. Adams commented that he would contact Coach Carter regarding this information.

Ms. Cynthia Hammond briefly mentioned South Bay's sewer problems and the need for a vacuum truck specifically for the City of South Bay. The City of South Bay currently leases a vacuum truck from the City of Belle Glade when needed. She will be contacting Chauncey Taylor, Facilities & Development regarding this issue.

Mr. Wynn announced that the next GTAC meeting would be held on August 25, 2005 in Canal Point.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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