

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

**Meeting of August 25, 2005
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

South Bay City Hall

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

David Broadbent, Canal Point
Ruadean Butts, Raderville Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Bonita Moore, City of Belle Glade
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Maggie Smith, P.B.C. PZ&B, Planning Department
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade, Community Development
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

Absent:

Denny Abbott, Employer Services Executive, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance
Gerald Adams, City of Belle Glade, Assistant City Manager
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
Cynthia Hammond, City of South Bay
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
Lillie Latimore, City Manager for City of Pahokee
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
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

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
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 introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce her or himself. Mr. Gainer also thanked Pastor Broadbent for making the establishment available for today's meeting. He announced that Palm Beach County Government would be closing offices at 12:00 noon because of tropical storm (Katrina). Mr. Gainer thanked William Wynn for filling-in as facilitator for GTAC last month.

Review of Minutes (July '05 Meeting)

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the minutes. No one had corrections to the minutes.

Participant Updates and Comments

Duane Gainer, OCR, reported on the following:

- In reference to follow up issues from last month's meeting, Mr. Gainer stated there are no follow up issues.
- Resident To Action Program (REAP) – Approximately 47 participants from the Glades enrolled into the program. He announced that the City of Belle and the City of Pahokee arranged transportation for participants attending the sessions. One of the pickup locations: The Okeechobee Team Center, 19 Everglades. Mr. Gainer briefly talked about the different topics and activities being presented at the sessions.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

Maggie Smith, Planning Department, reported on the following:

- Petroleum Grants (Redevelopment of Brownfields) – Brownfields are sites whose redevelopment is hindered by potential contamination. She worked with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council on a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. There is \$750,000 in a revolving loan for clean up, and \$200,000 for assessment of petroleum sites. She asked the City's to complete an application on those potentially contaminated sites that the City's maybe interested in redeveloping. Ms. Smith distributed handouts. Ms. Smith briefly talked about economic development benefits of the Brownfield Program, such as: Job Bonus Refund, and refund of sales tax on materials (mix use project: incl. building affordable housing). You can access maps by searching PBC Website (PBCgov.com), Planning Division, Brownfields. Ms. Smith answered questions asked by the group. If there are any further questions, you may contact her at (561) 233-5358.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Enterprise Zone Re-designation – The Palm Beach County Enterprise Zone consists of Belle Glade, South Bay, Riviera Beach, and West Palm Beach areas.
- Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail – She is working together with design consultants; which are subcontracting Vicki Silver, Planner. The project will consist of entryways in the communities; bicycle/pedestrian paths leading to the trail; and completion of existing and future trailheads, amenities and facilities. This project will bring jobs to the area.

Pastor Broadbent asked if Port Mayaca was in Palm Beach County. Ms. Nolan commented, yes. He also inquired if new housing developments were coming into the Glades. Ms. Nolan commented that new housing developments were coming into the Glades. Ms. Nolan mentioned that new housing development opportunities have been mentioned by the cities. The group discussed having a concern about how the Glades is going to be developed and what the Glades will look like in the future as far as residential & industrial. The group also discussed economic summit, annexation, and the need to have places for people to work.

- Water Plant – The plant is still under negotiation. Approximately \$20 million dollars is needed to fund this project. Ms. Bell-Spence commented that Belle Glade is going to be left with 73% of the expense, and that Belle Glade doesn't need a water plant. She inquired about having new infrastructure when building the new water plant.

Comments and/or questions:

Mr. Gainer stated that Canal Point was designated by the Board as one of the three (3) focus areas, out of 104 CCRT areas, for comprehensive help. He briefly mentioned that Bret Baronak, OCR Staff had done a visioning process for Kenwood Estates, and will be working in Wallace Street/Royal Palm Beach next. He estimated that in approximately six (6) to seven (7) months, OCR should be looking at Canal Point to do a visioning process. Pastor Broadbent volunteered to help out.

Pam Nolan commented that the old Canal Point school property could be used for something in the community. Mr. Gainer commented that this was brought up at GTAC last year and OCR had looked into the issue.

Bonita Moore, City of Belle Glade, stated there is great need in her area and she is interested in finding out information that would help in her area. She will be attending the REAP six (6) week course.

Ruadean Butts expressed that Raderville does not have a community leader. Ms. Butts stated that she attends the CCRT meetings. Mr. Gainer stated the importance of Raderville having a community leader.

Ms. Butts also inquired about the status of clean up for Leon Campbell Jr. Park. Mr. Gainer commented this was a follow issue and he will be getting back with her.

Pastor Broadbent inquired about the status of construction on a road between Belle Glade and Canal Point. Mr. Gainer commented that he could do a search on website: Myflorida.com, Dept. of Transportation, Road Projects, then select the County.

Mr. Gainer adjourned the meeting at 11:05a.m. The next GTAC meeting would be held on September 22, 2005 in Belle Glade.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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