

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

**Meeting of September 22, 2005
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

Belle Glade City Hall

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Ruadean Butts, Raderville Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Lillie Latimore, City Manager for City of Pahokee
Bonita Moore, City of Belle Glade
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade
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
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.

Review of Minutes (August 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 that follow up issues were addressed at the last CCRT meeting.

Ms. Bell-Spence inquired about providing resource information to the participants at the next REAP class. She is requesting department contact information from each municipality.

William Wynn, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Neighborhood Home Beautification Program – Mr. Wynn commented that 37 homes were selected in the Glades; which approximately 15 homes were selected in Pahokee, 10 in Belle Glade, and 12 in South Bay. Mr. Wynn further stated that he has already done site visits in the Glades, and taken pictures of all the homes that have been selected. He has sent out letters of interest to all of the participants. The contractor has been provided the necessary information so that he could give OCR an estimate to do the work.

The group began to discuss issues that most businesses encounter when applying for governmental contracts, such as: a business plan, and money. The group feels that there should be an incubator formed to help business owners and to get people interested in starting their own business.

Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

Ms. Butts commented regarding an experience that she had with the EDGE Center. Ms. Butts explained the situation and expressed that she was not satisfied with the service provided by the agency. The group began to discuss starting a business, such as: grants, funding a business, and having a business plan. Mr. Gainer asked Ms. Butts to draft a letter about her concern with the EDGE Center. He also stated that the OCR REAP sessions had a topic on grants.

Mr. Gainer asked if anyone were applying for Enterprise Zone. Mr. Lattimore replied that it had already been done. Ms. Nolan had to leave the meeting and she asked him to mention that Economic Development is still taking applications for Enterprise Zone. Also, he will be contacting South Bay about information coming from Ms. Nolan.

Ms. Latimore is requesting assistance with a recommendation for an Architect. She will be advertising for an Architect for the Prince Theatre project. She sent a letter to OCR Manager requesting assistance with funding for the hiring of an Architect.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that on October 18, 2005 funding recommendations is going to the Board for approval.

Mr. Gainer thanked Ms. Bell-Spence for her assistance with the REAP sessions held in the Glades.

Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade, reported on the following:

- In-fill Housing Program – is going very well. Will be closing on approximately six (6) of the houses. Looking for more land to build more houses.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that on the news, last night, a topic of discussion was houses for under \$200,000 in south Florida. The housing development in Belle Glade was mentioned, and another area was Port St. Lucie.

- Glades Economic Summit – will be held on October 4th, Dolly Hand, 8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m.

Ms. Butts commented that a clean-up need to be done in Raderville. Mr. Gainer made suggestions toward putting together/organizing a neighborhood cleanup event. Also, he talked about the first community center built in Lake Worth West.

Comments and/or questions:

Mr. Gainer adjourned the meeting at 11:28a.m. The next GTAC meeting would be held on October 27, 2005 in Belle Glade.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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