

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of February 23, 2006

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Pahokee City Hall

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Denny Abbott, Employer Services Executive, P.B.C. Workforce Alliance
Lt. Alonso, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Leondrae Camel, Belle Glade Weed & Seed Program
Dale Erickson, Canal Point
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point
Deputy James Harryton, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Lillie Latimore, City Manager for City of Pahokee
Lt. Ed Luty, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Deputy Jessie Moreland, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Angela Morlok, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Deputy G. Schettini, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Gainer introduced himself and asked everyone to introduce her or himself.

Review of Minutes (January Meeting)

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the January 26, 2006 minutes. Denny Abbott had changes - page 4, last paragraph – regarding Water Treatment Plant, change Bricker Highway to Hooker Highway; regarding estimated completion date, change two (2) years to 2½ to 3 years; and regarding the Water Everglades Restoration Projects awarded, change two (2) contracts to six (6) or seven (7) contracts were awarded.

Mr. Gainer commented about a follow up issue regarding him contacting someone from Housing & Community Development (HCD) to do a presentation on HCD's Special Hurricane Relief Programs. He will be contacting Keturah Joseph to do a presentation at the March GTAC meeting.

Mr. Gainer distributed information sent by Maggie Smith, Planner (Brownfields) with Planning Division for the three cities in the Glades. The letter is advising them about a grant program that assists with the assessment of environmentally contaminated areas (such as a gas station or dry cleaner). Someone inquired about the application process. Mr. Gainer commented that he did not bring any applications. Ms. Smith's contact information is in the letter.

Presentation by P.B.C. Economic Development : Pam Nolan

Ms. Nolan began by talking about the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. She stated that the Tourism Enhancement Master Plan was written in 2005; which the State awarded \$1 million dollars. Part of the plan is to develop entryways in the four (4) downtown areas (South Bay, Belle Glade, Pahokee, & Canal Point) with multi-purpose pathways (bikes, skating, etc) leading to the dike. She has requested that the Cities identify public land for the entryway sites and the multi-use pathways leading to the dike. She requested that the Cities look at their existing plans or drawings to see if there are any paths that have not been identified connecting to the dike. The landscape architects will present the plans for the entryways to be approved at a tri-city meeting. The funds will also be used to complete existing trailhead projects for tourist amenities. She mentioned several projects that were not included in the plans (such as Angela Morlock's transportation project, and old Canal Point School property). As these projects are developed, they will be included. The Tourism Enhancement Master Plan will bring entrepreneurial opportunities for small and start-up businesses. The plan will later focus on historic preservation.

She also mentioned that the Glades Economic Alliance Organization is assisting the County's consultants, Herb Marlowe and Larry Arrington, in the creation of a regional economic entity in the Glades. They will provide services to businesses that have an interest in doing business in the Glades.

Ms. Nolan mentioned upcoming meetings that she is aware of: An update of the Regional Economic Entity in the Glades will be held at Workforce Alliance on March 15, 2006, at 10:30a.m.; The Rural Tourism & Economic Summit is being held in Lakeland City; and March 15, 2006 in Clewiston, a Heritage Trail meeting is being held.

Also, Ms. Nolan mentioned that the Development Regions Grant Program expires on Friday, March 17th at 5:00p.m. This program assists small businesses.

Roswell Harrington commented regarding the old historic buildings in the Glades. He stated that several comments were made about Code Enforcement yellow tagging some of the buildings in Canal Point. Ms. Nolan asked if anyone had contacted the historic society or the cultural council. The group began to discuss restoration groups to contact regarding restoration of historic/old buildings.

Mr. Gainer wanted to know the location of the properties of concern that has old or historic buildings on them. He also inquired if whether the properties had been designated as historic. Mr. Harrington stated that the Historic Resource Board did a survey in 1990 in Canal Point. There were approximately 100 buildings noted that were eligible for being designated historic. Most of the structures are privately owned. Mr. Harrington also commented that since the hurricanes, we are losing these buildings.

Chrystal Mathews commented that people in the community/neighborhood should be educated about the process involved for getting property/buildings designated as historic property. Ms. Mathews suggested that we provide them with this type of information. She stated that Chris Davenport, Archeologist for Planning Division, could assist with this information.

Mr. Harrington inquired about the completion date of the dike for the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. Ms. Nolan commented that she would look into this issue.

Presentation on Neighborhood Partnership Grant (NPG) Program: Chrystal Mathews, OCR Staff

Chrystal Mathews began by stating that the grant provides up to \$20,000 per project in unincorporated Palm Beach County and also the Glades areas. Community groups or business associations could apply for this grant. She gave examples of projects and expenses that the funds could be used for. Ms. Mathews distributed applications and brochures to the group. She stated that on February 27th the grant will be opening up. Also on March 16th, 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m., a workshop is being held at the Belle Glade City Hall to go through the application, and the application process. She invited all community/neighborhood groups, and community centers to come out. Ms. Mathews also stated to Mr. Abbott that the grant could provide for expenses for job training. She further commented that approximately \$200,000 was allocated for the NPG Program. The NPG deadline for submittal of application is June 16th. Ms. Mathews asked the group for comments or questions. There were no questions.

Mr. Gainer began to talk about funding for FY '05/'06. He stated that OCR is working with the different municipalities on projects. The Board allocated approximately \$3.7 million dollars this year. Also, he is in the process of reviewing old projects for left over funds from projects that were not completed or projects completed but had funds left over.

Mr. Harrington expressed a concern about the streetlights on East Main & Everglades Avenue. The streetlights have been swerving ever since the power was restored after the hurricane. Mr. Gainer stated that OCR would follow up on this issue.

Also, Mr. Harrington inquired about whether Parks & Recreation had plans for the community building in Canal Point. Mr. Gainer stated that he would follow up on this issue. Mr. Harrington suggested that the building could be used as a hurricane meeting post site.

Mr. Gainer commented that he would like to meet with Mr. Harrington to discuss forming a community group to handle issues that may come up in Canal Point. Also Mr. Gainer commented that Canal Point is OCR's next focus area to do a visioning plan.

William Wynn, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Neighborhood Home Beautification Program – He stated that in South Bay, Pahokee, and Belle Glade, the contractor will be coming out within the next two (2) weeks to do estimates on the properties chosen for the program; and then hopefully within the next two (2) or three (3) weeks the contractors will start on the homes. The contractors name is Mack Construction. Out of a total of seventy-five (75) homes that were chosen; thirty-seven (37) homes were in the Glades.

Participant Updates and Comments

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

- The Railroad Heritage Association letters for support should be finalized, which will be sent to all the different entities.

Mr. Gainer inquired about correspondence he received regarding the Big Water Heritage Trail meeting to be held in Clewiston. Because he is no longer assigned to attend these meetings, he wanted to know who is going to represent the County at the meeting. Pam Nolan commented that Vicki Silver would be going to the meetings and will give her an update.

Pam Nolan commented that Denny Abbott (Workforce Alliance) helped to get the dike paved to South Bay.

- The MPO is not a county department. MPO is mandated nationwide by the Federal government and MPO has a Board of its own.
- MPO has a bike trail planner position available.

Mr. Harrington commented that resurfacing of route 98 through Canal Point has been delayed for another year, and is to start in 2007. Also DOT will be doing resurfacing on route 98 East from Canal Point to State Road 80.

- Starting to work with the School Board in the Glades on the Van Pool Program. If you know of anyone that would like to sign up for the program, please contact Ms. Morlok at 684-4170. The program pays \$400 per month.

Comments and/or questions:

None

Adjournment of Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on March 23, 2006 in South Bay.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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