

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of May 25, 2006

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Belle Glade City Hall

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

David Broadbent, Pastor of Canal Point United Methodist Church
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Sgt. Linda Hamilton, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Terry Reed, Community Partnership Group/Pahokee Beacon Center
Ms. Richardson-Lane, City of Belle Glade
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade
Antunette Whitaker, City of Pahokee
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

1. Welcome and Introduction

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

2. Review of Minutes (April Meeting)

Mr. Gainer asked if there were corrections to the April 27, 2006 minutes. There were not corrections to the minutes.

3. Follow-up Issues – April Meeting

Mr. Gainer stated that there were no follow-up issues from the last GTAC meeting.

4. Participant Updates and Comments

Duane Gainer, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Hurricane Preparedness Meeting – He attended a meeting on May 24th on Emergency Operations Center procedures. Mr. Gainer began to discuss the handout distributed at the meeting:
 - 1) Six (6) Emergency Operating Areas – A list was provided of the Point Of Distribution (POD) site locations for each of the six (6) areas. He further stated that there was no mention of Canal Point.
 - 2) Recovery & Mitigation – This program basically gives assistance to municipal government, agencies, and individuals in their efforts to recover from disaster.
 - 3) Emergency Support Functions (ESF) – A spreadsheet was provided that showed approximately seventeen (17) concerns that the committee thought were of importance to the residents of Palm Beach County during a hurricane or an emergency situation. Each of the seventeen (17) concerns was assigned to a County department to handle. The department's responsibility is to provide this information to the residents during an emergency.

Pastor Broadbent commented that there should be an ESF regarding spiritual issues. The group made the following comments: the churches did a lot for the community after the last hurricane; if there were a contact person from the Glades, they could connect with all the churches; and there may be a strong need for counseling.

Roswell Harrington commented regarding several situations where physically and/or emotionally people were affected by the hurricane. He stated that he is aware of a business owner that suffered because of the hurricanes, and a woman in the congregation that still needs her roof repaired. He also mentioned that the elderly needs support. Mr. Gainer expressed that the residents also have a responsibility to their community. Mr. Gainer mentioned a certification volunteer training program (CVTP), which provides medical training, search & recovery, & etc. Mr. Gainer also mentioned another program called the Citizen Corp Council, which is a network of partner agencies, both private & public, that meet on a regular basis with the intention of volunteer development within the County or within their own organization. These programs will help people to get involved on a community level.

4. Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

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

The group began to discuss what they were doing to better assist the communities during an emergency: 1) Barbara Bell-Spence commented that the City of Belle has been working with the pastors or ministries regarding putting together a list of all the elderly. Antunette Whitaker commented that the City of Pahokee is also putting together a list of the elderly. Mr. Harrington commented that Canal Point is a member of the Pahokee Ministerial Association. Pastor Broadbent commented that the churches in Canal Point are trying to organize an every person count of the citizens. They are also inquiring about what their plans are in the event of a hurricane. This will give you an idea of what the needs of the people are.

The group began to discuss a comment made by Terry Reed regarding Code Enforcement identifying property for demolition that were damaged from the hurricanes. The group had a concern with people not having anywhere to live.

Linda Hamilton commented regarding unifying both City and County codes for compliance. The Sheriff's Office works in conjunction with the Code Enforcement Division. The group began to discuss adoption of land use plans for the Glades.

Mr. Gainer commented in reference to the comment made about businesses damaged during a hurricane. He stated that ESF #18 is being added to the list, which is a concern for the business industry.

Ms. Bell-Spence would like to know when would the point of distribution site locations be identified. Mr. Gainer responded that Mr. Tear has a lot of experience dealing with preparing for hurricanes and he is working on the process for the Glades. The POD's have been identified. The group began to discuss the importance of people having knowledge about where the sites will be located or designated.

4. Participant Updates and Comments (Cont'd)

Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident, reported on the following:

He stated that Dale Erickson asked him to report the following concerns:

- Northern end of Canal Point – Requesting to place a fire hydrant. There is no fire hydrant within 1½ miles.
- 911 Emergency – Mr. Erickson had an emergency where he needed to call 911, which there was no answer. He called 916 and got a response.

Mr. Gainer asked Sgt. Hamilton to look into this issue when calling emergency number 911. Sgt. Hamilton commented that she would relay the information to Sgt. Ruff, who is responsible for the area.

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

- In the process of working with the Community Development Foundation. The organization is bringing volunteers to the Glades communities to perform rehabilitation work on needed projects. The organization will not be responsible for providing the materials. On June 12th, the group will be coming to the Glades area. All three (3) municipalities are involved in this project. The City of Belle Glade is seeking monies to assist the elderly and other residents with rehabilitation work. Also, the City of Belle Glade is working with Housing & Community Development regarding rehabilitation funds for projects that were already being processed.

Mr. Harrington asked if the program included the unincorporated areas. He inquired about an elderly resident that lives in Pahokee that needs help. Ms. Bell-Spence stated yes, she could sign up for the program. The group began to discuss getting permits for the unincorporated areas. Mr. Gainer stated that he would contact Darlene Beasley, Permit Supervisor, regarding getting permits in the unincorporated areas.

Also, Mr. Harrington commented that he attended an Emergency Operations Center meeting, which he requested information for Canal Point residents. This information included the sign up sheet/book in Spanish and English for the indigent and elderly people that need assistance with transportation, shelter, & etc. during a hurricane. He further commented that he never received the forms.

Mr. Gainer stated that if anyone needs transportation during a hurricane, you could contact the Disabled Transportation Program for Palm Tran at 1-877-870-9849. Residents that live in a hurricane evacuation zone or a mobile home/manufactured home that requires special transportation assistance to a shelter due to a disability, you can pre-register for this program. He further mentioned another program for people in need of special care or special needs shelter. This program is for citizens with certain medical problems. This facility has physicians and nurses on staff. You may contact Sally Waite at 712-6484 about this program.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Regional Economic Entity – The first public meeting will be held on June 9th, 11:00a.m., at Workforce Alliance.
- LOST meeting – is scheduled for June 9th, 9:30a.m., at the City of South Bay. The landscape architect will be presenting 4 or 5 selections of designs of entryways for the downtown areas.
- Public Market Project – A meeting is scheduled on July 13th, 9:00a.m. – 12:00a.m., at Cooperative Extension (559 Military Trail; WPB, behind Driver's License Office).
- Economic Set-a-Side Program – The minimum amount that you could apply for is \$50,000 per business. One criteria is that for every \$15,000, at least one full-time position is required.

5. Adjournment of Meeting:

The next GTAC meeting will be held on June 22, 2006, 9:30a.m., at the Pahokee City Hall. The next Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) meeting is June 8, 2006, 10:00a.m., at the Clayton Hutcheson Building.

Minutes prepared by:

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

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