

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

**Meeting of September 28, 2006
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

Belle Glade City Hall

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

David Broadbent, Canal Point, Pastor of Canal Point Methodist Church
Deputy Willie Brookins, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Frend Village)
Leondrae Camel, Belle Glade Weed & Seed
Deputy Sean Flynn, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Joanne Green, (Repres. For Eric Lewis, City of South Bay)
Roswell Harrington, Resident of Pahokee, & Representative of Canal Point
Lt. Ed Luty, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Cpl. Natasha Mitchell, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Doublin Villas, Sugar Cane)
Derrick Moore, City of Belle Glade
Deputy Jessie Moreland, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Marshall Heights)
Angela Morlok, P.B.C. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Deputy Lucy Quinones, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Okeechobee Center)
Cleveland Robinson, City of Pahokee
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade
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. He thanked the City of Belle Glade for hosting the GTAC meeting.

Mr. Gainer announced that Terry Reed, Pahokee Beacon Center, is no longer with the organization. Mr. Reed volunteered to participate on the committee for the Canal Point Visioning Process.

Mr. Gainer stated that Audley Reid could not be at the meeting today. Mr. Reid is the OCR Coordinator for the Canal Point Visioning Process.

2. Review of Minutes (August meeting)

There were no corrections to the minutes.

3. Follow-up Issues – August Meeting

Mr. Gainer announced that the P.B.C. Sheriff's Office wanted to respond regarding an issue with dialing 911 mentioned at one of the GTAC meetings several months ago.

Cpl. Lucy Quinones stated that on September 20th, she contacted the resident that had an issue when dialing the emergency 911 number. Cpl. Quinones inquired if it was a cell phone, and/or the distance to the Martin County line. Cpl. Quinones then used the same phone dialing 911, and she asked dispatch for the address showing up on the display. The address was one of the three digit addresses, which is no longer a good address. Cpl. Quinones further stated that even if someone had answered the call, there still would be an issue because of the three digit changes, they would not know the exact location of the resident. The Sheriff's Office did find that the two (2) calls received did go through the District 5 Belle Glade communications. The resident told Cpl. Quinones that the telephone rang five to six times. The Sheriff's Office tracked the calls, the first call was 5.59 seconds, and the second call was 6.1 seconds. The communications supervisor advised Ms. Quinones that although the resident let the telephone rang five to six times, the Sheriff's Office telephone may have only rang two or three times. Dispatch has ten (10) seconds to answer a call. There are just two (2) dispatchers to answer all 911 calls to the western communities. She explained that at that time, they both could have been on another call. Also the Supervisor advised that a person calling needs to let the telephone rang beyond the first ten seconds. Also she suggested that the residents should call 911 and inquire about the address showing up on the system. Cpl. Quinones commented that the residents may not be aware that the old three digit number has been changed to a five digit number.

Roswell Harrington commented regarding the need to address the issue of updating the 911 System. Mr. Harrington asked if the Sheriff's Office suggests testing the 911 System by calling for their five-digit address; and then the resident should call back within one to three weeks later to verify that the correction was made.

Mr. Gainer commented that although Pastor Broadbent and Mr. Harrington were acting on behalf of the residents, he had a concern about how to get this information to all of the Canal Point residents so that all residents will be made aware of this issue.

Mr. Harrington suggested sending correspondence to the residents of Canal Point. He also suggested placing posters in the post office. There are approximately 650 residents. The information should be done in English and Spanish. He asked to be informed, so that the two (2) churches could make an announcement. He mentioned several incidences where people could not be found because of inaccurate addresses, which resulted in death and a near death. He further mentioned that the 911 system also needs to be updated for the Lake Harbor residents. Lake Harbor is west of South Bay.

Mr. Gainer commented that he will relay this information to OCR and that he appreciates the follow up from the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that he would be contacting Mr. Eshelman about the community center building. He did speak with Larry Caraccio, Code Enforcement Officer about concerns with people illegally dumping on Lake Shore Drive. He invited Mr. Caraccio to the meeting today, but because of his schedule he could not be here. Mr. Gainer further mentioned that when the Sheriff's Office and the Code Enforcement Officer work together they are effective in cleaning up the neighborhood.

4. Presentation: Funding Recommendations – Duane Gainer, OCR Staff

Mr. Gainer began by mentioning some of the requests that were in OCR's Budget Recommendations Report to the Board: Sheriff's Office, Putting Kids First Program; South Bay Street Improvements; Pahokee Sewer Lines; City of Belle Glade 1) Lift Station, 2) Storm Water Improvements.

Mr. Gainer announced that Edward Lowery, OCR Manager, as of September 19th or 20th, has accepted the position of Director of Housing & Community Development.

Mr. Gainer talked about the process involving allocating of these funds in the Funding Recommendations Report. Mr. Gainer briefly talked about the future of GTAC depended on the decision of the new OCR Manager.

Mr. Harrington commented in regards to any future changes with OCR and GTAC. He stated that the original purpose of this committee is coordination of information between the County, the Cities, and the unincorporated areas. This is the primary function of this committee. Mr. Harrington further began to talk about the Glades Long-term and Recovery Team (GLART).

He stated that he has no knowledge of the functions of this program but they are having a major influence on some policy decisions made about the Glades, for instance: Housing issue with hurricane victims and lower income population. Ms. Bell-Spence commented that (GLART) is a local long-term disaster recovery program. He feels that GLART should have a representative coming to the GTAC meetings.

5. Participant Updates/Comments:

Duane Gainer, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Mr. Gainer further talked about how GTAC came about and the departmental change with GTAC since being hired.
- He talked about OCR responsibility of handling the follow-up issues mentioned at each meeting.
- Canal Point Visioning Process - is coming up soon.

Ms. Bell-Spence would like for GLART to be invited to do a presentation at the GTAC meeting. Mr. Gainer responded that he would take care of this.

- Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program (NPG) - He mentioned several applications that were submitted and the amount funding allocated to this program this year.
- Neighborhood Beautification Program – The maximum amount per house was increased from \$3,000 to \$10,000. He further talked about past difficulty of getting contractors and getting a contractor to come the distance of the Glades.
- Resident Education To Action Program (REAP) – This program is to help educate the residents to help themselves in their neighborhood, as well as help staff with their revitalization efforts. The maximum grant amount was increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for a neighborhood project.

Angela Morlok, MPO, reported on the following:

- Clewiston/Belle Glade Route – looking at extending the route to Lee Transit (west coast). She attended a Forum meeting with Pricilla Taylor, State Representative; who is very interested and is in support of the Glades.
- South Florida Water Management District – working with contractors, as they get bids, to make sure that there is transportation for their employees to get to the work sites. A presentation was held at the community college seeking staff and students that are interested in van pooling.

5. Participant Updates/Comments: (Cont'd)

Angela Morlok, MPO, reported on the following: (Cont'd)

- Steam Locomotive (train) – A non-profit organization has taken over this project and they went to Tallahassee to request funds. She sent the organization an email requesting the status of the funds.
- The Pahokee Marina (7 acres) - Working to expand to make it a tourist environment.
- South Bay Station – There are four (4) acres to make it a station.

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

- New City Manager – is Newell J. Daughtry.
- Hotel project – The City met with a representative from the hotel several weeks ago. The hotel has been upgraded to a Ramada. The location of the hotel is off Maine Street (old Amory location).
- Getting a new hospital – location is off Hooker Highway.
- Working with three cities in selecting a Kiosk for the trail. In the process of building a bike trail or sidewalk from the marina.
- Neighborhood Restoration Committee – On October 6th, they will be visiting each community to find out issues the residents may have, such as: code enforcement, trash, home rehabilitation, businesses to inform them of programs available to upgrade the building, & etc.

Ms. Morlok inquired about addressing the issue of being able to access the top of the dike for people in wheelchairs. Ms. Bell-Spence responded that in certain areas you could access to the top of the dike.

Someone (gentleman) inquired about a demolition program. The group responded that a demolition program is under Housing & Community Development Rehabilitation Program.

Mr. Gainer inquired if the Glades had a Weed & Seed Program. Ms. Bell-Spence responded yes.

Mr. Gainer inquired about the status of a community event to be sponsored by Teresa Clark. Ms. Clark attended the REAP program and received a grant for \$500 to do a community event. He commented that the deadline for completing the project is by December 30th. Deputy Moreland commented that Mr. Lewis, and Ms. Clark had planned to do a Back To School Event but did not have enough time. Deputy Moreland is requesting that Mr. Lewis contact him.

William Wynn commented in reference to the Home Beautification Program. He stated that on October 17th the Handyman Contract is being presented to the Board for approval. He asked Ms. Bell-Spence to relay this information to Cindy.

Leondrae Camel, Belle Glade Weed & Seed Program, reported on the following: Cont'd)

- He stated that they have a fully functional Weed & Seed Program. In mid October, they will have everything finalized as far as the Sheriff's Office Community Policing, and the Law Enforcement aspect of the Weeding portion. As far as the seeding, they are providing several services to the residents within the Weed & Seed community. They partner with DCF to provide the access site online. This service will eliminate the residents going to the County facility to sign up for their public assistance.
- The organization is also providing volunteer income tax assistance within the Weed & Seed community.
- Federation of Family – will provide several services to the residents, such as: parenting courses, youth after school courses, after school tutorial program.
- Stomp Out Crime Concert – will be on October 14th, held at Bill Bailey Gymnasium, 7:00p.m. For more information, you may call (561) 996-4240.

Roswell Harrington, Resident of Pahokee, & Representative of Canal Point, reported on the following:

- Thanked the Sheriff's Office for helping out with the second goods used seller for Canal Point.
- Canal Point Visioning Committee Meeting – He responded to the questions made at the meeting to Audley Reid.
- Kiosk – Inquired about what the other three (3) cities are proposing.
- Community Center Building – Inquired about the status of completion of the building.
- Repaving of US 98 (north of Canal Point) – has been delayed, again. The contract won't go out for bid until March '07.
- Connors Highway (east of Canal Point) – is about one (1) year behind. The contract has been delayed until 2010 for resurfacing.
- Army Corp. Meeting – The meeting was very interesting. The Army Corp. and South Florida Water Management District were developing recreation plans, primarily for the storm water treatment areas, not for the lake area. He suggested to Mr. Reid to invite the group at the meeting to come to the Canal Point Visioning Meeting.

5. Participant Updates/Comments: (Cont'd)

Roswell Harrington, Resident of Pahokee, & Representative of Canal Point, reported on the following:

- Proposal for the Dike – The new proposal includes expanding the base of the tote out and putting in panels, rather than fill; which means they are going to be wanting more land on the eastern side of the dike.

Mr. Harrington asked Pastor Broadbent to speak on the gospel fest. Pastor Broadbent commented that they are doing a community crusade to bring together the Black, Hispanic, and Anglo.

Ms. Morlok commented regarding the highway/roadway projects. She stated that there is a representative on the Board. The best way to handle these concerns is tell your representatives. The MPO Board meetings are open to the public.

Lt. Luty commented that he had no updates from the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Gainer proceeded to ask how is it determined what community gets a community policing officer. He is looking at Canal Point having a community policing officer. Lt. Luty responded that the community residents makes a request, then the Sheriff's Office determines whether it is really needed. Mr. Gainer asked that the Sheriff's Office be at the Canal Point Visioning Meeting.

Ms. Morlok commented that she was not at the last GTAC meeting, but she read in the minutes about a discussion on FEMA mobile home trailers. Mr. Harrington responded that he could provide an update on this. He stated that a letter was sent to all non-profit organizations about taking the leadership or ownership of the mobile homes. There seems not to be an interest of the non-profits in becoming mobile home owners. The reason may be that they don't want to get involved with evictions. The non-profit organizations seem to be focusing on another grant proposal that provides permanent housing.

Mr. Harrington agreed with Barbara Bell-Spence about the lack of hotels in the Glades. This is an issue that needs to be addressed. He experienced a situation where the Glades did not have appropriate hotels to accommodate guests coming to his family event.

Mr. Harrington also mentioned an issue that will affect Dale Erickson's a long-term project by the tourist train going around the lake.

Ms. Morlok commented that Palm Beach County Disaster Recovery Coalition, Inc., meet once a month, held at the Red Cross. Ms. Bell-Spence commented that GARTH is a part of this organization.

Ms. Bell-Spence commented that she received a call and it was mentioned that FEMA would be evicting some of the victims affected by the hurricane. Mr. Harrington commented that Francis and Jeanne victims are scheduled for eviction October 30th. He further commented that an effort is being made by two non-profits: The Nazerine Church (Pahokee) is attempting to obtain ownership of all the Francis, and Jeanne trailers.

Pastor Broadbent volunteered his services for assisting with mailing out of information or notices regarding accurate addressing in Canal Point. Mr. Gainer commented that he will contact public safety coordinator regarding handling this project.

Deputy Quinones mentioned the importance of residents taking the initiative to find out their five-digit number. Mr. Gainer commented that OCR staff went door to door to assist with addressing in one of our CCRT areas. He stated that he will look into the addressing issue in Canal Point.

6. Adjournment of Meeting:

The next GTAC meeting will be held on October 26, 2006, 9:30a.m., at Pahokee City Hall. The next Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) meeting is October 10, 2006, 10:00a.m., at the Clayton Hutcheson Building.

Minutes prepared by:

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