

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of October 26, 2006

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Pahokee City Hall

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

Deputy Willie Brookins, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Frend Village)
Ruadean Butts, Belle Glade/Raderville
Dale Erickson, Canal Point
Deputy Sean Flynn, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Deputy Tony Berry Hill, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Sgt. Linda Hamilton, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (District 5 Western communities)
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point
Annie Mincey, Take Stock In Children
LJ Margolis, South Bay RV Campground (FEMA Village)/Coordinator of
Emergency Management Glades Operating Areas
Cpl. Natasha Mitchell, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Dublin Villas, Sugar Cane)
Bonita Moore, Belle Glade/Raderville
Deputy Jessie Moreland, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Marshall Heights)
Angela Morlok, P.B.C. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Amanda Muniz, City of Pahokee, Community Economic Development
Audley Reid, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
LaToya Ricketts, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Cleveland Robinson, City of Pahokee
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

1. Welcome and Introduction

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

Mr. Gainer announced that he brought Hurricane Preparedness Guides for the group to distribute.

2. Review of Minutes (September meeting)

There were no corrections to the minutes.

3. Follow-up Issues – September Meeting

Mr. Gainer announced that there were no new follow-up issues from the September meeting. He stated that he did have a previous follow-up regarding a date when the community center will be completed. He asked LJ Margolis to contact Parks Department on this issue.

Ms. Barbara Bell-Spence mentioned a follow-up issue in regards to a MPO Representative for the Glades area. Mr. Gainer stated that he received a telephone call from Palm Tran in relation to a representative attending the GTAC meetings. Mr. Roswell Harrington commented that there is a MPO representative for the Glades area. Ms. Bell-Spence stated that she followed up on this issue and Dr. Ray Torres Sanchez, Mayor of the City of Belle Glade, was appointed to be the MPO Representative.

Mr. Harrington commented regarding the new Bell South telephone Directory. He stated that over half of the Pahokee addresses are contributed to Canal Point. This indicates that the system needs to be corrected. Mr. Harrington gave Mr. Gainer the telephone directory.

Mr. Gainer mentioned another issue in relation to emergency issues. He stated that he spoke with Matt Cronin in reference to dialing emergency number 911 for assistance. Mr. Gainer further stated that he would be inviting someone to speak at a GTAC meeting on this issue.

4. Discussions: Neighborhood Partnership Grant (NPG), Funding Recommendations, and Neighborhood Home Beautification Program (NHBP)

1. NPG – Mr. Gainer stated that the process has been completed. Ms. Mathews has made her recommendations for the NPG grant funds. He mentioned one of the applications submitted: Okeechobee Center (relocation of a park) – Ms. Bonita Moore explained what the grant entails.
2. OCR Funding Recommendations – Mr. Gainer had a correction regarding the total amount allocated for OCR budget for FY '06/'07. The correct amount allocated for OCR budget is \$4.2 million dollars. Mr. Gainer talked about the various programs in the Glades recommended for funding. The recommendations will be presented to the Board on November 21st. Also Mr. Gainer mentioned that OCR will be assisting with the project called Homelessness Planning.

3. NHBP - The program will be receiving an additional \$75,000. This program is for assisting residents with exterior repairs to their home. The initial grant amount was for \$2,000, which was increased to \$10,000 per applicant. Pam Nolan inquired if any homes in Canal Point were in this program. Mr. Wynn responded no but there were requests for mobile home repairs in Canal Point. The repair of mobile homes could not be approved for this project. Mr. Wynn explained that the county does not consider mobile homes a permanent structure.

Mr. Harrington commented that in regards to repairs to homes in Canal Point, arrangements have been made with the Director of Building to do some emergency permitting. Also, they are working on getting volunteers to help out with the repairs of homes; with the homeowners purchasing the material. Ms. Rebecca Caldwell has agreed to do a one (1) day permitting session in Canal Point for residence that applies for owner's permits.

Mr. Harrington also commented regarding a comment made by Mr. Wynn about the County assisting with repairs of mobile homes. He has been dealing with FEMA and other non-profits on this issue for the last five (5) months. He stated that although mobile homes are not considered permanent structures, we need every single housing unit possible in the Glades.

Pam Nolan inquired if Habitat for Humanity were in the Glades. Ms. Bell-Spence responded that she has been communicating with the organization but the issue is having available land.

Mr. Harrington commented that a house on Lake Shore Drive in Canal Point was done by Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Gainer commented that he made a note to inquire about a representative from the Habitat for Humanity organization. Also Mr. Gainer commented regarding regulations for mobile home trailers. He stated that this is not just a Palm Beach County issue, trailer parks exist all over the U.S. If there is an issue, he suggested talking to your Commissioner, and Legislator. He further stated that the County is starting to work on the issue of affordable housing.

Mr. Gainer asked LaToya Ricketts to make an announcement. Ms. Ricketts stated that there will be a debate on Monday, October 30th, 7:00p.m., at Belle Glade City Chambers for the candidates of Palm Beach County Commission District 6. She encourages everyone to come out and meet the candidates. She brought flyers on this event.

5. Participant Updates/Comments:

LaToya Ricketts, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- '05 REAP grant participants – She announced that the projects are due or to be completed by December 6th. If the projects are not completed, you need to contact her so that you may request an extension agreement.
- '06 REAP Program – She brought temporary flyers of the program. All information is confirmed except for the location of the sessions to be held. The attendance was great last year and she hopes that this year will be even better. Also, this year, there will be new topics of discussion, and more grant money.

Michael Sklar, HCD, reported on the following:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application & Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) application – are now available. If you would like an application, you may contact Alicia Westzarth at her email address (awestzarth@pbcgov.com) or go to HCD's website (pbc.com/hcd). The deadline for submittal of application is due by the first Friday, January 5th. He further explained that the CDBG funds are Federal funds and is designed for municipalities, non-profit agencies, and other county departments to assist low-to-moderate income residences. The Emergency Shelter Grant program is Federal funds. It is designed to assist non-profit agencies that deal with homeless issues. In most cases, the maximum amount that you could apply for is \$300,000. The maximum amount for municipalities is different. There are two (2) public meetings scheduled to discuss both programs: 1) held at 3323 Belvedere Road, Building 509 (behind Hertz Rental Car); 2) Belle Glade Commission Chambers. This information is available on HCD's website.

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

- Brownsfield – They received a grant from Treasure Coast Planning Council to remove tanks from an old service station (located on the corner of 5th & Avenue "A"). This project will start on November 1st.

Mr. Gainer commented that he had spoken with Maggie Smith, and he inquired if Maggie Smith had contacted Ms. Bell-Spence about a funding request for an environment study for the area mentioned above. Mr. Gainer further explained what they talked about. Ms. Bell-Spence stated that she would look into this.

Michael Sklar inquired if a due diligence had been done. Ms. Bell-Spence commented yes.

Angela Morlok, MPO, reported on the following:

- CUTTER – This is the Center for Urban Transportation Research. They will be doing a study on the Glades area to look at rural transportation. This study will include all five (5) counties.
- Regional Economic Initiatives of Palm Beach County – The name was changed from the Glades Economic Alliance. The organization is to help projects move along. They handle the transit part (steam locomotive) for the four (4) different areas.
- South Florida Water Management District – They are still working with SFWMD regarding van pooling for employees of the contractors.
- Working on doing a Scope Study in regards to looking at what is needed for transportation mobility.

Ms. Bell-Spence suggested that she look into tri-rail coming to the area. Ms. Bell-Spence stated that the Glades have lots of train tracks all over the area. She further commented that it would be more economical and safer comparing than the number of people driving vehicles. The group began to discuss this issue. Ms. Morlok commented that MPO would be visiting the cities and meeting to get their input.

Pam Nolan mentioned that the Port Feasibility Study should be complete in December. The need is to have more rails.

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

- He further commented on the above discussion about railroads. He stated that this depends on what Army Corp decides to do. Thirteen (13) miles of the current existing railroad is to be moved if Army Corp extends the dike. A workshop will be done in the future.
- 911 System – still working on this.
- Okeechobee dike evacuation plan – he inquired about the status of the plan.
- Repaving of US 98/441 – He has been in contact with Department of Transportation. The construction will start in March.
- The Palm Tran site in Canal Point has been moved to a site that does not have enough light and has no overhang protection. The old Stop & Shop site was the corner of Dr. Tucker building. He contacted Palm Tran about his concerns for people that were getting on the bus and he got no response. He went to the new site several times and the bus did not stop for him. He feels that the bus driver could not see him.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Local area program funding – She has been working with FDOT to schedule a meeting with the cities. The funds are federal funds that go through specific programs, such as: Enhancement Funds through MPO (sidewalks, bike paths); and Safe Sidewalks Funds.

Sgt. Linda Hamilton, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office, reported on the following:

- Christmas Holiday event – Community Policing Unit is working on the Christmas holiday event for the Glades area. They are working with the Children Services Council to provide toys for over 5,000 kids. The goal is to have the event on December 23rd at two (2) locations: 1) Pioneer Park, and 2) ?

Deputy Jessie Moreland, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office, reported on the following:

- Thanksgiving Holiday event – They are looking at disbursing dinners for over 200 families, and senior citizens.

In reference to the Thanksgiving event, Mr. Harrington suggested that they contact the four (4) ministerial associations; as they are also in the process of putting together a gospel fest. You may contact Pastor Broadbent for a list of the senior citizens. Mr. Gainer commented that he also has a list of the senior citizens of Okeechobee Center. Ms. Bell-Spence asked for his list.

In reference to the Christmas event, Ms. Ricketts inquired about distribution of the toys. She asked if distribution of the toys would be done through pre-registration or on a first come first serve basis. Sgt. Hamilton commented that it would be done on a pre-registration basis and they are targeting the schools.

Mr. Harrington commented that Rev. Daniel Moore, Pahokee Nazarone Church, has been working with the Longterm Recovery Coalition. FEMA has been proceeding toward the ownership or removal of Francis, and Jeanne trailers.

Mr. Gainer mentioned to Mr. Cleveland Robinson that he received a telephone call from the firm Calvin Giordano. He stated that they were working for Pahokee on the EAR performance & evaluation. Mr. Gainer stated that he recommended that they contact Mr. Robinson.

Deputy Natasha Mitchell, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office, reported on the following:

- Shop With A Cop event – will be held on December 15th. Forty (40) students from the Glades will receive a \$100 food certificate and \$100 toy certificate.

6. Adjournment of Meeting:

The next GTAC meeting will be held on November 30, 2006, 9:30a.m., in South Bay. The next Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) meeting is November 14, 2006, 10:00a.m., at the Clayton Hutcheson Building.

Minutes prepared by:

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

T:\Planning\Revitalization\District 6\GLADES\GTAC\GTAC Minutes\GTAC Mins 2006\10-26-06 minutes.doc