

# **Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)**

**Meeting of May 24, 2007**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Belle Glade City Hall**

## **Minutes**

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### **Present at the meeting:**

David Broadbent, Pastor of Canal Point United Methodist Church  
Deputy Willie Brookins, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Fremd Village in City of Pahokee)  
James Bulger, New Hope Community Center  
Dante Dowers, City of Belle Glade  
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Joanne Green, City of South Bay/Community Development (Repr. For Eric Lewis)  
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident  
Deputy Stan Jackson, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Okeechobee Center)  
Theresa Fordham-Jones, (Repr. For State Rep. Priscilla Taylor, Dist. 84)  
Roy M. McGinnis, P.B.C. Dept. of Health/PACE EH  
LJ Margolis, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation, &  
Glades Emergency Operating Area Coordinator  
Deputy Natasha Mitchell, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Community Policing Unit)  
Derrek Moore, Finance Director, City of Pahokee  
Deputy Jessie Moreland, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Marshall Heights in South Bay)  
Ivory Paschal, Pahokee Beacon Center, & REAP Graduate  
LaToya Ricketts, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)  
Houston Tate, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Mr. Underwood, City Manager, City of Belle Glade  
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Mr. Gainer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Next, he introduced Mr. Houston L. Tate, new OCR Manager. He asked Mr. Tate if he had any comments. Mr. Tate commented that OCR is currently working with the CORPS to obtain funds for a position under the OCR staff. The staff person is primarily going to be assigned to the Glades. He is looking forward to working with this group.

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

Roswell Harrington announced that Dale Erickson could not attend the meeting today. Mr. Harrington further commented that he spoke with DOT's local maintenance shop. He inquired about construction on Road 98. DOT did not have an answer.

## **2. Review of Minutes (April meeting)**

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any corrections.

## **3. Follow-up Issues (April meeting)**

Mr. Gainer reviewed the following follow-ups:

1. Mr. Gainer stated that he brought the requested information for Ms. Latimore. Ms. Latimore had a concern with contractors that don't perform well on a project and she inquired if there was a procedure for making a complaint.
2. Canal Point Community Center Grand Opening – Mr. Gainer stated that he spoke with Mr. Tate, Audley Reid, and Parks & Recreation. He stated that maybe the event could be held at the same time the Canal Point Visioning Plan is presented to the community.

Also Mr. Tate thought that this would be a great time to recognize anyone in the community. He is requesting that you forward the names and purpose of the recognition to OCR.

Mr. Harrington mentioned that when scheduling the Canal Point Visioning meeting, that also next month the Palm Beach County Historic Resources Review Board is also planning to have an event at the community center.

3. Community Center – There was a concern regarding the generator switch, and using the community center as a facility for post disaster. He stated that the building is not rated as a hurricane post disaster building. Also regarding the generator, he spoke with several people, and it can be changed out. The estimated costs range from \$4,000 to \$13,000 to equip the panel.

**4. Presentation:** LaToya Ricketts, OCR Staff  
Resident Education Action Program (REAP)

LaToya Ricketts began by talking about the REAP Graduation. She stated that she is very pleased how well everything went at the REAP Graduation. She also mentioned that she was proud of the REAP participants that attended the sessions held in the Glades. At this time, Ms. Ricketts passed out Certificates of Completion to participants that could not attend the graduation ceremony: 1) James Bulger, Deborah Prick, Dorothy Ferby, Pamela Harvey, Roswell Harrington, Cynthia Mann, Ivory Pascal, Marguerita Rodriguez, Danielle Sanchez, Nancy Smith, Vivian Wade, and Sandy Fox.

Ms. Ricketts further mentioned the grants that were awarded: 1) A Place To Dream - Pahokee Beacon Center was award \$3,000 for a community gardening project; 2) We Help CDC – Abidjan Estates was awarded \$5,000 for a neighborhood identification sign project; 3) Glades Community Choir was awarded \$5,000 for uniforms and musical equipment; and 4) Pioneer Terrace Senior Center was awarded \$5,000 for new electric doors.

Ms. Ricketts concluded by stating that OCR is looking forward to coming to the Glades next year to present another REAP course.

Next, Mr. Gainer stated that he would like to have a brief discussion regarding attendance of the GTAC meetings and its' purpose. He asked the group for their input regarding increasing attendance. Mr. Gainer further talked about the purpose or the role that OCR plays in coordinating the monthly GTAC meetings. He stated that in the Comp Plan it states that the County will provide this vehicle for the municipalities of the Glades to communicate their concerns and issues to the County on a monthly basis. Mr. Gainer went into detail as to how the meetings should be conducted. He stated that OCR should coordinate and handle typing of the minutes of the meeting but the group should be facilitating the meetings. This means that the GTAC group should have a Chairperson and bring the different issues and topics of discussion. Mr. Gainer asked the group for comments.

Roswell Harrington began to comment regarding attendance at the GTAC meetings. He would like to see participation of representation from the Commissioner's Office. He stated that information exchange is the primary function of the group. Mr. Harrington stated that he appreciates continuation of the meetings because they are needed and he likes the idea of OCR Staff person facilitating the meetings.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that last month Mr. Tate coordinated with one of the Commissioner's about coming to the meetings.

Mr. Harrington stated that LORE (Lake Okeechobee Regional Economic) alliance meets on a regional basis. He would like to see GTAC continue, more agency representation, and DOT needs to attend.

Mr. Tate mentioned that he has been in contact with the City Managers of the Glades and invited them to come to the GTAC meetings. He further commented that Commissioner Santamaria is highly committed to the Glades. Mr. Tate mentioned that OCR would be selecting a County liaison. The position will be funded through the CORPS.

Mr. Tate further asked everyone to make suggestions or recommendations about what direction they would like OCR to go in. He began to talk about leveraging with other County departments on the various projects because with budget cuts, no one department is going to be able to fund projects such as infrastructure, etc.

David Broadbent also commented that the group should have more diverse resources attending the GTAC meetings. He stated that he likes to come to the meetings to find out what is happening with the different projects in the Glades. When you have an opportunity to have the people at the meetings, who have the information, it makes the meetings more valuable. Pastor Broadbent commented on and is interested in finding out more information about community policing. Mr. Tate responded maybe we should invite the Sheriff's Office to speak on community policing.

Joanne Greene thanked Mr. Gainer for being instrumental in helping her put together agreements and documentation needed to proceed with the reconstruction of SW 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. Ms. Green had a concern regarding the funding amount allocated for street improvements. She stated that they were only able to get \$400,000 for one street; and there are an additional six or seven streets' that need to be reconstructed. She asked how could they acquire additional funds for the city on behalf of the street improvements project. She further suggested putting together a project status report; where each of the cities could provide a report on projects.

Dante Dowers, on behalf of the City of Belle Glade, thanked OCR for its' assistance. Mr. Dowers expressed a concern with Hands Park, and he inquired about getting a barrier placed around the park for protection of the kids. People are driving through the park. This is a public safety issue. The park has been there for about three (3) years, and there were not enough funds for the barriers. He is requesting assistance with this.

James Bulger commented regarding getting County Commissioners, nonprofits, and after school program representatives involved at the GTAC meetings to discuss the safety and issues dealing with the kids. In aspect of talking about crime, we need to have something in place to offer the kids;

some place safe and effective. The group began to discuss this issue in regards to activities being provided for the kids in the Glades. Someone inquired if the Beacon Center had activities for the kids. Someone responded yes.

Roy McGinnis, Health Department, stated that he does assessments in the different communities, and one of the top five issues is there needs to be something for the kids to do.

Ivory Paschal stated that she would like to see the Sheriff's Office get involved with team building. The purpose is to build trust. She talked about her experience with taking a group of At-Risk Kids to the Sheriff's Ranch.

Deputy Brookins commented that himself and Deputy Moreland coached teams in a basketball league and football league. They do a lot of activities with the kids.

Deputy Jackson mentioned that Harmony In The Streets is coming up in June to be held in Pahokee.

Mr. Tate asked Deputy Jackson to bring information on events or what is happening with the Sheriff's Office in regards to the Glades to the next GTAC meeting.

Deputy Natasha Mitchell announced that a Teen Summit event is coming up on June 11th, 12th, & 13<sup>th</sup>, held at Lake Shore. This is being done through the Weed & Seed Program, which the Sheriff's Office will be participating in an activity at the event. She also announced that National Night Out will be held in August; Putting Kids First will be in August, and for two (2) weeks, Harmony In The Streets will be held (one week in South Bay, and one week in Pahokee).

Theresa Fordham-Jones talked about a need to provide transportation for people that would like to come to the different events. Some events are held at the same time and on the same date.

Deputy Moreland commented that two (2) deputies are assigned each to Pahokee, Belle Glade, and South Bay for Community Policing. He stated that in his community, they also have the same programs as mentioned above, along with sports activities for the kids. Deputy Moreland agreed that we do need to offer activities for the youth. He suggested a YMCA, and skating rink. They don't have an appropriate place to take the kids, except for bringing them to West Palm Beach; which is not feasible in addition to the policies. In Community Policing they meet so many kids, and they love to do things with the youth. He further commented that we need something else for the kids to do in the Glades other than a park.

Mr. Harrington asked Mr. Tate about a fund raising event for a YMCA. Mr. Tate began to talk about a past project that involved trying to obtain a YMCA in the Glades area. They were working on getting the land from Parks & Recreation, and also he and Mr. Dowers had met with YMCA. The project did not move forward.

Mr. Underwood commented that there are issues in Belle Glade relative to gangs, and safety of the residents are a big concern; and in order to move forward we need to get a handle on it.

Mr. Tate commented that at the next meeting, we are asking the Sheriff's Office to come and do a presentation. He asked Mr. Underwood for further comments or suggestions at the next GTAC meeting.

Mr. Tate began to talk again about the past YMCA project. He stated that the parcel of land mentioned was approximately 11 acres (between Glades Central/on State Road 80). The issue with the land was the property taxes. Mr. Harrington also stated that there is a need to have this type of program in the Glades. Mr. Tate further stated that this might need to be a regional request. He stated that the building needs to be comparable to what is being done in other cities, and this is going to be very expensive.

LJ Margolis revisited the comment regarding safety in the park. She commented regarding getting Park Rangers and Park Deputies. She further asked if whether existing Deputies could be Park Deputies or if existing Deputies could be assigned to patrol the parks. Ms. Margolis mentioned the upcoming budget cuts.

LaToya Ricketts stated that the upcoming budget cuts are for the next fiscal year. She inquired if it was possible, for the remainder of this fiscal year, to re-transition rangers. Maybe we could reassign rangers from parks that have more than one Park Ranger. Mr. Gainer asked for a contact person to direct this concern to. Ms. Margolis suggested contacting Eric Paul, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Margolis stated that one significant issue they are having at Pioneer Park is with ATV's riding and destroying the turf. This is also causing a dangerous situation with pedestrians and children playing.

James Bulger began to talk about a joint venture summer program with New Hope Community Center and the Workforce Alliance; whereas forty (40) kids would have an opportunity to participate in this program. He stated that once the kids completed the program, they were first attendants for the summer job program. Mr. Bulger shared an experience that happened in the interim of bringing the kids back to Pahokee in McDonalds with a group

of kids from Belle Glade. He further commented that on the following Wednesday, when the kids were suppose to go back to Workforce Alliance, the kids did not want to go back to Belle Glade. He asked the kids why can't they get along with the kids in Belle Glade, and there response is they just can't. He further commented that if the teen summit is held in Belle Glade, 90% of the kids would be from Belle Glade only. He began to talk about other situations with teen rivalries going on between the different geographic areas. He talked about finding an area for the event and merging the kids together slowly. He expressed and stated that we need to get kids educated from the streets.

Mr. Bulger further asked what happened to the City of Belle Glade Teen Empowerment Center that was suppose to be coming to the Glades. He mentioned other cities that have a center. He further mentioned the issue with teens failing the FCAT.

The group began to discuss teen social issues between the geographical areas going on in the Glades.

Joanne Green inquired about putting together a calendar of dates of events or activities planned in the Glades by the different organizations, groups, and the cities. She further inquired about the Weed & Seed After School Program on the coast. She further commented about outreaching to get the Spanish, and Creole speaking children involvement in the program. Deputy Moreland responded that they are currently working on a soccer team, which will involve the Haitian, and Spanish community.

LaToya Ricketts inquired if the Sheriff's Office would be sending kids to the Crime Prevention Workshop next weekend. Deputy Moreland responded, no. Someone stated that there are funds in their budget to assist with sending kids to the conference. Ms. Ricketts stated that she would meet with her after the meeting.

David Broadbent commented regarding a ROPES course. He feels this will be a valuable tool for many organizations that assist at risk kids in the Glades. Pastor Broadbent stated that he was over a ROPES's course years ago, and the P.B.J.C. campus in the Glades would be a great site.

Mr. Gainer talked about the need and importance of growing the GTAC membership participation.

## **5. Participant Updates/Comments:**

### **Roswell Harrington, Canal Point, reported on the following:**

- Roswell Harrington stated that Dale Erickson owned, operated, and is a trained instructor in the ROPES's course in Okeechobee. He suggested getting input from Mr. Erickson.
- Mr. Harrington further commented that the Army Corp of Engineers has finalized the dike report. They do have a website. Also the United States Senate has also authorized \$1.5 million dollars to come with their own dike report.
- Mr. Harrington also commented that the Canal Point United Methodist Church in cooperation with the Palm Beach County Health Department is going to be doing a hurricane survey in Canal Point, and possibly northern Pahokee.
- Mr. Harrington commented that the Canal Point Visioning/Charette Report is complete. A meeting will be scheduled next month to finalize the document.

### **Ivory Paschal, Pahokee Beacon Center, reported on the following:**

- Neighbor Works Conference held in Boston – In the process of writing a grant.

### **LaToya Ricketts, OCR Staff, reported on the following:**

- LaToya Ricketts commented that in the OCR Gazette, there is an announcement of current grants available. This information is also on OCR website.
- Completed 2005 REAP Projects – 1) Pahokee Housing Authority – received two (2) senior gazebos; 2) Pahokee Housing Authority (Fremd Village - Midnight Hoops Program) – Refurbish basketball court; 3) South Bay (Monthly Movie Night) – Purchase supplies; 4) Belle Glade (Sugar Subdivision) – Plant flowers; 5) Project in Belle Glade – funds were awarded, waiting on the seniors to complete the project.

### **LJ Margolis, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation, & Glades Emergency Operating Area Coordinator, reported on the following:**

- Emergency Operating Program – The County has been divided into six (6) zones. The Glades Emergency Operating Area is referred to as EOA 1. She is the coordinator for the Glades area. Houston Tate is one of EOA1 team member. Ms. Margolis talked about past and current trainings held, which included all six (6) zone's team members.



Mr. Tate suggested inviting all cities to attend the Emergency Management Team Members meeting held on every third Wednesday, 10:00am – 11:30am, at EOC Office. OCR will send you this information.

Pastor Broadbent mentioned that at the facility, they would be installing gas stoves, instead of having electric stoves. Although the facility is not functioning as a shelter during a storm, the kitchen equipment could be used after a hurricane.

Someone inquired about faith based organizational meetings. Mr. Harrington commented that Gloria Zimmerman mentioned chairing the meetings.

Mr. Gainer asked Ms. Margolis to take responsibility of informing Mr. Tear about the concerns that Canal Point has and using the community center after a hurricane. He stated that Canal Point residents don't have a place to go after a hurricane in the event of damages. Ms. Margolis also stated a need to address issues in Lake Harbor.

The group began to discuss food distribution drop off points. Ms. Ricketts talked about working with the non-profit organizations in reference to distribution sites. Ms. Margolis suggested non-profit organizations needs to attend the GTAC meetings to address these issues.

Ms. Margolis inquired about the GART meetings. Mr. Tate responded that GART deals with post hurricane related issues. Mr. Tate stated that he would contact GART and request someone to attend the GTAC meetings.

**Joanne Green, City of South Bay/Community Affairs, reported on the following:**

- Received \$60,000 for the Park of Commerce.
- Processing twenty-five (25) housing rehabilitation applications.
- Looking into acquiring new grant projects.

**Roy M. McGinnis, P.B.C. Dept. of Health/PACE EH, reported on the following:**

- Working on doing a survey in Canal Point.
- In August will start working on community center in Pahokee.

Mr. Tate commented regarding the survey. He stated that the survey is a very good survey and has many purposes that can be used in terms of obtaining information.

**Michael Sklar, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD), reported on the following:**

- Community Development Block Grant – have completed evaluations of all the applications. The request for funding is going before the Board for approval on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Approximately \$700,000 of CDBG funds will be for the Glades.
- Currently in the process of completing HCD's temporary housing plan in reference to disaster.

Mr. Harrington gave an update on the mobile home trailers. He commented that Denny Moore is out of funds, and cannot complete mobile home hook-ups. He further commented that Indiantown is also out of funds, and cannot complete mobile home hook-ups. Mr. Sklar responded that this maybe a FEMA issue. HCD's involvement is after the hurricane, and HCD basically tells FEMA where to place the mobile home trailers. Mr. Sklar stated that he would relay this information to Mr. Edward Lowery, Director of HCD.

Dante Dowers commented regarding funds to install a fence. Mr. Sklar stated that Belle Glade is going to have left over funds from a CDBG grant. The funds will be available in October. He recommended that Mr. Underwood write a letter to Mr. Lowery requesting assistance for the funds.

Mr. Tate commented that Ms. Tomaey is in the process of submitting a request to OCR for assistance with funding for the fence. He is looking at assisting Belle Glade with this request.

**Theresa Fordham-Jones, Representing State Rep. Priscilla Taylor, reported on the following:**

- She stated that State Rep. Taylor will be coming to the Glades next month.

Mr. Gainer asked for Ms. Priscilla Taylor's email address.

LaToya Ricketts announced that if anyone has information on activities or events upcoming to please contact her so that she can place this information in the OCR Gazette, OCR website, and OCR/GTAC activity calendars.

Mr. Harrington inquired about the status of the contract for the sewer. Mr. Harrington asked if whether the contract had been signed. Derreck Moore stated that he would need to follow up on this, and he would contact him.

Mr. Gainer asked Mr. Tate if he had any comments. Mr. Tate stated that it is important that we keep taking GTAC seriously. There are a lot of crucial issues that need to be worked out.

Mr. Tate stated that OCR is in the process of re-evaluating the budget. He mentioned that OCR staff is looking at a retreat workshop to assess priorities and to look at what direction the office will be going.

**6. Adjournment of Meeting:**

The next GTAC meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2007, 9:30a.m. in Pahokee. The next Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) meeting is June 19, 2007, at 10:00a.m., at Clayton Hutcheson.

Minutes prepared by

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

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