

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)

Meeting of March 27, 2008

9:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Pahokee

Minutes

Present at the meeting:

David Broadbent, Pastor of Canal Point United Methodist Church
Natalie R.Fazio, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident
Kai Jones, P.B.C. Department of Health/ PACE EH
Chris McGinnis, P.B.C. Dept of Health/PACE EH
Derrek A. Moore, Finance Director, City of Pahokee
Angela Morlok, P.B.C. Metropolitan Planning Organization
LJ Margolis, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development
Cpl. George Searing, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Lillian Tomeu, Assistant City Manager, City of Belle Glade
Barry Trombley, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Code Enforcement)
Diane Walker, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office, City of Pahokee

1. Welcome and Introduction

Duane Gainer introduced himself and asked meeting participants to introduce themselves.

2. Review of Minutes

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any corrections, omissions, and changes, to the February 28 meeting. There were corrections to the minutes.

LJ Margolis had a question in reference to the allocated funding of \$400,000 for South Bay.

Mr. Tate explained due to budgetary issues request to the county to change the interlocal agreement to reflect the change of– previously “reimbursable” – will change agreement to pay costs directly rather than have South Bay pay first and then be reimbursed.

On May 20 this will be on the agenda to be presented to the board of commissions to change the method of payment.

3. Follow-up Issues (February meeting)

4. Discussion/Updates:

Mr. Gainer and Mr. Tate discussed about restructuring GTAC, to have the committee as similar in responsibility as CCRT. One reason – funding.

Mr. Tate –discussed in detail that GTAC should play a significant role in the kinds of technical assistance the Glades should be receiving. He further mentioned the community needs to attend the meetings.

- The partners – other county departments, etc – are at the meetings as problem solvers.
- Community members are the ones who should attend the meetings to present their needs. It is necessary to bring the public in, bring the communities in.
- GTAC will be meeting with Canal Point to see how we can do something to enhance the canal for fishing. GTAC will help find the funding – not necessarily from OCR or other county budget, but from thinking outside the box.
- Help the communities become non-profit or incorporated so they can apply for grants.
- Get the community to attend the GTAC meetings – get them involved – get their steering committees working.
- Mr. Tate stated it is ineffective when you come to a meeting and have mostly county staff in attendance.
- Mr. Tate further mentioned Roswell'Harringtons persistence from phone calls to OCR and other offices makes things happen in Canal Point.
- The Glades needs to take advantage of the resources that are out there. Money is drying up – you are going to have to come and state your case. Go back to your respective corners and find a way to fill this place up.

Roswell Harrington Resident of & Representative of Canal Point:

- A discussion ensued regarding the importance having just one meeting.
- Mr. Harrington mentioned that there are two county-based meeting organizations that have set up there own meetings. He further stated this is a duplication of information and effort.
- Mr. Tate stated a need to coordinate one meeting. He mentioned that the government only reacts to your concerns. They do not know what your concerns are – you have to tell them.

Mr. Tate asked, What is the problem that is causing the lack of motivation or performance? We need to see how we can have one meeting where everyone can come and address all the issues at one meeting.

Roswell Harrington began to comment how a need to see how we can have one meeting where everyone can come and address all the issues at one meeting.

What made it work the first time was that the commissioner used this meeting format as a way of screening information – instead of him or his rep going to four meetings in the Glades, funnel all the information through this one meeting. Even though the Glades population is small, the geographical area is big. This group was set up for one primary function – coordinating information flow and letting everyone know what is going on out here.

Pam Nolan mentioned another issue is transportation for residents and meeting space. She asked if the new water treatment plant be a good location?

Mr. Tate – suggested having mandatory participation – which each entity comes to the meeting to make an update. If we can make these meetings productive so that if you come in with an issue... We do things every day, but don't always think that they would be valuable information for others who attend the meetings. You don't have to have a problem or issue, but sharing your experiences can help others in the meeting.

Mr. Tate further suggested sending a questionnaire of what's happening in Your Community... This way the community learns what's going on throughout the Glades. i.e. Neighborhood Watch programs, how the community is working on revitalization, beautification projects. Start thinking about some small projects that we can help gets done immediately.

Mr. Tate talked about the objective is to have a meeting where everyone can come and go away with a group vision of what's happening in the community. You walk away with information that you otherwise didn't have, you come up with problem-solving ideas that you otherwise wouldn't have gotten.

Mr. Gainer briefly talked about when GTAC was originally formed, it's written into the PBCounty Comp Plan as a way of getting & distributing information. Ass't City Admin Wilkinson, at Ken Foster's request, pulled it together. At that time it was executive level people. City managers, decision makers. He further mentioned that it was like the city admin calling a monthly meeting of the decision makers. At that time, any project that wanted to get done in the glades was presented here for approval. Over the years it has evolved. This meeting has been the 4th Thursday of the month since 1997. Mr. Gainer also stated that we're working to evolve the group – who should be here, assign roles to the members.

Mr. Tate also mentioned on the Coast we did a strategic planning meeting. In the Glades, we need to have the attendance that would enable us to address the community concerns. Mr. Tate stated that it is very important for the cities and communities to develop more partnership because it is much easier to get things done for a region than for a small city.

Diane Walker asked if it would it be possible for Mr. Tate or Mr. Gainer to come to a tri-city meeting and make this same plea.

Ms. Walker also, asked if she could invite captain Lindskoog to come to a meeting and present his initiative?

Mr. Gainer – on the Coast, we only work with the unincorporated areas through CCRT. In the glades, you are the only munis that the county funds like the CCRTs on the Coast.

5. Participant Updates/ Comments

Angie Morelok – commented in regards to citizen participation – the FEDS have gotten very involved in the field of transportation, insisting on public participation right up front in the beginning when we're starting to discuss projects. Everything is regional now – we don't live in little cities and function alone. These 3 cities are very lucky – Fhredi, being funded by Tallahassee to look at the counties around the lake to help with the economic development around the lake.

- The area of critical economic concern.”
- Highest unemployment in FL, virtually no transportation. Put in a rural transportation system to connect people with jobs. We got 6 yrs of FDOT money to fund a route from BG to c'ton. Then PBCo did not want to take it on themselves.
- FDOT has decided to pull out their money. If it's not of the county's route, there is not enough money to continue it.
- When you want things for your area, you need to come together and get it done. Wed 04/30 there will be a FHREDI meeting in BG – you need to attend – get the word out that you want a route to be able to go by bus to the east or west coasts.
- Palm Tran will have to contemplate in the coming month and that the Lake Region Commuter Route will not be funded by the County in 2009

Maggie Smith, Economic Development Office – a few years ago I had a visit from a company that was interested in opening a business in an old closed shopping center in Pahokee where illegal activity was taking place and there may be contamination. “Can you help us get some Brownfield money?” I filled out the app for the city to go through the DEP and also filled out the Brownfield application. Now phase 1 of looking for contamination. We're not at the beginning of phase 2 assessments – sample ground and water to see if there's contamination. We are working on a Brownfield designation. Today I'm here to ask the city if we can go through with the Brownfield designation? It would require two public hearings and the passing of a resolution. The hoped-for end use for the site is a job skills training center – training for electricians, plumbers, carpentry, etc. For the center – CDGB money can potentially be used.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

Community Development Block Grant CDGB

- Small businesses – a city can apply for the grant. Can be used for land acquisition, construction, and purchase of equipment you do have to follow federal guidelines.
- There will be a workshop on May 8 the PBCC. We have a total of over 650K available.
- It is countywide and it is competitive. For every \$15K requested, one full time job has to be created and 50% of the created jobs have to be given to low- to moderate-income people.
- Workshops are mandatory – for consultant and for business.

Canal Point Sewer

Mr. Roswell attended Pahokee City commission meeting and said that amendments were approved by the city for the add'l funding and right now the engineers Greenhorn Ameira (O'Meara?) have gone through some of the bids and seem to be very close to the dollar amount available.

Duane Gainer talked briefly about historic renovation of a house in canal point.

Larry Curascio of Code Enforcement mentioned that after the storm the building received a little bit of damage from the storm but it's really old and hasn't been maintained.

Mr. Roswell inquired about a generator switch for CPCC?

Mr. Tate responded – Your steering committee should request from the community partnership for funding for the switch.

6. Adjournment of Meeting:

The next GTAC meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2008, 9:30 a.m. in South Bay. The next Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) meeting is April 8, 2008 10:00a.m. At Vista Center.

Minutes prepared by

Natalie R. Fazio, OCR Temp Secretary
P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

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