

GTAC Meeting 6-26-08

ATTENDANCE:

Duane Gainer, OCR
William Wynn, OCR
LJ Margolis, Parks
Larry Caraccio, Code Enforcement
Richard Colon, Code Enforcement
Diane Walker, PBSO
Pam Nolan, EDO
Lillian Tomeu, Asst City Mgr Belle Glade
Mike McGuiness, Health Dept.
Cpl. Barry Trombley, PBSO
Mark ? Dep City Mgr Belle Glade
David Broadbent, Canal Point Community Development
Roswell Harrington, Resident
Suzanne Harper, EDGE Center

Welcome and Introductions

Follow-up Issues from the Last Meeting – May 2008

None

Discussion/Update:

Duane Gainer: From OCR – Reported Commissioner’s Decision to cut \$15 Million. OCR’s capital budget –lost 1.2 Million – No capital projects next year. OCR will be maintaining all present staff minus the secretary. Neighborhood Partnership Grants (NPG) will still be funded. Beautification and Street Lights will still have some limited funds. Will keep REAP program. OCR will try to find alternative funding for neighborhoods. Mr. Tate is in Tallahassee for State Neighborhood Conference – always looking for more resources. OCR will be competing for grants and foundation monies to keep programs going.

NPG – 22 applications submitted this year for \$200,000. Max per project is \$20K. There are some for the Glades.

Sheriff Conley – How do people apply for “beautification money”? Mr. Wynn from OCR stated he still has 300 people waiting for improvements. This program did not require matching money.

LORE (Lake Okeechobee Regional Economic Alliance) has sponsored some improvements. The grant approval process takes time.

Participant Updates/Comments

Comm. Diane Walker- Tri-Cities meetings have been re-started. Next meeting 7/16 at 6:00 pm at South Bay City Hall. Comm. Santamaria has suggested that all three cities attend the County Commission Budget Hearings.

Belle Glade- Water – July 1 – The concern was for pressure and infrastructure. They are going to minimize pressure to start.

Clewiston- Belle Glade Palm Tran route is being lost. Pioneer Water Park is very popular. Cpl. Trombley asked if any plans for transportation to the Water Park are in place. Lillian Tomeu stated that Belle Glade is working on shuttle/trolley for Belle Glade.

Lowell Hughes – Sugar Company Property Manager – Roswell reported US Sugar deal is really going to hurt Palm Beach and Hendry County tax revenue. There was much discussion over just what the impact would be and what would become of the land. Art Kirsten of Cooperative Extension reported there would be land swaps. Art believes that the cities will be taken into consideration. Pam mentioned other issues that are impacting this situation (Inland Port). Inland Port – wherever it's location – it need industrial land for access to the port. Inland Port – is a distribution hub – rail and highway port. CSX tracks have been leased to US Sugar in the past.

Larry Caraccio-Code Enforcement – still here – but because of budget issues, numbers are getting smaller and giving up 5 positions. Next year will be rough. There system is complaint-driven and they don't hear much. They are out of money to take down buildings. Encourage people to call 233-5500 to report code violations. Lillian mentioned that Transient Vendors are a problem. Larry stated they need a right of way permit or a special permit to be in a parking lot.

Roswell- Submitted proposal for Canal Point Community Center to receive a propane generator, propane tank, generator switch, manual transfer, concrete pad, icemaker.

One structure in Canal Point needs to be taken down – Canal Point Water Tower. Larry relied that the County is approaching it as Structure in Disrepair.

LJ – EOC Coordinator – Hurricane Plans – The reason people don't call Code Enforcement – they don't complain about how they live. There is a 10:00 am meeting at the County Barn Auditorium to discuss emergency Management plans, EOA Program and Cert Program. Ted will not be there. Information will be given out and minutes will follow. We have a Community Emergency Response Team program now in the Glades. They help until First Responders are available. CERT programs will be happening in July and August. If citizens become trained – that helps with personal preparedness. After a disaster strikes there is a delay when First Responders get there.

EOA Team meeting Wednesday, July 9 – One hour meeting: 10:00 – 11:00 AM. Pam Nolan – Sewer Update – Went after funds and got it. They can't catch up to costs. Recommendation by engineers for pumps – escalated – Plant improvements and

collection system. Water Utilities took it over – decided to use it to bring in jobs – single family homes may get HCD assistance – most are renters. They are mostly going after multifamily and businesses. We are hoping for improvements in jobs and conditions. It is now in the hands of Water Utilities.

Inter-local Agreements and easement agreements for the Gateway Kiosks – approval to be July 8th. Question was raised about the burned Canal Point ES building. Residents had requested that the eagles and cornerstone be preserved.

They are working with Treasure Coast for Inland Port money.

Economic Set-Aside Grant – had a pretty good turnout (by July 8th 12:00 Noon) They have \$600-700K to distribute. It comes around once a year in May.

Pam is losing money as well from budget cuts.

Pastor Broadbent- FDOT re-designation of SR98 to a different route, which now means that funding for road improvements has been lost. MPO did not know about re-designation!

Lillian-Belle Glade has been very busy. A lot of people are complimenting how good the water is. Mark says there are complaints from the community that has been caused by changing out water hydrants. That reduced water pressure. They are trying to deal with all the infrastructure problems. Huge time for grants – Put out a grant for city-wide transportation system. Working with Marina and money received from County – but projects are moving along.

Suzanne Harper – EDGE Center, County and Cities are working on a number of projects. The renovations are moving along on the City Hall project. Plan is to open Phase I by the end of the year. Avenue A project also continues. A concern is the condition of the streets and sidewalks. The businesses are working as a co-operative to appeal to the city to get street and sidewalk repair done before the project continues much further. After the Avenue A project, they'll wrap around and work on Avenue B. The business owners in the Main Street area of Pahokee are being organized to come up with a grant proposal to renovate the downtown area. There are people interested in a hotel in the Pahokee downtown area. There is a project to renovate the Belle Glade and Pahokee airports. The trail from the kiosk down to the marina is being considered for beautification. Looking at many projects.

Mike – nothing to report.

Barry Trombley PBSO / BG Code Enforcement – September 28 is Coastal Clean-up. Contact Joanna Aiken at Solid Waste Authority at 561-697-2700 x 4701. Applications can be obtained at the solid waste authority website. In Belle Glade there is a demolition program. It is intended to be self-funded, whereby there will be a minimal fee for each buildings that is demolished. There is a need for demolition equipment rentals, title

search work and other components at a modest fee. There are at least 100 empty, abandoned, dangerous, unsafe buildings that need to come down. They have liens on them and have huge fines. The city has the ability to foreclose after a certain point.

Duane asked that Cpl. Trombley send him a letter describing the demolition program. It may be possible to find partners for the program.

The group discussed the reality that when an area looks like a slum, people will treat it like a slum. If it is built attractively, like it should be treated well, it will be.

Adjournment: Next meeting July 24, 2008-Pahokee