

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)  
Meeting of August 28, 2008  
9:30 am – 11:00 am**

**South Bay City Hall**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

David Allen, EDGE  
Robert Anderson, PBC Health Dept.  
Michael Arena, PBC Fire-Rescue Battalion Chief  
Larry Caraccio, PBC Code Enforcement  
Theresa Clark, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation & CERT  
Kim Erickson, Canal Point Community Development  
Duane Gainer, OCR  
Elpi Garcia, PBC Code Enforcement  
Suzanne Harper, EDGE Center  
Lomax Harrell, South Bay City Manager  
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Community Development & CERT  
Andrew Hertel, PBC Engineering and Public Works  
Linda Johnson, South Bay City Commissioner  
Ed Kerr, City of South Bay  
Mike McGinnis, PBC Health Dept.  
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Recreation/Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)  
Derrek Moore, City of Pahokee  
Angela Morlok, MPO  
Pam Nolan, PBC Economic Development  
Annette Parchment, City of South Bay  
Houston Tate, OCR  
Diane Walker, Pahokee City Commissioner & PBSO  
Alice Ward, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation & CERT  
Wayne Whittaker, Mayor, City of Pahokee

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Duane Gainer introduced himself and asked the group to introduce themselves. Mr. Gainer announced that Houston Tate's mother, Mrs. Mary Emma Tate, passed away. The funeral will be in Los Angeles on September 6.

**Follow-up Issues:**

Ted Roberts had raised questions about code enforcement and road beautification at last month's meeting. This month code enforcement representatives and a road department representative are here to address those questions. However, due to his mother's hospitalization, Mr. Roberts was unable to attend this meeting.

**Discussion/Updates:**

Mr. Gainer attended the League of Cities meeting in Boynton on Wednesday. Keynote speaker Manny Almira, Executive Director for Port of Palm Beach. His presentation was on the Inland Port (Intermodal Logistics Complex). Duane had some copies of Mr. Almira's presentation, which is available as a link on the Port of Palm Beach website <http://www.portofpalmbeach.com/business.htm>. Mr. Gainer summarized the presentation for GTAC attendees. The Port of Palm Beach does not have space to expand to meet expected future increases in inbound shipments. The Inland Port would help alleviate the container storage shortage, serving as a warehousing, distribution, storage and light manufacturing facility. It would bring strong economic development and jobs for whatever area is selected to house the Inland Port. The Port of Palm Beach is waiting to see the outcome of the South Florida Water Management District/US Sugar land deal. Mayor Whittaker reported that a Water Management District representative was at the Tri-Cities Meeting in Pahokee who said the land deal has nothing to do with the Port. Roswell Harrington brought up Commissioner Karen Marcus' proposal to put a moratorium on all development in the Glades. Discussion ensued about the mixed messages that are being sent from the different entities. Mayor Whittaker stated that the County Commission meeting on September 9 will include discussion on the proposed moratorium and urged people to attend. The meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the Governmental Center in West Palm Beach. Lomax Harrell reported that buses would leave from the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center to take people to the meeting. Buses will pick up residents at each City Hall between 9:30 and 10 a.m. and will meet at Belle Glade's Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center and leave from there at 10:30 a.m. There will be a minimum of three buses of 50 people each. Mr. Gainer will find out if it is possible to reserve seats in the Commission Chambers. The cities each can make arrangements for lunch on the ride over. The three cities will provide for a dinner stop on the way back after the meeting.

Pam Nolan stated that Economic Development and Assistant County Administrator Shannon LaRoque have been holding Sustainable Glades Taskforce meetings. Ms. Nolan will forward a document developed by the taskforce to Mr. Gainer for distribution.

Mayor Whitaker presented a document that Pahokee prepared outlining some needs the city has in order to grow and develop economically. One need is for some land to develop an industrial park.

Suzanne Harper stated that if people will give her their email addresses, she will forward the announcements of various meetings that EDGE received notification of.

Andrew Hertel discussed his office's responsibility: the County's Roadway Beautification Program, particularly for the eastern part of the County. He stated that the Glades already had such a program that had been approved about 10 years ago. He didn't have information on the Glades' program at this time, but will research it. In unincorporated areas of the County, his office is responsible for about 100 miles of roadway. The cities take care of their own roadways; Mr. Hertel's office takes care of only unincorporated areas. Contractors do most of the work. They plant trees, mow and

maintain medians. Mr. Gainer gave each City a manual with rules for beautification and maintenance of County roads.

Mr. Gainer stated that the City of Belle Glade adopted the County's Code Enforcement regulations so that they would have something official that they could enforce.

Annette Parchment stated that South Bay put together a code enforcement policy and procedures based on Belle Glade's procedure as well as South Bay's charter. South Bay also put together a booklet to educate residents about the code enforcement regulations and ways in which to report violations.

Mr. Tate stated that it is important that communities and residents become engaged in the code enforcement and beautification issues. He said that when communities step up, they become more attractive for people to want to move in and do business in the communities. He would like to meet with the three cities' community development staff to help develop ways to outreach to the communities and residents. He would also be willing to provide training for city staff. Mr. Tate suggested that they meet with him to determine what kind of training and plans they would like to put in place.

Mr. Tate reiterated that as attendees raise questions or issues, County staff would attend future GTAC meetings to address the issues.

**Participant Updates:**

Angela Morlok discussed the community transportation needs. The Clewiston – Belle Glade bus route is in jeopardy due to County budget cuts. That route is not in Palm Tran's budget at all and will be cut in December unless funding can be found from alternate sources to continue the route. Suggestions were private funding and cities contributions. Total cost of the route is about \$240,000. Two-thirds of the route is in Palm Beach County and one third is in Hendry County. Palm Beach County needs to come up with \$160,000. The communities must show that they need the route and have some commitment to keeping it going. Approximately 22,000 people per year use the small bus that makes the loop from PBCC in Belle Glade to Wal-Mart in Clewiston every two hours. Ms. Harper mentioned that all the banks have some economic development money that might be available to help. She will provide contact names to Ms. Morlok. During discussion about routes being cut, Angela stated that cutting the last route of the night is being considered for budget savings. The Glades has a large proportion of people without transportation who rely on those routes to get to college, work or shopping. Mr. Tate suggested that GTAC start a project to address this issue.

Mr. Harrington stated that he has been trying to get a drainage problem solved in northern Pahokee and southern Canal Point. The drainage goes through a ditch that is privately owned. It is difficult to get the ditch cleaned. It goes from the Bryant Sugar Mill Road to SR 715. No one knows where all the drains are. Mr. Harrington will contact DOT to ask for a map to show where the drains are. There is still flooding from TS Fay due to the drainage problem. If South Florida Conservancy can come out and clean out the ditch, it

should help solve the problem. Mr. Tate asked that Mr. Harrington contact his office with a follow-up and to let him know who the stakeholders are.

Mr. Harrington reported that he had brought a grant application for sustainable communities from The Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program and the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC). The proposal deadline is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, October 1, 2008.

Mr. Harrington also brought up the issue of water quality in Canal Point. He also asked when will the sewer line in Pahokee be started. Mr. Tate will follow up with appropriate parties on these issues and will invite people to attend future meetings.

Mr. Harrell addressed Mr. Harrington's concerns about the water issues in Canal Point. He said that every time South Bay has had an issue and contacted PBC Water Utilities, they have been responsive. Mayor Whittaker stated that they've been responsive to Pahokee's concerns as well.

Alice Ward mentioned the outreach efforts of the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program to make people more aware. In addition to emergency response, CERT wants to participate in other community events. She suggested that CERT could be another avenue to get out information into the community. Discussion ensued about ways in which OCR/REAP can partner with CERT. Ms. Parchment mentioned that South Bay is discussing ways in which to get its communities involved.

Robert Anderson introduced himself as Coordinator of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes programs. Nurses that go into the homes of newborns work with the program to help identify unhealthy situations such as radon, lead and other issues unsafe for children. They refer families to Mr. Anderson's office for assistance in removing hazards. He distributed information on the program. His office is seeking grants and other funding to help families correct those unsafe situations.

Commissioner Walker reported that the Tri-Cities next monthly meeting would be September 17 at 6 p.m. at Belle Glade City Hall. She stated that the meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month, alternating meeting locations among the three cities.

Pam Nolan reported that there is an existing Main Street Program and that there is a possibility of a new Main Street Program for the three Glades cities. Ms. Nolan needs input from the cities to forward to the consultants. Commissioner Walker asked if someone could attend the Tri-Cities meeting to discuss this program.

**The next GTAC meeting will be held at the Canal Point Community Center on September 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Minutes prepared by LJ Margolis and Duane Gainer

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**Approved By Houston Tate 9/17/08**

