

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of September 25, 2008
9:30 am – 11:00 am**

Canal Point Community Center

Minutes

Attendees:

Rev. David Broadbent, Canal Point Community Development
Tish Burgher, FDOT Dist. 4, Palm Beach Operations
Larry Caraccio, PBC Code Enforcement
Erika Dennard, City of South Bay
Ricky Etter, DBI Services
Duane Gainer, PBC OCR
Gilbert Garcia, PBSO
Arcadio Gonzalez, Canal Point Resident
Suzanne Harper, EDGE Center
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Community Development & CERT
Mike McGinnis, PBC Health Dept.
Natasha Mitchell, PBSO
Angela Morlok, MPO
Pam Nolan, PBC Economic Development
Annette Parchment, City of South Bay
Melissa Perry, DBI Services
Stephen Rice, PBC Fire Rescue
Michael Sklar, PBC HCD
Houston Tate, PBC OCR
Lillian Tomeu, City of Belle Glade
Carmen Veneziano, PBSO
Diane Walker, Pahokee City Commissioner, PBSO

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Duane Gainer introduced himself and asked the group to introduce themselves.

2. Follow-up Issues:

There were some requests for copies PBC Engineering & Public Works Streetscape Standards. Canal Point has received a copy and there are a few extras.

3. Discussion/Updates:

Mr. Gainer stated that yesterday the NPG Review Committee met to determine funding recommendations. Ten (10) proposals were received from the Glades area out of the total Eighteen (18) proposals received.

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

Approved By Houston Tate 9/17/08