

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of January 22, 2009
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Canal Point Community Center

Minutes

Attendees:

Ramon Arosemena, American Engineering Group
Jacques Beaubrun, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Rev. David Broadbent, Canal Point Community Development (CPCD)
Tish Burgher, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Larry Carraccio, Palm Beach County Code Enforcement
Richard Colon, Palm Beach County Code Enforcement
Dale Erickson, Erickson Farms / Canal Point Community Development (CPCD)
Kim Erickson, Canal Point Community Development (CPCD)
Duane Gainer, Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident
Lt. Chris Keane, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Roy McGinnis, Palm Beach County Health Department
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)
Annette Parchment, City of Belle Glade
Captain Craig Prusansky, Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue
Steven Stokes, Target Engineering Group (Consultant for DOT)
Ron Sullivan, Palm Beach County Planning, Building & Zoning Sr. Planner
Scott Ryder, C3TS Architects / DOT Consultant
Houston Tate, Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Diane Walker, City of Pahokee Commissioner / PBSO
April Warren, Palm Beach County Planning, Building & Zoning Administration
Mayor Wayne Whittaker, City of Pahokee
Surina Woodson-Brown, City of South Bay Public Utilities
William Wynn, Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Duane Gainer introduced himself and asked the group to introduce themselves. Houston Tate commended attendees for bringing forth issues to the committee to work on.

2. Updates:

Great American Clean-Up events will be held in March. Neighborhoods are encouraged to participate. Bags and gloves will be provided. Solid Waste Authority will waive fees for processing the trash. Mr. Tate encouraged neighborhoods to look at the areas that have large trash items like discarded sofas, etc. He also encouraged neighborhoods to adopt an area to maintain, keeping them clean after the event.

This year's first Residents Education to Action Program (REAP) workshop will be held at 6:00 p.m. tonight (January 22, 2009) at Palm Beach Community College Glades Campus. It will continue every Thursday night for the next six weeks. Mr. Tate pointed out the example of Kimberly Erickson, who attended a REAP class and is now the president of the Canal Point Community Development Committee. At the workshop, participants learn how to work with other community agencies to accomplish their goals, and at the end of the workshop they apply for grants to implement their projects.

3. Discussion:

Highway 98 / US 441

The issue of incorrect addressing was discussed. The incorrect addresses and out-of-date data bases for Canal Point and Lake Harbor cause problems for emergency response personnel, hinder mail delivery and cause confusion for visitors to the areas. April Warren of PBC Planning, Building and Zoning said that she will look back at the addresses that are assigned in the data base to make sure they are consistent. Mrs. Warren said that when a 911 call is made, the receiving system shows the address that is assigned to that phone number. If there are inconsistencies between the address in that system and in other databases, it would cause confusion. Capt. Craig Prusansky of PBFR reported that he has been working with Sean McDonald, Addressing Technician with PBC Planning, Zoning & Building, and with Mark Adler of BellSouth, on the addressing issue. Capt. Prusansky said that the telephone company addresses, which show on the first responders' system, have not been updated for many years. Mr. Gainer added that the issues with Google and MapQuest can be addressed through Mrs. Warren's office.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Tate recommended that a committee form, consisting of Capt. Prusanski, Ms. Erickson, Mr. Harrington and OCR staff, to resolve the addressing issues. Mr. Tate suggested that after the issues are resolved, the committee should apply for a grant to get appropriate signs installed.

Pelican Lake

Mr. Roswell Harrington stated that there are two separate issues with the Pelican Lake item. Mr. Harrington said the residents of Pelican Lake received a letter stating that families with children under 18 had to vacate the property by January 1, 2009. Pelican Lake was originally owned by US Sugar. When they divested, they sold it to Doc Hill. When he died, his wife sold it to a concern in South Bay. That concern has "sold" it to Miracle Lake Properties, a for-profit business in Lake Worth. The property is currently rental property. Residents with children under 18 had been given 15 days to vacate. The rumors are that it will be used as transitional housing with a Department of Corrections connection. Further rumor is that 100 pedophiles will be moved into the development. Mr. Harrington noted that available housing for lower income citizens is virtually non-existent, so there are very few places for people being evicted from Pelican Lake to move

to. Mr. Tate stated that from the County's perspective, it needs to be determined whether they have followed due process, and if there is a zoning change required. Ron Sullivan, Palm Beach County Planning, Building & Zoning Sr. Planner, said it is his understanding it is zoned for AGR (agricultural residential) use. With that zoning, changing from multi-family housing to a congregate living facility would require a change. Under the Glades Overlay, however, it could apply for an exemption under certain circumstances. Lt. Chris Keane will look into whether they are in violation of State law or County ordinances. Lt. Keane added that prior to this sale, there was one sex offender living in Pelican Lake, and that he was in compliance with County ordinance and State law. Within the past month, seven more sex offenders have moved in. At this point, he stated that the only violation would be if a school bus stop is located within a certain distance. Commissioner Diane Walker stated that the new owners are expected to attend the next Pahokee City Commission meeting on Tuesday, to explain what they are doing. Residents of Pahokee expressed concern at a recent Town Hall meeting. One resident of Pelican Lake called Commissioner Walker, concerned because he had to move. She gave him the contact information for Fair Housing, who relocated the resident, as the letter that Pelican Lakes residents received stated they would do.

ACTION ITEM: Larry Caraccio said that Code Enforcement will open a complaint to investigate, to confirm or deny the speculations. Mr. Caraccio stated that in the event it was determined that there might be a possibility that the community will be used for purposes outside of its zoned purpose, he will escalate the matter to management who can contact the State for further action. This item will be on the February agenda for updates.

4. Participant Updates & Comments:

Rev. Broadbent requested a future meeting include an update from Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Herbert Hoover Dike.

Commissioner Walker thanked OCR and County staff for their interest in and assistance for the Glades.

Mr. Harrington announced that he has been given a letter from Pahokee PALS requesting that the parents of participants purchase their own uniforms.

Southwest 7th Street improvement project is currently in the bidding phase. Mid-February will begin with the Great American Clean-Up, going into the community and forming small groups of individuals who will lead the groups doing the clean-up work.

Ms. Erickson complimented PBSO on their response to concerns expressed at a meeting by the citizens of Canal Point. Citizens are calling her to tell her the issues have been resolved and they are happy with the response.

Mr. Tate suggested that people visit pbcgov.com/ocr to learn what is being accomplished by the communities through OCR.

Commissioner Walker stated that there is an upcoming NPG grant for a beautification / painting project.

The next GTAC meeting will be held in the Belle Glade City Hall Conference Room on Thursday, February 26, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Minutes prepared by LJ Margolis and Duane Gainer

Approved By Houston Tate, Director