

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of March 26, 2009
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Pahokee Community Center**

Minutes

Attendees:

Lt. Rey Alonso, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Chief Michael Arena, PBC Fire-Rescue (PBCFR)
Jacques Beaubrun, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Capt. Andy Bilardello, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Rosheba Brinkley, Glades Initiative
Matthew Brock, City of Pahokee
Colin Baenziger, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Tish Burgher, QCA, Inc. (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Linda Camardella, PBC School District (PBSD)
Larry Caraccio, PBC Code Enforcement
Inger Brown Cheves, Housing Partnership / Pioneer Park Beacon Center
Kate Cole, PBC Division of Human Services (PBCDHS)
Stephanie Marsh Corinthian, City of Pahokee
Raquel Diaz, City of South Bay
Mayra Echenique, Glades Initiative / CROS Ministries
K. Keysia Foster, City of Pahokee
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident / Keen Mobile Home Park
Michael Jackson, PBC Board of County Commissioners (PBCBCC)
Alvin Johnson, City of Pahokee
Angela Johnson, Dept. of Commerce Census Bureau
Lt. Chris Keane, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)
Lt. Michael Morris, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Gregory Netto, American Engineering Group
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Pam Nolan, PBC Economic Development
Captain Craig Prusansky, PBC Fire-Rescue (PBCFR)
Eric Quinones, PBC School District (PBSD)
Warren "Skip" Reasoner, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Ted Roberts, City of Pahokee
Mike Rodriguez, Criminal Justice Commission
Debbie Simpson, PBC School District (PBCSD) Police
Steven Stokes, Target Engineering Group (Consultant for DOT)
Scott Ryder, C3TS Architects / DOT Consultant
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Comm. Diane Walker, City of Pahokee / PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)

Rashonda Warren, City of Pahokee
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Duane Gainer introduced himself and asked the group to introduce themselves. Houston Tate thanked all partners for their attendance.

2. Review of Minutes

Correction to February 26, 2009 meeting minutes: Tish Burgher's company is QCA Inc., not GCA as listed in previous minutes.

3. Discussion / Updates

2010 Census- Angela Johnson discussed the upcoming census and emphasized its importance. She stated that the census analyzes demographics, so the government can understand the needs for our area. Ms. Johnson asked attendees to help spread awareness of the census within our spheres of influence. Ms. Johnson noted that in the last census, response for the Glades areas was unacceptably low, in the 35 to 50 percent range. Ms. Johnson stated that there are census jobs available. For more information on the census, or to form Complete Count committees, contact Ms. Johnson at 561-859-3275 or Angela.F.Johnson@census.gov or visit www.census.gov. The Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) also has census information available.

Truancy Committee- Michael Jackson, Committee Chair, discussed the problem of excessive truancy and its negative impact on the community as a whole, such as high drop-out, crime and illiteracy rates, and in other areas. Mr. Jackson reported that the truancy committee has met, discussing the resources that are currently in place and ways of bringing those resources together to work collaboratively toward the common goal. Mr. Jackson stated that truancy is not solely a family issue or a Sheriff's issue or a school issue; it is a community issue. Mr. Jackson relayed a situation in which, as the result of a weekend shooting, students were instructed by their Principal to stay out of school for up to two weeks. No work was sent home with them to complete. They ended up hanging out on the street. Mr. Jackson will visit the school to investigate that situation further. Roswell Harrington recommended that the committee talk to Judge Bailey and get his support for their efforts. Linda Camardella, PBC School District West Area Schools, reported that at each school she has a contact that helps her with that school's truancy issues. Ms. Camardella deals solely with habitual truants – students with 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days. Ms. Camardella contacts the school to establish a truancy packet, which includes a list of interventions the school has attempted with the student. One problem she faces is that in many cases the school cannot locate the parents due to incorrect addresses or invalid phone numbers. In many cases there are other issues within the household of the truant, such as substance abuse, domestic violence or others. Ms. Camardella emphasized how important the family is in making sure students attend school. In cases where the parents are not receptive or she suspects some of these other issues are involved, she will request

Sheriff's Office or social worker assistance. Ms. Camardella has attempted to direct file a case with the State Attorney's office, and was told they would only accept cases from law enforcement. Lt. Michael Morris stated that as of January 1, 2009, over 800 students have three or more unexcused absences at Glades Central High School alone. Lt. Morris relayed a situation in which a student was told to stay out of school following a shooting, because his football jersey number was the same as the shooting victim. **ACTION ITEM: Michael Jackson requested contact information for the organizations that were mentioned to be involved so another meeting can be set to continue the project. Lt. Morris, Mike Rodriguez of the Criminal Justice Commission, and Ken Holley of the City of Pahokee volunteered to join the truancy committee. Mr. Tate stated that others who should be involved include the School Board Police, Department of Juvenile Justice, Judge Bailey, Youth Services Bureau, Children's Home Society, Girl's Advocacy Project (GAP), Beacon Centers, Sheriff's Office, and a Mental Health representative.**

Pelican Lake-Kate Cole reported that Human Services has funds available to help relocate families, and they have already assisted two families who chose to relocate from Pelican Lake. Larry Caraccio stated that PBC Code Enforcement has received a formal complaint that a Class III Congregate Living Facility is operating at Pelican Lake. Mr. Caraccio and Officer Colon will visit the site and investigate the complaint. Commissioner Diane Walker stated that the City of Pahokee has also filed a complaint. **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Tate asked that individuals who have been involved in addressing the Pelican Lake issues send him a synopsis of their agencies' activities. This will enable Mr. Tate's office to assemble a document stating the actions of the City of Pahokee and Palm Beach County's actions in resolving the Pelican Lake issue. This will be an on-going project until the issue is resolved.**

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon Church)-Colin Baenziger reported that the church is attempting to become more involved in the community. On April 25, 2009, several projects will take place: a gleanng project in conjunction with CROS Ministries, roof repairs to a home with a grandmother and eight grandchildren, installation of a ramp and flooring repair in a home in South Bay. Mr. Baenziger called for volunteers to assist and also stated that if attendees know of other projects that need assistance, they contact him at 561-707-3537 or colin@cb-asso.com.

Correcting Resident's Street Addresses in the Glades-Capt. Craig Prusansky reported that he has gone door-to-door, visiting 79 properties in the Lake Harbor area, 74 of which proved to have addressing problems. Planning and Zoning is almost finished correcting the data. It will be sent to 9-1-1 and to the Clewiston Post Office to make sure their databases are correct. Then utilities and services such as UPS and FedEx will be contacted. Capt. Prusansky has now started working on Canal Point and should have those visits completed within about a month. The data will also be shared with the PBC Sheriff's Office. Capt. Prusansky will create a website where interested parties can track the progress. Capt. Prusansky also discussed the issue of the re-designation of the former US 98 and renaming of that section of road. After a meeting with the Canal Point Community Development Committee, it was decided that section of roadway should be renamed Connors Highway. **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Tate requested Captain Prusansky to provide his office with a written update on these projects. Larry Caraccio**

stated that he will assist from a code enforcement aspect in resolving any problems with displaying house numbers.

4. Participant Comments / Updates

Roswell Harrington thanked Pam Nolan, Michael Jackson and Houston Tate for their efforts in getting the new sewer system in Canal Point. Mr. Harrington particularly praised Ms. Nolan for her ten years of work on the project.

Raquel Diaz reported that the City of South Bay is trying to get some recreation programs started. They are planning to build a civic center and amphitheatre near South Bay RV Campground in the area of the city's Nature Park. The City is also working on an industrial park near Villa Lago, and repairing infrastructure throughout the City, including the paving of Rock Road.

Ted Roberts reported that Helping Hands Helping Pahokee is doing a painting project in downtown Pahokee. There also will be three new parks built in Pahokee. Two will be on Rardin Avenue: Chess Park and Pocket Park. The third will be a small park in East Lake Village, with recreation equipment for children. Home Depot is donating the equipment and performing the installation for the East Lake Village Park. All of these projects were made possible by OCR/CCRT funding under the Neighborhood Partnership Grant (NPG). Under State funding, a fairground with equestrian and multi-purpose facilities will be built in the northeastern section of Pahokee, near where the School District is building a football stadium. Mr. Roberts thanked OCR for their support, guidance and assistance in the various projects.

Michael Jackson reported that, in a pre-hurricane season preparation move, he has asked the SFWMD to convene a meeting to address all the canal maintenance and related issues throughout the Glades areas, to ensure that in hurricane season, we will not have problems caused by the canals.

Rosheba Brinkley stated that there will be a Medical Interpreter's training course in April. For information, visit gladesinitiative.org. Anyone with information to disseminate throughout the Glades, are encouraged to submit your organization's material to Glades Initiative, Inc. or call Karis Engle, Executive Director, at (561) 996-3310. Glades Initiative Inc. publishes a weekly e-blast.

The next GTAC meeting will be held at South Bay City Hall, Thursday, April 23, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Minutes prepared by LJ Margolis and Duane Gainer

Approved By Houston Tate, Director