

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of May 28, 2009
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Canal Point Community Center

Minutes

Attendees:

Capt. Andy Bilardello, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Rev. David Broadbent, Canal Point Methodist Church
Tish Burgher, GCA, Inc. (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Linda Camardella, PBC School District (PBSO)
Barbara Cheives, Converse & Associates Consulting
Kate Cole, PBC Division of Human Services (PBCDHS)
Raquel Diaz, City of South Bay
Capt. Larry Easton, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Zina El-Daghar, Canal Point Community Development
Gloria Dennard, Pastor, Pahokee
Larry Dennard, Pastor, Pahokee
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative
Kim Erickson, Canal Point Community Development
Theresa Fordham, Office of State Rep. Priscilla Taylor
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Suzanne Harper, The EDGE Center
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident / Keen Mobile Home Park
Stan Jackson, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Marilyn Jones, Pahokee Beacon Center
Lt. Chris Keane, PBC Sheriff's Office
Ed Kerr, City of South Bay
Kwanza McCall, City of Belle Glade
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)
Natasha Mitchell, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Angela Morlok, PBC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Gregory Netto, American Engineering Group
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Annette Parchment, City of Belle Glade
David Perez, Target Engineering
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Captain Craig Prusansky, PBC Fire-Rescue
Ted Roberts, City of Pahokee
Scott Ryder, C3TS Architects
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Jeff Tarr, Citizen of Pahokee
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Comm. Diane Walker, City of Pahokee / PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Duane Gainer introduced himself, welcomed attendees on behalf of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commission, Palm Beach County Administration, and Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization, and asked the group to introduce themselves. Houston Tate thanked all partners for their attendance and expressed particular appreciation to Belle Glade Commissioner William Gear, Pahokee Commissioner Diane Walker, and Theresa Fordham of the office of State Representative Priscilla Taylor.

2. Review of Minutes

Minutes of the April 23, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Corrections were made to the spelling of Keene Mobile Home Park and Hooker Highway.

3. Discussion/Updates

Correcting Addresses in the Glades -- Captain Craig Prusansky, PBFR, provided an update on the addressing problem faced by some residents in two areas of the Glades, Lake Harbor and Canal Point. A major problem was that when residents called 9-1-1, their addresses would not come up. In the Corkscrew Boulevard area of Lake Harbor, all phone records for Embarq & AT&T have now been corrected. Addresses have been sent to the Clewiston Post Office for verification, which is still in progress. FedEx and UPS use the Post Office database for their deliveries. When all addresses have been fully corrected, residents will be notified so they can get their correct addresses on their houses, and emergency and other services will be able to find the addresses. In Canal Point, the door-to-door survey portion of the project is about 50% complete. Most of the addresses have been found to be correct. The major issue is with US Sugar; they're on a PBX system with Hendry County. Corrected maps are being developed. Palm Beach Fire-Rescue is getting an upgrade to the CAD system. Prusansky also reported on Connors Highway/Former US 98. At the last Canal Point Community Development meeting, it was voted to rename the stretch of US 441 to 20-Mile Bend to Connors Highway. What was called Main Street will still be called Main Street. Residents may follow the progress of the project by visiting <http://can911findyou.kkpss.info/>. Anyone who encounters other addressing problems may email Captain Prusansky at cprusans@pbcgov.org. A question was raised about the section of SR 700 that extends from SR 80 to CR880. Jeff Tarr asked if any part of the body of Lake Okeechobee had been mapped for incident tracking. Captain Prusansky replied that those incidents are tracked by point of entry. Roswell Harrington stated that there is a project in progress to correct surveys reflecting property lines. He said that in many cases, property lines are inaccurately drawn. Mr. Tate commended Captain Prusansky for his efforts in the addressing project, stating that it had been an issue of life and death with emergency response. He encouraged any others who know of addressing problems in their areas to bring it before GTAC. A question was raised about the naming of the section of SR 700 extending from SR 80 to CR 880. **ACTION ITEM: Captain Prusansky will follow up with Sean MacDonald of PBC PZ&B to see if that section would be renamed as well.**

Truancy – Mr. Tate reported that he spoke with Judge Nelson Bailey regarding the truancy issue. Judge Bailey expressed interest in scheduling a meeting with the Truancy Committee.
ACTION ITEM: Truancy Committee to meet with Judge Bailey.

Residents' Education to Action Program (REAP) – Mr. Tate reported that there were 19 REAP graduates from the Glades, seven with perfect attendance. The workshops provide a curriculum that deals with many issues, helping participants understand what government department handles which issues. Two grants were awarded.

Converse & Associates Consulting, represented by Barbara Cheives, a consultant for race relations and cultural competency, received one grant for a project to benefit the City of Pahokee. The project will consist of a full day Saturday workshop. In the morning, children and adults will be trained in separate sessions in cultural competency. Participants will come together for lunch. After lunch, law enforcement officers will come in, dressed in their street clothes. The youth will have an opportunity to talk with the deputies and tell them what they perceive when they see a deputy in uniform and in a patrol vehicle. The deputies will have an opportunity to share their perceptions. The result should be a greater bond between residents, particularly youth, and law enforcement.

Glades Initiative, represented by Karis Engle, received the second grant. The initiative of Glades Initiative is to help health and human service providers to be more efficient and effective. Glades Initiative has developed a printed resource guide listing the health and human services in the area. The REAP grant is to help get more agencies to submit their service information for the guide and to print more copies of the guide. Anyone in a position in which people come to them asking, "Where can I go for such-and-such," should have the guide either digitally or in hard copy.

Neighborhood Partnership Grant (NPG) – Mr. Gainer reported that the Glades submitted 11 of the 29 Letters of Intent that were received. Letters received included: Okeechobee Land Company for landscaping the fronts and sides of businesses; Glades Pioneer Terrace for installation of lighting and parking lot cameras for crime reduction; We Help CDC for installation of an aerator in a retention pond at Abidjan Estates; Youth Excelling Scholastically Development Association (YESDA) for installation of a computer lab; City of Pahokee/OSAY's Child Care for a projection screen and projector for youth outreach; Shiloh Baptist Church for installation of a green area in Rardin Road; Harvest AME Church for installation of a memorial to fallen officers placed on Shive Island; Karis Engle of Glades Initiative for signage and supplies; Canal Point Community Development for improvement to Canal Point lake access; Nana's Market for landscaping; Street Beat for outreach supplies. The Glades is asking for about \$200,000 in total. The deadline for the grant packet itself is June 19, 2009 at 5 p.m. Mr. Gainer wished applicants well with these highly competitive grants.

Transitional Housing – Roswell Harrington reported that this committee was formed because of several issues raised, primarily the need for housing. He stated that roughly 192 individuals per year come into Keene Mobile Home Park in need of housing. Ted Roberts reported that 192 is average for all the mobile home parks in the Glades. Mr. Harrington stated that most of the blue collar and white collar employees don't live in the Glades. He said that we have either low

income or upper middle income housing, not much in between. He stated that mobile homes are affordable for most, but mobile home installation can be prohibitively expensive. Also, as a result of the hurricanes, many of the mobile home parks suffered significant damage to homes and infrastructure. Currently regulations require that all new mobile homes be windstorm rated 3, able to withstand 200 mile per hour winds. Mobile homes are transitional housing, lasting about 10 years. Mr. Tate stated that housing is a critical issue and the economics of the Glades community means that mobile homes will fit the needs of many people there. He asked what specific issues the mobile home park owners face that can be presented to our State legislators. Mr. Roberts replied that one issue is zoning. Also, he said that banks make it very difficult to get a loan for a mobile home. Furthermore, mobile home parks are not regulated uniformly. Suzanne Harper stated that manufactured homes are not truly “mobile” because they are tied down, and asked for clarification of the problem. Mr. Roberts stated that there is a distinction between manufactured homes and mobile homes. It was noted that the Inland Port projections will come into consideration with housing needs projections. **ACTION ITEM: The Transitional Housing Committee, consisting of Ted Roberts and Roswell Harrington, will compile numbers of how many spaces are available in the mobile home parks in the Glades.**

Mr. Harrington reported that, due to budget cuts, many County and City government employees are facing potential layoffs.

4. Participant Comments/Updates

Florida Department of Transportation – Tish Burgher reported on behalf of Scott Ryder. The SR 700 project is scheduled to begin June 15, 2009. It is a \$10.1 million construction project to resurface roadway through Canal Point, including drainage, shoulder reconstruction, slope repair and guardrails. It will last a little over a year. It is a “green” process whereby the materials removed in the milling will be recycled and used in the resurfacing. There will be lane closures during the day. There will be an Open House to show the community the plans and answer questions. Mr. Harrington reported there is a problem with the French drains in the project that was just completed, with cars bottoming out as they cross the drains. **ACTION ITEM: Ms. Burgher will address the French drain issue with the proper staff.**

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Angie Morlock reported on the route that runs between Winn Dixie, the PBCC Glades Campus and Clewiston’s WalMart. That route had been scheduled for deletion. However, it has been decided to leave one bus on the route. There have been studies by the Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI) on the mobility and transportation issues in the Glades. These studies have resulted in the decision to recommend expanding the route to LaBelle or Moore Haven. Ms. Morlock reported that the MPO’s function is to bring transportation issues to the appropriate agencies, to provide information to the communities, and to help in grant applications. Rev. Broadbent stated that Dr. Miller recently moved his office to Loxahatchee, which impacts many transportation-limited people who used to go to his office in Pahokee. Ms. Morlock stated that there are a number of options for non-profits to partner with transportation services.

First Annual Cane Pole Fishing Contest - Mr. Harrington reported that the event was recently held at the Pahokee Marina and was a great success.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – Mr. Harrington reported that the CERT training held recently in Belle Glade was not well attended. Mr. Tate stated that when the Glades municipalities implement their Neighborhood Organization Program, CERT will have the opportunity to partner and enhance access with the various Glades communities.

First Tee – Deputy Jackson reported that the opening ceremony for First Tee was held recently at the Sugar Cane Golf Club in Belle Glade. First Tee is a worldwide program. The Glades' program is the first in Palm Beach County.

PBSO Events - Deputy Jackson reported that summer camp will be held June 22 – 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Pahokee at Padgett Island, and in South Bay at Marshall Heights July 20 – 24. Applications can be obtained from www.pbso.org. Click on the Harmony in the Streets icon. Putting Kids First will be July 25. Details will be forthcoming. National Night Out Against Crime will be early August. Details will be forthcoming.

Destiny Homes – Rev. Dennard reported that Destiny Homes is a new program helping battered women and their families. More information will be presented at the next meeting. Mrs. Dennard stated that www.cfht.org has information on a project to provide professional development and training to youth and adults in Pahokee and surrounding communities.

Pahokee Beacon Center – Adopt a Spot will be held on June 6. Paint Your Heart Out will be held on June 13. These projects grew out of REAP participation. The Community Baby Shower will be held on June 13. A Fun Day will be held at Pahokee Middle/High School on May 30.

Edge Center –Beginning on June 16 for 8 weeks there will be a class preparing the youth 18 to 24 years old for entering the workforce.

Glades Initiative – www.gladesinitiative.org has a calendar where most of the events mentioned above are listed. To have your event listed, send the information to updates@gladesinitiative.org.

Pahokee's New Fire Department - Mr. Harrington reported that there is concern by several residents in the Canal Point / Pahokee area about the placement of the new fire station. He urged the Fire Department to meet with residents about the placement before determining its final location.

The next GTAC meeting will be held at the Belle Glade City Hall, Thursday, June 25, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Minutes prepared by LJ Margolis and Duane Gainer

Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director