

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of August 27, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
South Bay City Hall and Tour of the City

Minutes

Attendees:

Corey Alston, City of South Bay
Ramon Arosemena, AEG (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Jacques Beaubrun, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
LaClaire Bowdry, Pioneer Park Beacon Center
Betty Boyer, The EDGE Center
Tish Burgher, QCA, Inc. (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Douglas Green, Palm Beach County Workforce Alliance
Suzanne Harper, The EDGE Center
Roswell Harrington, Canal Point Resident/Keen Mobile Home Park
Lt. Chris Keane, PBC Sheriff's Office
Kwanza McCall, Belle Glade Weed & Seed
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Recreation/Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)
Jean Matthews, PBC Parks & Recreation
Angela Morlok, PBC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Pam Nolan, PBC Economic Development
Thomas Roberts, Neighborhood Office of Affordable Housing (NOAH)
Dist. Chief Stephen Rice, PBC Fire-Rescue
George Sandiford, City of South Bay
Barbara Spence, City of Pahokee
Steven Stokes, Target Engineering Group
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation DOT)
Jeff Tarr, Pahokee Resident
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Surina Woodson-Brown, City of South Bay
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

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. He thanked the City of South Bay for hosting the meeting, and asked the group to introduce themselves.

2. Review of Minutes

Minutes of the July 23, 2009 meeting were reviewed.

3. Subcommittee Updates

Correcting Addresses in the Glades – No update.

Truancy – Mr. Tate recapped the problem of truancy and the high rate of school dropouts. The subcommittee has met with Judge Nelson Bailey to discuss how the court system can support the efforts of the Sheriff's Office and School District to keep students in school. **Betty Boyer and Douglas Green indicated interest in serving on the Truancy Subcommittee.**

Transitional Housing – No update.

2010 Census – Mr. Tate reported that an additional \$100 billion has been allocated to our region for implementation of the 2010 census. He stated that there is a 70% non-response rate from the Glades. It is critical to have an accurate census count because allocation of funding is based on the census figures. It was discussed that there is a critical need for reaching out to residents to encourage them to participate in the census. **ACTION ITEM: A subcommittee will be formed to devise outreach strategies.**

4. Bus Tour of Improvements in the City of South Bay

Participants boarded a 45-passenger bus, provided by the City of South Bay, for a narrated tour of improvements currently underway and planned for the near future in South Bay.

State Road 80 and Triangle Park – Jacques Beaubrun and Steven Stokes narrated this portion of the tour. The roadway has been repaved and made smooth, and a sidewalk has been installed. Landscaping in the median was selected specifically to not interfere with visibility, and includes solitaire palm trees, fakahatchee grass, and imperial blue flowers (plumbago). The narrators noted that it is a pleasure to see the number of people who are using the new sidewalks, which are for the public, not for businesses as sidewalks often are. People are getting out to exercise, or to walk to Belle Glade safely. The point where the sidewalk meets a cross street is bright yellow with large raised round bumps to alert the vision impaired that they're entering a cross road. Triangle Park and its fountain were in place before this project. However, through this project, the fountain was improved and put back into service, and a path and landscaping were added around the fountain. Future landscaping improvements will be made. A bike lane may be considered in the future. All of the landscaping has irrigation systems. The City of South Bay participated by contributing funds for the irrigation system for Triangle Park.

Paint Your Heart Out – Surina Woodson-Brown thanked all for their support of the project, stating that it has been good for the City and the residents have appreciated it. She pointed out several homes that had been or were in the process of being painted. The exterior painting was done by youth participating in the Workforce Alliance's Summer Youth Employment Program. Houston Tate stated that the Paint Your Heart Out project was initially begun by the Methodist Church in Wellington partnering with local churches and the Cities to paint homes. Ms. Woodson-Brown stated that some distressed properties and abandoned homes damaged beyond repair would be demolished. Approximately 12 homes have been painted so far. Some of the residents have chosen to have the youth return and to do additional work on their properties. Ms. Woodson-Brown particularly thanked the OCR and Solid Waste Authority for their participation in the project.

US Highway 27 North to Lake Harbor – Jacques Beaubrun and Ramon Arosemena narrated this portion of the tour. They pointed out the newly-installed landscaping in the medians and along the sides of the highway, as well as the road paving and improvements and new sidewalks. This is a major corridor across the State, and this \$50 million project stretches for 13 miles from South Bay to the Hendry County Line. An important aspect is the replacement of the two old bridges at the Miami Canal in Lake Harbor. One bridge deck is already complete, and both north- and southbound traffic is routed onto that new bridge while the other deck is completed. The concrete will be poured at 2 a.m. on the other bridge deck, because it has to be done in the cooler night weather. The old guardrail is being replaced with 58,000 feet of new guardrail. The project is on track to be completed in December. Landscaping was concentrated in the Cities, due to funding. In the future, there may be landscaping in the rural areas. The landscape maintenance will be done by the City in which the landscaping is located.

South Bay Nature Park – George Sandiford reported that hurricanes damaged the lighting and trees, but that recent renovation efforts have made it usable for youth football. It has been recommended by staff that the City's annual BayFest be scheduled at the Nature Park. Inmate labor, along with staff, is being utilized to maintain the park.

South Bay Crossroads Depot/Boat Ramp/RV Campground – Jean Matthews reported on these three Palm Beach County projects.

Depot Building: The initial work to complete the exterior of the Depot Building was awarded to Holt Construction by Facilities Development & Operations (FD&O) through the Procurement & Project Implementation Group (PPIG) program in the amount of \$158,000. Holt Construction is in the process of preparing plans and applying for permits. They are generally given 90 days to complete the work once they have received a building permit. A scope of work to complete the interior and building systems of the depot has been given to Holt and the County is awaiting a bid proposal for this work needed to complete and issue a certificate of occupancy for the building. A \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant has been awarded to the County to complete this phase of the project. The County has a bid proposal for \$127,979 to complete the site work and parking from Whiteside Construction, and is waiting for Holt's proposal to complete the building before moving forward with this work.

Boat Ramp: Funding in the amount of \$550,000 has been allocated to this project from Florida Boating Improvement funds. Design is underway through an annual engineering contract. The Board of County Commissioners is scheduled to approve the Consent to Easement agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers on September 1, 2009 to turn the boat ramp over to the County for construction and maintenance of all improvements.

Campground: The County is pursuing the addition of 30 new RV campsites to generate additional revenue to offset the cost of operating the Depot building as a community center. Design of water, sewer, and electrical service for the new campsites is underway. A Transportation Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$500,000 has been awarded to help with pedestrian connections and landscaping associated with this project, the Depot and the Boat Ramp.

Potential Grant Funding: The following grants are being sought to help complete these projects:

Florida Department of Transportation - Transportation Enhancement Grant \$500,000

- Railroad Cottage building
- Site grading and fill
- Asphalt pathways (2,500 Linear feet)
- Concrete sidewalks (1,230 Linear feet)
- Landscaping, fencing and sod
- Pedestrian Bollard lighting
- Site furniture (10 benches, 16 picnic tables, 3 bike racks and flagpole)

Housing and Community Development – Block Grant \$300,000

- Improvements to the Depot building

In addition the County is applying for a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant \$200,000. If awarded, it will fund the following improvements:

- New bike trail
- 20 new camp sites
- New horseshoe pit
- New picnic facilities
- New landscaping & sod
- New fencing, site lighting and sidewalks
- Renovate existing playground
- Convert existing basketball court to a tennis court
- Renovate existing restroom

5. Participant Comments/Updates

Inland Port – Steven Stokes stated that people often stop in their office asking about employment opportunities. He asked about potential employment for the Inland Port as well as information on training. It was noted that the website <http://www.floridailc.com/> has information posted about the inland port a.k.a. Intermodal Logistics Center (ILC). One may also visit <http://pbcgov.com> and enter *intermodal logistics center* or *inland port* into the search field on that page to find links to minutes and other information related to the project. On the same website, it is possible to view commission meetings by following the link provided. Pam Nolan stated that the Intermodal Logistic Center will be a major generator of jobs. **ACTION ITEM: A future GTAC meeting will feature a more in-depth presentation about the Inland Port.**

Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue – Lt. Lynnette Reid reported that the occupancy date for the new fire station in Belle Glade has been pushed out another month. She confirmed that the location of the new Pahokee Fire Station will be the site of the old School of Choice. Concerns with this location should be addressed with the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners.

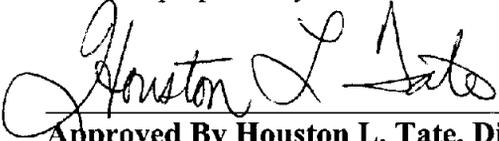
Office of Community Revitalization – Houston Tate encouraged attendees to visit the OCR website, where information on grant opportunities and other important issues is posted.
<http://pbcgov.com/ocr/>

American Rescue Workers (ARW) – Mr. Harrington reported that Pastor Danny Moore has returned to the area, working with ARW. He will reopen the ARW facility in Pahokee for a food pantry, drug intervention and counseling program.

Workforce Alliance (WFA) – Denny Abbott provided via email, revised unemployment rates for the Glades. The most current unemployment numbers are: Belle Glade 26.4%, Pahokee 27.9%, South Bay 41.9%, and Canal Point 46.6%. As stated above, Workforce Alliance will play an important role in matching employees with positions should the Inland Port be located in the Glades.

The next GTAC meeting will be held at the Canal Point Community Center on September 24, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer and LJ Margolis.


Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director