

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of October 22, 2009
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Belle Glade City Hall**

Minutes

Attendees:

Brenda Bunting, Executive Director, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce
Tish Burgher, QCA, Inc. (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Karen Corbin, President, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce
Capt. Larry Easton, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative
Jesus Fuentez, American Engineering Group (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation)
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Roswell Harrington, Pahokee Resident / Keen Mobile Home Park
Angela Johnson, Dept. of Commerce Census Bureau
Lt. Chris Keane, PBC Sheriff's Office
Juanita Maybin, Essence Unique Ladies Club
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health
David Perez, Target Engineering (Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT))
Captain Craig Prusansky, PBC Fire-Rescue
Scott Ryder, C3TS Architects
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Barbara Spence, City of Pahokee
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Jeff Tarr, Pahokee Resident
Gail Vorpagel, PBC Code Enforcement
Mary Jo Walker, City of Belle Glade
Rashonda Warren, City of Pahokee

1. Welcome and Introductions

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m., 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 Belle Glade for hosting the meeting, and asked the group to introduce themselves.

Mr. Gainer noted that Alex Steven, Community Food Alliance Director, was unable to attend the meeting. The food grant will be discussed at a future meeting. Instead, Angela Johnson of the Census Bureau will make a presentation on the upcoming Census.

2. Review of Minutes

Minutes of the September 24, 2009 meeting were reviewed. There were three corrections of attendees listed incorrectly: Roswell Harrington is a resident of Pahokee; Chief Curtis Rice of PBCFR was in attendance; Zina El-Daghar of Canal Point Community Development was in attendance.

3. Discussion / Updates

Palm Beach County Code Enforcement - Gail Vorpapel, Senior Code Enforcement Officer

Ms. Vorpapel gave a PowerPoint presentation of an overview of the Code Enforcement Division.

Ms. Vorpapel discussed what she calls the "Whatever It Takes" duties of her section of Code Enforcement, whereby Code Enforcement Officers go into the neighborhoods proactively to attempt to work with the community and assist residents in meeting codes.

Roswell Harrington asked if the drainage issues in the Canal Point Town Site area (N Canal Street to Fourth Street and Everglades Avenue to Bryant Avenue) can be addressed during the dry season. He stated that the ditch and culverts need to be cleaned and inspected. Agencies involved are PBC Roads and Bridges and the South Florida Conservatory District.

PBSO Lt. Chris Keane asked for clarification on the Business Tax Receipts and Code Enforcement inspections. Ms. Vorpapel stated that there are no inspections performed except as an initial application or if the business has moved. This is no longer a license.

Lt. Keane also asked if there was a timetable for the compliance process. Ms. Vorpapel stated that there is a policy in place, but it may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis.

Barbara Bell-Spence asked if any returned notices sent via certified mail would have an effect on the compliance timeline. Ms. Vorpapel stated that the compliance date can be adjusted, and mailing time is usually taken into account when setting a compliance timeframe.

Jeff Tarr asked if Animal Care and Control falls under the jurisdiction of Code Enforcement. Ms. Vorpapel stated that they do not; it is a division of the Department of Public Safety.

2010 Census - Angela Johnson, US Census Partnership Specialist

Ms. Johnson explained what the Census is and why it is being conducted. Among other things, it is a constitutional obligation.

The next Census count will be held on April 1, 2010. Grants were sent out to partners (cities, organizations, etc.) to help keep Census in the forefront of residents' attention. Partner grant applications are due on Friday, October 23, 2009. Ms. Johnson asked attendees to help spread awareness of the importance of the Census.

Mr. Tarr asked how partners are selected. Ms. Johnson discussed several methods of selection, and stated that any entity can become a partner.

Mr. Tate expressed his hope that the City of Belle Glade will become a partner and submit their grant request by the deadline.

Mr. Harrington raised the question of potential commercial partners who had not been contacted and people who had not been counted in the last Census. It was stated that The City of Pahokee will be a "Be Counted" site for these situations. Flyers with this information will be posted in the Canal Point Post Office. All Census-related questions may be referred directly to Angela Johnson at 561-859-3275 or Angela.F.Johnson@census.gov.

Mary Jo Walker asked about door-to-door canvassing. Ms. Johnson stated that this will only be done in cases where a survey was not returned, or there is something on the returned survey needing clarification.

4. Subcommittee Updates

Transitional Housing:

The subcommittee did not meet due to the passing of Ted Robert's mother.

5. Participant Comments / Updates

Office of Community Revitalization (OCR):

Mr. Tate asked Kim Erickson to move forward with the Canal Point Street Light project application.

Taking Stock in Children will be asked to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Tate again asked the communities present to bring five residents each to the meetings. He also asked attendees to spread awareness of grant funding opportunities.

Mr. Tate mentioned several other items such as the Lake Okeechobee Initiative and the upcoming Glades Corny Fest.

Lakeside Medical Center

Lt. Keane discussed the recent patient transfer from Glades General Hospital to the newly-opened Lakeside Medical Center. He stated that DOT was able to open part of the roadway that was closed for construction, to better facilitate the patient transfer. Other agencies partnered to assist in the patient transfer. Lt. Keane stated that the transfer went as smoothly as it did due in part to relationships built through GTAC.

Department of Transportation

David Perez gave an update on SR 15. Milling and the first layer of asphalt is finished. Project completion is expected to be 2010.

Scott Ryder gave an update on SR 700. The Phase III detour from SR 80 to Hatton Highway will be opened today. The Phase I detour from Muck City Road to US Highway 441 in Canal Point will be in effect from today until March 22, 2010 and will last 104 days. Project completion is expected to be October 18, 2010. Mr. Ryder discussed the "hot mill in place"

technology, which is used to recycle and repave the road. He stated that this is a "green" method of recycling asphalt. He stated that DOT is also incorporating "slope revetment" in the project, which is a method of stabilizing the canal banks.

Mr. Harrington asked about the status of the Canal Point section. **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Ryder will provide an update.**

Jesus Fuentes gave an update on SR 25 / US Highway 27. The project is anticipated to be completed by January 15, 2010. Paving will begin next week. The South Bay project will begin October, 26, 2009, with paving moving from the Hendry County Line to South Bay. The Lake Harbor bridge construction is complete. DOT is doing a tie-in to finalize that project. Miami Canal Road should be completed in about a month or so. The light poles should be completed with the old ones removed by mid-November. The project reviews by the City of South Bay for the landscaping installed by FDOT are due by the end of January 2010. The landscaping was installed by FDOT, and will be maintained by the City of South Bay.

Glades Initiative

Karis Engle spoke about various upcoming events, details of which can be found at <http://www.gladesinitiative.org/downloads/10.19.09/GladesCommunityUpdates10-19-09.pdf>.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Mr. Harrington gave a brief update of the CERT program. He noted that there will be a CERT meeting on Monday, October 26, 2009.

City of Pahokee

Ms. Bell-Spence stated that the City of Pahokee is working on the Census project by meeting with pastors and others. She issued a challenge, especially to PBSO and Fire-Rescue, to get involved in Relay for Life to be held April 9 and 10, 2010, at Pahokee Parks and Recreation. She requested that attendees form teams for the event.

Canal Point

Mr. Harrington stated that there is a lack of adequate water pressure to put out fires. He asked what the plans and timetable are for fixing this on-going issue. He stated that agencies involved would include Glades Utility Authority, Palm Beach County Water Utilities and Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue.

Mr. Harrington asked about North Canal Street resigning, where the street changes from two lanes to one lane. He stated that signage is conflicting and incomplete. He stated that agencies involved would be Palm Beach County Road and Bridges, and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Share Florida Food Network

Mr. Harrington discussed the program and stated that Pam Calhoun restarted the gleaning program.

The next GTAC meeting will be held in the Pahokee Parks & Recreation Department Wellness Center, behind the Historic High School Building, 360 E. Main Street, Pahokee, on November 19, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The meeting was moved up one week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer, LJ Margolis and PBFR Captain Craig Prusansky.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Houston L. Tate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Houston" being the most prominent part.

Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director