

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of April 22, 2010
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
City of South Bay Commission Chambers
335 SW 2nd Avenue
Minutes

Attendees:

Arthur Anderson, City of South Bay
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Pahokee
Betty Boyer, The EDGE Center
Tish Burgher, QCA Inc.(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Linda Camardella, PBC School District
Cornesha Dukes-Chisholm, Pahokee Beacon Center
Jesus Fuentes, American Engineering Group
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Suzanne Harper, The EDGE Center
Roswell Harrington, Resident of Pahokee / Keene Mobile Home Park /
East Beach Family Emergency Depot
Lt. Chris Keane, PBC Sheriff's Office
Julie Krefle, Florida Impact
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health
Shakera Putmon, Pioneer Park Beacon Center
Lillian Tomeu, City of Belle Glade
Capt. Craig Prusansky, PBC Fire-Rescue
Joe Sidman, Gemini Homes
Debbie Simpson, PBC School District Police
Jeff Tarr, Resident of Pahokee
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Gail Vorpagel, PBC Code Enforcement
Wilosa Washington, Pahokee Beacon Center
John Wilson, City of South Bay
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m., introduced his self, and welcomed attendees on behalf of the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners, Palm Beach County Administration, and Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization. He thanked the City of South Bay for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Review of Minutes:

The minutes of the March 22, 2010 meeting were not available for review.

3. Discussion / Updates:

Florida Impact – Julie Kreaflle, South Florida Project Coordinator

Ms. Kreaflle reported that Florida Impact is a statewide nonprofit working to end hunger and poverty in Florida, in partnership with Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger. Ms. Kreaflle's role is to expand the marketing of the Summer Food Project, which provides free nutritious breakfasts and lunches to school-aged children during the summer. Only a small percentage of the qualifying children have accessed the Summer Food Program. Part of Florida Impact's goal is to make sure children receive nutritious meals year round, not just during the school year. Florida Impact is putting information into WIC centers and other locations, and works closely with Palm Beach County, the School District of Palm Beach County, the Community Food Alliance, the United Way of Palm Beach County and other community partners. Florida Impact is also identifying other areas of need, such as transportation for the children to get to the food sites and other issues. Ms. Kreaflle asked attendees to contact her if they have any input or know of people who would or is interested in sponsoring a summer food site, and if there are any issues that need to be addressed. Felicia Washington suggested that Ms. Kreaflle connect with the summer programs to see if they might participate in the meal program. Roswell Harrington suggested that Ms. Kreaflle post information in the Canal Point Post Office and make contact with the ministerial associations and the Lighthouse Cafe. Jeff Tarr asked for clarification of "lower income families". Linda Camardella stated that "low income" is determined on a sliding scale based on income and family size. More information on the scale can be found at

http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il/il2010/2010summary.odn?inputname=STTLT*1299999999%2BFlorida&selection_type=county&stname=Florida&statefp=12.0&year=2010 To learn more about Florida Impact and the summer food project, visit <http://www.flimpact.org> or call Julie Kreaflle at 954-609-3474.

Neighborhood Transportation Systems – Lillian Tomeu, City of Belle Glade

Ms. Tomeu reported on the newly-formed Belle Glade Express bus routes. The ribbon cutting was held January 11, 2010 with the Belle Glade City Commission, representatives of South Bay and Pahokee City Commissions, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Palm Beach County Metropolitan Organization (PBC MPO). The routes started that day, and by the end of the month 780 people had ridden the buses. This City transit system was suggested by Angie Morlok of PBC MPO. The transit system is designed to partner with PalmTran, not to replace it. There are four separate routes, each of which covers a 30 minute drive area. The buses can be flagged down along the route, and the primary transfer point is at Winn Dixie, which is also PalmTran's transfer point. The buses run from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the weekdays with shorter hours on the weekends. Target riders are elderly, low income and transportation challenged. The transit system is specifically a neighborhood system, and no routes run outside of the City limits nor overlap PalmTran's route. The original plan was to charge 50 cents and then increase to 75 cents. However, due to the economy, at this time there is no charge and beginning May 1, 2010 the charge will be 45 cents. The goal is 4,800 riders per month. In March there were 2,900 riders. According to FDOT, this is one of the most successful start-ups they have had. To Ms. Tomeu's knowledge, no municipality in the nation has a 100% self-sufficient transit system. The orange east / west bound route goes out Airport Road all the

way to Pruitt, outside the City limits, because there was a specific need for transportation for that area. Ms. Tomeu said that many of the older people just get on the bus to ride and talk to their friends. Two buses cover the four routes, alternating their route every half hour. Bus shelters will be installed by CBS, who will provide the shelters, place advertising on them and pay the City to be able to do so. Both of the drivers are local residents. The service provider is Midnight Sun. Mr. Harrington asked what could be done to get something similar in the north end of the County, which is underserved by PalmTran. Barbara Bell-Spence reported that she has already been in contact with Ms. Morlok of MPO to work on a grant application and develop a route. Because Canal Point is unincorporated, the CPCD may be able to partner with Pahokee to be a part of the route.

4. Subcommittee Updates:

Truancy

Linda Camardella reported that the committee met and that she, two representatives from PBSO, a representative from Weed and Seed and one other representative will make up the committee. A problem the PBSO faces is that the School District cannot share information with them. Some grant funding may be available to create incentives for high-risk students to stay in school. Mr. Tate reported that it is a recommendation that students who are picked up by PBSO be returned to school. It is also a recommendation that businesses not hire students to work during the day when they should be in school. The parent's role in the process needs to be identified.

Correcting Addresses in the Glades

Captain Craig Prusansky reported that in April, they received information on two resolutions in Pahokee: one for renaming Fifth Street to MLK Blvd., and the other for renaming South Jordan Blvd. to Rev. Jesse Biggs Blvd. This information had not been forwarded to the County, so those corrections will be made if necessary.

Corkscrew Blvd. addresses were corrected in August, but there are still compliance issues with residents not displaying the addresses correctly. A list will be given to Larry Caraccio of Code Enforcement.

The change of "US 98" (which is no more) to "Connors Highway" is still on hold. PZ & B is still awaiting a petition for the name change to come back from the residents of Canal Point.

An "incorrect street sign" survey is being conducted to make a list of street signs that are showing the incorrect street. This will be turned in to the appropriate agencies to have them corrected.

5. Participant Updates:

East Beach Family Emergency Depot (EBFED)

Roswell Harrington reported that EBFED is a corporation applying for its 501c3 status. Corporate officers are President Barbara Bell-Spence, Vice President Roswell Harrington and Secretary/Treasurer Rev. David Broadbent. They are accumulating data to apply for purchase and rehabilitation monies.

PBSO

Lt. Chris Keane reported that a Bike Rodeo was being conducted today at K.E. Cunningham-Canal Point Elementary School by members of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office District 5, Explorer's Post 611 and volunteers from the Citizens on Patrol program. Children from the Canal Point and Pahokee communities will receive instruction on bicycle safety. PBSO personnel will give the children helmets, elbow and knee pads. Students will be able to practice their new found safety skills on a bicycle course set up on the basketball courts. Lt. Keane said that with the summer break approaching this is a good opportunity for PBSO to provide bicycle safety instruction to our area youth.

Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Mr. Tate reported that the County has the ability to bring the NFL High School Player Development Program to the Glades. This is a five-day development workshop for students. He will meet with coaches at Glades Day, Glades Central and Pahokee High Schools. This project can partner with the Truancy project. Some of the participants from the NFL program will go on to another component of the program. There also is a grant available, Changing Lives through Football, which the communities can apply for.

Mr. Tate reported that CSX Railroad is looking for employees. He will send information on this.

REAP graduation is coming up, and there were 8 grant applications from the Glades.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Jesus Fuentes reported that the US 27 project completion is expected April 29, 2010. Final inspections are scheduled for next week and the contractor is working on punch list items. All lanes are open to traffic, the bridge is complete and all the detours are over.

Because she had to leave early for another meeting, Tish Burgher provided a written report: Scott Ryder is on vacation. Jacques Beaubrun is at an FDOT Safety meeting. The SR 700 project has been reopened between Hatton Highway and US Hwy 441. It is closed from SR 80 to Hatton Highway for the next several weeks.

"Hot in Place" has been temporarily suspended and will resume in May, at which time a GTAC tour will be scheduled.

Paving of downtown Canal Point is scheduled for Friday, April 30 at night, weather permitting.

SR 729 has no lane closures at this time. Project-related work at various locations is on-going.

Census

Mr. Tate reported that Palm Beach County is already at about 70% participation; the Glades are at approximately 50%, much better than previous participation in the 30% range.

Pahokee

Barbara Bell-Spence reported that Pahokee's census participation is at 55%. The City is beginning to work on their transit system grant. There are numerous construction projects throughout the City.

South Bay

Arthur Anderson reported that South Bay has pushed census participation.

Dr. Anderson stated that the Public Utilities Department has been able to arrange donations of paint and has gone out into the community to paint residents' homes.

Commissioner John Wilson reported that census participation is about 56%.

Commissioner Wilson also stated that there is a problem with the muck having subsided so much from the houses that older people in wheelchairs cannot get out of their homes. He has been trying to get grants to build ramps.

Action Item: Mr. Tate will have Audley Reid research what grants might be available. Mr. Tate stated that communities are encouraged to form 501(c) 3s and submit grant applications for the betterment of their community. Suzanne Harper said that there are also 501(c) 3 agencies that they can also partner with.

Belle Glade

Ms. Tomeu stated that the approximately \$3 million Marina project is about 40% completed. The City has pushed census participation very strongly.

EDGE Center

Ms. Harper reported that a small business owner was murdered this past weekend at his gas station. She said that he was a good, honorable man who was trying to make a difference in the Glades. He came to this country as an ambassador from Lebanon. He gave up his ambassadorship to move with his wife to Miami to open his own business. He then left Miami to come to Belle Glade to open a business and to benefit the community.

Miscellaneous

Betty Boyer stated that she has a friend who owns property in the unincorporated area by the Pahokee Airport. She suggested that the property be considered for housing.

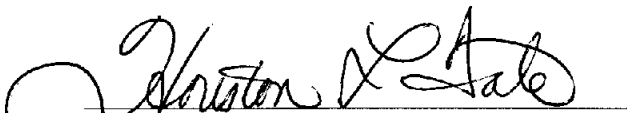
ACTION ITEM: Mr. Tate recommended that they first approach Ted Roberts of the City of Pahokee to get it started. He will also put them in contact with County departments.

Ms. Boyer stated that there are many things for young people to do in the community. It is up to the parents to find out about these opportunities and involve their children in them. LJ Margolis suggested that Ms. Boyer and Lt. Keane get with "Mike D" of Sugar 900 radio station and arrange to do some interviews to get the information out to a large audience that might not read the newspaper or get brochures.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The next GTAC meeting will be held on May 27, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Canal Point Community Center.

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer and LJ Margolis



Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director