

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of May 27, 2010
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Canal Point Community Center
12860 US Hwy 441

Minutes

Attendees:

Arthur Anderson, City of South Bay
Tish Burgher, QCA Inc.(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Larry Caraccio, PBC Code Enforcement
Kate Cole, PBC Human Services
Kim Erickson, Canal Point Community Development
Deborah Ferguson, City of Belle Glade Volunteer
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Captain Nancy Grimes, PBC Sheriff's Office
Roswell Harrington, Resident of Pahokee / Keene Mobile Home Park /
East Beach Family Emergency Depot
Lt. Chris Keane, PBC Sheriff's Office
Selena Lamotte, PBC Sheriff's Office Youth Intervention Program (YIP)
Dennis Lipp, Office of PBC Commissioner Jess Santamaria
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)
Kwanza McCall, Belle Glade Weed and Seed
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health
Angie Morlok, PBC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Erica Redmon, City of Pahokee
Scott Ryder, C3TS Transportation Group
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Jeff Tarr, Resident of Pahokee
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., introduced himself, 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 Canal Point for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Review of Minutes:

The minutes of the April 22, 2010 meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections.

3. Discussion / Updates:

There was no special presentation.

4. Subcommittee Updates:

Truancy

During discussion of the Truancy issue, Selena LaMotte stated that the plan is to return truant students to the schools. However, the School Board is no longer willing to share student information with PBSO for follow-up purposes, based on privacy issues. The School Board's position is that they can only share that information if there is a Truancy Center, but there is no longer a truancy center in Palm Beach County. Lt. Keane said that there was a contractual agreement between PBSO and the School Board that if a truancy organization or center were created, they would share the information. He said that PBSO decided to concentrate on middle school students. They asked School Board to give a list of the worst truants, but the School Board would not do so. He said that at the time the contractual agreement was made, there were three truancy centers in the County, where PBSO and School Board staff would provide certain services and then return the student to school. Ms. LaMotte said that when the truancy centers existed, they had to call the parents to take the students back to school. They learned that the parents would often have to take a day or two off work to take the child back to school and meet with school officials. They then formed the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) to try to assist through community resources. They have also learned that truancy is a symptom of underlying home issues. Jeff Tarr said that it appears to him that we are not doing a very effective job of addressing truancy. He said that it appears to be an internal matter within the County, and the School Board is giving pushback. He suggested that this issue should be brought up at a County Commission meeting and that the parties involved come together to resolve the problem.

Correcting Addresses in the Glades

Because he was unable to attend today's meeting, Captain Craig Prusansky provided a written update:

Pahokee: The following streets have officially been renamed, and the County and 9-1-1 Management have also updated their records: 5th Street to Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., South Jordan Blvd. to Rev. Jesse Biggs Blvd., and West 4th Street to Buddy White Blvd.

Corkscrew Blvd.: A list of addresses not in compliance with the County addressing standards was submitted to Code Enforcement. Out of the 77 properties initially surveyed, 30 were initially not in compliance with the addressing standards set forth in the County Code. These properties were sent courtesy letters. On May 26, Richard Colon from Code Enforcement and Captain Prusansky re-surveyed the Corkscrew Blvd. / Lake Harbor area and found that out of the 30 properties initially not in compliance, 19 had become compliant and 11 were still not in compliance. These 11 properties will be receiving a Notice of Violation from Code Enforcement and will be re-surveyed in the upcoming months.

Canal Point: Captain Prusansky will be sending one more e-mail to obtain the status of the petition for the renaming of the old US 98 (State Road 700) to "Connors Highway". If he does not receive a reply, he will be handling the petition and obtaining the necessary signatures. Kim Erickson said that she is working on the petition.

Incorrect street signs: A preliminary list of incorrect street signs has been submitted to Tish Burgher of FDOT for distribution to the necessary people. The signs on this list are strictly on

State and US Highways, over which FDOT has jurisdiction. A separate list will be submitted to the Cities when it is complete. Tish Burgher stated that the list for the area of US Hwy 27 has been reviewed by Jacques Beaubrun of DOT. The list has been forwarded to the traffic operations department for review and a determination of what action they'll take will be forthcoming.

5. Participant Updates:

East Beach Family Emergency Depot (EBFED)

Roswell Harrington said that the board is still trying to get grant and other monies, and are working on getting their 501(c)(3) status. The land owner is still interested in selling them the property.

Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Mr. Gainer invited attendees to attend the 2010 Resident Action to Education Program (REAP) luncheon on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at 11 a.m. The luncheon will be held at the Palm Beach Airport Hilton, 150 N. Australian Ave., West Palm Beach. RSVP to Chrystal Mathews at 561-233-5565 or cmathews@pgcgov.org by Friday, May 28, 2010.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Tish Burgher reported that a DOT project will begin in June or July in South Bay on US 27. It will start at the rail road tracks and continue south about 10 miles. It is primarily a resurfacing project, and will include some improvements to Triangle Park in South Bay. Steve Stokes will be the Project Director.

Tish Burgher, Scott Ryder and LJ Margolis will coordinate a date and the logistics for a tour to see the Hot-in-Place project on SR 700. Mr. Ryder stated that this is the first time Hot-in-Place has been used in Florida, and it will be about 10 years before its success is known.

Hot-in-Place recycling (remixing project) process is utilized in lieu of the conventional milling and resurfacing techniques. Unlike a conventional cold milling/inlay resurfacing project, the recycled pavement material is never removed from the roadway location to an offsite area. Construction instead is a continued process consisting of pavement heaters, a recycling/paving machine, and compaction equipment. In concept, the hot-in-place recycling process offers advantages compared to conventional milling and resurfacing: 1) faster construction time; 2) reduce cost and; 3) 100% of reuse of the existing pavement material with addition of few new materials.

Habitat for Humanity

Lt. Chris Keane reported that Habitat for Humanity will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at 311 Cypress Avenue in Pahokee. Soon, volunteers will be needed Tuesdays through Saturdays to assist in building the two Habitat homes in Pahokee. After that, a larger Habitat village is planned.

Pahokee / Canal Point

Mr. Gainer reported that he received a request from Sylvia Sharps of the PBC Water Utilities Department to find out how much money was allocated for the repair of the sewer infrastructure

in Canal Point. However, because the water comes through Pahokee, work also needs to be done on Pahokee's infrastructure. Kim Erickson stated that she had been told there will not be adequate fire water pressure in Canal Point until the pipes in Pahokee are replaced, because putting that much pressure through the pipes will cause them to burst.

Glades Initiative

Because Karis Engle was unable to attend the meeting, she sent a written report: Once school ends, there is a Summer Food Program which ensures that every child under the age of 18 can have food over the summer. For more information visit the Summer Food Service Program's (SFSP) user- friendly website at www.summerfoodflorida.org that includes the Department of Education tool and provides other information to parents and other sponsors.

The Glades Initiative and Beacon Centers will have flyers starting Friday that people can pick up and distribute to anyone they think might want to know the local sites for where to take their children for meals this summer. Flyers and other materials can also be downloaded from the website – follow the Resources button.

There is a big issue going on relating to the PBC School Board and the construction (or lack there of) for three Glades area schools (Rosenwald, Gove and Gladeview). There was a meeting Tuesday evening at Belle Glade City Hall, and there will be another meeting today at 5 p.m. at Belle Glade City Hall to organize for the massive turnout needed at the next School Board meeting. If you have children or are concerned about the health and safety risks at our local schools you need to get involved. If no one else at the GTAC meeting has additional information or knows who to contact then you can tell them to contact Karis at the Glades Initiative for more information, or attend the meeting at 5 p.m. at Belle Glade City Hall.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Angela Morlok reported that the Belle Glade municipal transit is doing very well, with 1,000 riders a month. PalmTran's Pahokee route has standing room only at some times of the day. MPO is trying to get more money to add a bus to the route. The bus is being used almost 50% for people to get to work or Palm Beach State College's Belle Glade campus.

Glades Utility Authority (GUA)

At the February 25, 2010 meeting, it was asked if the GUA had been established as an independent entity. According to Chastity O'Steen, Esquire, legal counsel for the GUA, "The GUA isn't a dependent or independent district. It's a multijurisdictional water and wastewater utility created by interlocal agreement pursuant to "Chapter 163, Florida Statutes".

Roswell Harrington said that according to his understanding of the statute, GUA is a multijurisdictional district with its own board, not under the authority of any governmental entity or municipality. Kate Cole said that the utility rates are very high for low income and elderly residents, and asked if anything can be done to lower the rates. She said that more senior citizens are coming to her office for assistance with the utility bills. Mr. Gainer said that at a previous meeting, Barbara Bell-Spence had reported that she had found an agency that could assist with utility bills. Mr. Tarr said that he and his mother have been impacted by the GUA. He wants to know who GUA answers to so that he will know whom to approach if he has issues with GUA.

He requested that GUA be represented at the GTAC meetings so that they can answer questions as they arise. During discussion, Dennis Lipp contacted Assistant County Administrator Shannon LaRoque, who is the chair of the board of the independent GUA. She will try to attend the next GTAC meeting. Mr. Lipp also reported that Belle Glade resident Stacy Rymes replaced Michael Jackson on the GUA board.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Gainer will arrange for GUA representation at future GTAC meetings.

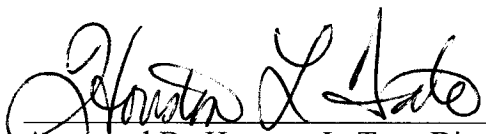
Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) / Lake Okeechobee

Mr. Lipp reported that a representative of the Jacksonville office of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) attended the Board of County Commissioners meeting to give a report on the Herbert Hoover Dike (HDD) strengthening project. The dredging of the Route 2 (Rim Canal) Waterway will not take place until the HDD work is completed. The ACE will repair the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) after the HDD work is completed, and will move the GUA pipes to their proper location. After an unusually rainy winter, in order to keep Lake O at less than 15 feet during hurricane season, ACE is dumping significant amounts of water into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries. ACE recognizes that this is seriously damaging to the two marine estuaries, but protecting the lives of the people is of prime importance. However, harming estuaries that will take 50 to 100 years to recover is an ecological tragedy. Mr. Harrington stated there needs to be some meetings in the Glades to answer questions such as how much land will be taken over and the impact on residents and businesses in the HDD project. Mr. Tarr asked if there were any discussions about prioritizing the Everglades restoration project versus the HDD strengthening project. Mr. Lipp said that there will never be sheet flow southward from Lake O. There will be canals, pumps, etc. The ACE first priority is to strengthen the HDD. Three companies are working on it simultaneously – one from Japan, one from Germany and one from Italy, because no-one in the US has the expertise to do it. At this time, coming into the rainy / hurricane season, Lake O should be at its lowest, but it is at 15.5 feet, near its highest. If it reaches 18 feet, it will fail. Everglades restoration is still a high priority, but saving the lives of the residents of the Glades is of the highest priority.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next GTAC meeting will be held on June 24, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Belle Glade City Hall, 110 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. West, Belle Glade.

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer and LJ Margolis.


Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director