

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of June 24, 2010
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Belle Glade City Hall
110 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd. West

Minutes

Attendees:

Denny Abbott, PBC Workforce Alliance
Ella Barton, City of Belle Glade
Jacques Beaubrun, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Betty Boyer, The EDGE Center
Tish Burgher, QCA Inc.(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Jocelyn Colón, Glades Utility Authority (GUA)
Karen Corbin, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce
Meredith Cruz, The Corradino Group
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)
Charles Duvall, Workforce Alliance
Sally El-Daghar, Resident of Canal Point / Business Owner
Tanya Fresneda, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Roswell Harrington, Resident of Pahokee / Keene Mobile Home Park /
East Beach Family Emergency Depot
Quinn Hayes, PBC Health Department
Kenneth Holley, City of Pahokee
Dennis Lipp, Office of PBC Commissioner Jess Santamaria
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)
Knawza McCall, Belle Glade Weed and Seed
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health
Angie Morlok, PBC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Ashley Poer, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Chief Curtis Rice, PBC Fire Rescue (PBCFR)
James Stiles, Glades Utility Authority (GUA)
Stephen Stokes, Target Engineering Group
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Jeff Tarr, Resident of Pahokee
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Liz Vargas, Lakeside Medical Center
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

During the first year of the grant, ACHIEVE started two Community Gardens, which were so successful that the Community Garden program will be expanded in schools and other community areas.

During the second year of the grant, the goal is to make policy changes at county and municipal levels to develop active living communities. ACHIEVE is also seeking additional partners.

Jeff Tarr asked what will happen to ACHIEVE after the three year grant ends if no additional funding is available. Ms. Hayes stated that ACHIEVE is working to find additional funding. However, if no additional funds become available, ACHIEVE will end. Ms. Hayes is currently the only paid staff member of ACHIEVE. The partnerships are intended to provide additional grant application opportunities and also to carry on the efforts of ACHIEVE if and when it does come to an end.

ACTION ITEM: Roswell Harrington stated that he would like to meet with Ms. Hayes to see how East Beach Family Emergency Depot (EBFED) might partner with ACHIEVE. He also suggested that Ms. Hayes contact Alex Davis of the United Way for potential funding assistance.

Visit the ACHIEVE website at: <http://www.achievecommunities.org> or contact Ms. Hayes at Quinetta_Hayes@doh.state.fl.us.

4. Subcommittee Updates:

Truancy

There was no update.

Correcting Addresses in the Glades

Chief Curtis Rice reported on behalf of Captain Prusansky that Captain Prusansky is working with FDOT to correct the names on the street signs that correctly correspond to the street name. Ella Barton of Belle Glade and Kenneth Holley of Pahokee both stated that their offices had received emails regarding incorrect street signs.

ACTION ITEM: Chief Rice requested that any emails or information the cities receive regarding incorrect addresses or street signs be forwarded to Captain Prusansky because he is the point of contact to address all entities involved in this issue.

Duane Gainer reported that Captain Prusansky received this year's American Red Cross Real Heroes Award, for Fire Rescue.

ACTION ITEM: Roswell Harrington suggested a letter be sent from GTAC to PBCFR recognizing Captain Prusansky's efforts in correcting addresses.

5. Participant Updates:

Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Duane Gainer reported that, between the Glades and the Coast, there were approximately 175 REAP (Resident Education to Action Program) graduates. Houston Tate reported that on July 13, as part of the REAP program, a grant-writing workshop will be held, focusing on grant searching

and writing. Information will be distributed. Other workshops will be set in the future. Mr. Tarr stated that OCR did an outstanding job with REAP, and that the catering was exceptional.

Mr. Tate reported that on Friday and Saturday, June 25 & 26, the NFL will hold a High School Player Development Program at the Pahokee Parks and Recreation Athletic Complex. This has been a national NFL program for the past 13 years, and is being presented in Palm Beach County for the first time this year. The program was also held June 18 & 19 at Palm Beach Lakes High School.

Jeff Tarr stated that he is concerned about miscommunications or a lack thereof between different agencies. Mr. Tate stated that the purpose of the GTAC meeting is to facilitate communication by bringing the concerned parties together, forming committees, assigning responsibilities, and pulling the pieces together.

East Beach Family Emergency Depot (EBFED)

Roswell Harrington reported that EBFED was a recipient of a REAP grant of \$850 to reimburse EBFED for their 501c3 application.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Jacques Beaubrun stated that Scott Ryder is doing research on the ditch issue which has been raised in previous GTAC meetings (see minutes for January 28, 2010 – Department of Transportation section.) He also stated that those in construction only deal with construction related issues. The ditch issue should be addressed through the district office drainage department.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Beaubrun will ask Mr. Ryder to establish contact between the district office and Roswell Harrington.

Mr. Beaubrun said that the SR 700 construction is almost complete. The July 22, 2010 GTAC meeting will include a tour of DOT's Hot In Place (HIP) construction project. Participants must wear close toed shoes, no high heels. Buses leave promptly at 10:00 a.m. The SR 700 project will end within two or three months

Steve Stokes reported that the US highway 27 project will start July 19 and should be completed sometime around the first of the year. The project will begin in South Bay and continue for 10 miles south of the city.

Habitat for Humanity

LJ Margolis reported on behalf of Lt. Chris Keane that the Habitat for Humanity Groundbreaking Ceremony was held Saturday, June 12, at 311 Cypress Avenue in Pahokee. It was attended by the HFH Board of Directors, City of Pahokee Mayor JP Sasser, the Hill family, (recipients of the home), and many friends and volunteers. Construction of the home is tentatively scheduled to begin July 17. All interested volunteers must complete an on-line registration and sign up ahead of time for their volunteer times. Volunteer flyers were distributed. To register, visit www.habitatpbc.org and click on the VolunteerUP button. For information, email volunteer@habitatpbc.org or call 561-433-3351.

Pahokee/Canal Point

Kenneth Holley reported that the City of Pahokee will be holding a 4th of July event, and that GTAC attendees are invited to the VIP event before the fireworks.

Dennis Lipp, from the Office of Commissioner Santamaria, reported that the PBC Board of County Commissioners will hold a budget meeting, and that an increase in millage rate is being considered. He stated that the millage rate would have to be raised to just keep revenue at its current level.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Angela Morlok stated that MPO is looking at the area of Lakeside Medical for a bus stop and sidewalks for safety. It had come to her attention that people were walking from Department of Children and Families (DCF) to Lakeside Medical Center, a very hazardous route. Duane Gainer asked if it might be possible for the Belle Glade Express city bus system to help with this. Ms. Morlok said that the area is outside the city limits, and the grant funding specifies the bus system must operate inside the city limits. Also the city bus system cannot duplicate service, and PalmTran runs that route.

Ms. Morlok stated that she has requested funds to keep the Glades PalmTran route going. It often operates at standing room only. About 1/3 of the riders are going to Palm Beach State College. She stated that the County gave \$42,000, which is about ½ year of local match. MPO was given the directive to try to obtain private funds to keep the bus route going. Ms. Morlok stated that transportation is vital for the economic well being of the community. MPO is working with FHREDI (Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Initiative) and LORI (Lake Okeechobee Regional Initiative) to increase service. About \$7,000 per month is needed in local matching funds to keep one bus going. Anyone interested is asked to consider donating money for one month, two months, six months, or whatever they can.

Workforce Alliance (WFA)

Denny Abbott introduced his successor Charles Duvall. Mr. Duvall stated that in lieu of the youth employment program which WFA held last summer, this year there was a two-week career development workshop on how to interview, how to write a resume, etc. There were 60 participants aged 16 to 21 in the program, which they were paid to attend.

Belle Glade Chamber

Karen Corbin reported that the chamber will reopen on August 18.

Belle Glade

Ella Barton reported that the City is working on a Municipal Library Center, Airport Park, and future land use.

Glades Utility Authority (GUA)

Jim Stiles, Executive Director of GUA, reported that there will be rate study meetings at 6 p.m. in South Bay on Monday, June 28, in Belle Glade on Tuesday, June 29 and in Pahokee on Wednesday, June 30. People can bring their water bills to the meetings to learn exactly what their new proposed rate will be.

SHARE Florida Food Network

Mr. Harrington distributed SHARE food order forms. Information on the food ordering program can be found at <http://shareflorida.org>.

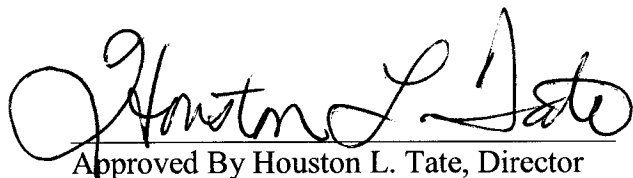
Route 2 Rim Canal Dredging

Kenneth Holley stated that on Friday, June 25, 2010 there will be a summit on the dredging of the Route 2 Rim Canal. He stated that the Army Corps of Engineers will not grant the permit to dredge Route 2. He stated that getting that route dredged and opened for boat traffic will be very beneficial to the economic development of the three cities. The meeting will be held at the Lake Okeechobee Outpost at the Pahokee marina. Denny Abbott stated that Lt. Col. Cunnard has agreed to make a presentation at the LORE (Lake Okeechobee Regional Economic) Alliance meeting on August 12 at 3 p.m. at the Workforce Alliance, and that both rehabilitation work on the dike and the dredging of Route 2 will be discussed. Mr. Abbott stated that Lt. Col. Cunnard indicated that discussions might be reopened on the dredging issue. Mr. Holley said that in July \$3 million dollars in funding that had been allocated is going to be taken away because the Corps had decided not to do the dredging.

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

The next GTAC meeting will be held on July 22, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Attendees will meet at the Pahokee Parks & Recreation Department's Wellness Center, behind the Historic High School Building, 360 E. Main Street, Pahokee. After the introductions and preliminaries are finished, buses will depart promptly at 10 a.m. to take attendees on a tour of the Florida Department of Transportation's "Hot in Place" road construction project. The buses will return to Pahokee's Wellness Center and the meeting will conclude by 12 noon.

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer and LJ Margolis.



Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director

the City of Belle Glade for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Review of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 27, 2010 meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections.

3. Presentations:

Lakeside Medical Center – Liz Vargas

Ms. Vargas spoke about the Lakeside Medical Center's (LMC) new tobacco cessation program and distributed a flyer promoting some of the hospital's classes. She reported that the Palm Beach County Health Department gave LMC a three year grant to implement programs to help reduce tobacco consumption and to educate about the dangers of second hand smoke. LMC partnered with the Quit Smoking program to offer classes at the hospital. They are also going outside the hospital through outreach programs, and are working with Glades Initiative and Reverend Robert Reese to hold the classes wherever there is a need in the community. The classes are free of charge and run for six weeks as a group session with trained facilitators. LMC contracts transportation to bring people to the hospital to ensure they can attend the program. Participants may receive the nicotine patch, gum or lozenges. The classes will be offered in different languages and at different times of the day and will be made available to anyone in the community who wants to quit tobacco consumption. Participants must be 18 or older to receive the nicotine patch and treatment therapy. There will also be education available for minors. The classes will be kept to a maximum of 12 to 15 people; there is no minimum class size. The class offers support through the group as well as individual attention.

ACTION ITEM: Angela Morlok of MPO will talk with Ms. Vargas about the transportation issue.

Action Communities for Health, Innovation and Environmental Change (ACHIEVE) – Quinn Hayes, ACHIEVE Project Coordinator

Ms. Hayes discussed the ACHIEVE project and distributed copies of a PowerPoint presentation.

The Palm Beach County Health Department's Community and Health Division was awarded the three year Action Communities for Health, Innovation, and Environmental Change (ACHIEVE) grant, and is currently in the second year of the grant. The goal of the grant program is to bring together local leaders and stakeholders to build healthier communities by promoting policy and environmental change. Partners include the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of the USA (Y-USA).

ACHIEVE supports healthy lifestyles and environments; physical activity; healthy eating; and prevention of tobacco use, obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The program focuses on the initiatives of Community Gardens, Non-Motorized Transportation and 9-5-2-1-0 For Health. 9-5-2-1-0 is a youth initiative promoting at least 9 hours of sleep each night, eating 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day, limiting screen (TV, computers) time to 2 hours or less per day, getting at least 1 hour of physical activity per day, and eliminating sugary drinks.