

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)**  
**Meeting of August 26, 2010**  
**9:30 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**South Bay City Hall**  
**200 Northwest 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Arthur Anderson, City of South Bay  
Barbara Bell-Spence, Citizen, Belle Glade  
Betty Boyer, The EDGE Center  
Lt. Patricia Brown, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Brenda Bunting, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce  
Karen Corbin, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce  
Meredith Cruz, The Corradino Group  
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
Berkley Finley, Palm Beach State College  
Sgt. Jermaine Ford, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Suzanne Harper, The EDGE Center  
Quinn Hayes, PBC Health Department  
Kenneth Holley, City of Pahokee  
Selena Lamotte, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO)  
Dennis Lipp, Office of PBC Commissioner Jess Santamaria  
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)  
Kristin McCabe, Oakwood Center  
Jerkita McClorin, NewKita Group  
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health  
Angie Morlok, PBC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Rondell Newson, NewKita Group  
Erica Redmon, City of Pahokee  
Chief Curtis Rice, PBC Fire Rescue (PBCFR)  
LaToya Ricketts, PBC Housing and Community Development (HCD)  
Scott Ryder, C3TS Transportation Group  
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
Stephen Stokes, Target Engineering Group  
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation FDOT)  
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

### **1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:44 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 the City of South Bay for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

### **2. Review of Minutes:**

There were no minutes from the July meeting, which consisted of a tour of the DOT Hot in Place construction project.

### **3. Discussion / Updates:**

#### **NewKita Group – Rondell Newson, President**

Houston Tate introduced Rondell Newson, President of NewKita Group, Inc., a new 591(c)3 organization based in Belle Glade dedicated to enhancing individual personal enrichment and community unity through recreational activities, sports, health, fitness, entertainment, and education. Mr. Newson stated that NewKita's mission is to provide a community center that empowers youth, adults, and families into education, health, employment, and community activities in an innovative and exciting environment. The Glades' Tri-City area was selected as the center's location because it the area is in need of economic development, job creation and a place where the residents can come together to safely enjoy recreational activities.

The proposed building design includes a 20,000 square foot Atrium 1 with office spaces, conference and classrooms, a ballroom, fitness center with shower-equipped restrooms, full-size multi-purpose court, kids' activity room and lobby. The larger 30,000 square foot Atrium 2 will house an indoor multi-purpose field with removable turf, a press box, concession stand, merchandise store, 3500 to 4000 theatre-style seating, office spaces and lobby. The building is intended to have capability for expansion and to serve as a hurricane shelter. The proposed location is State Road 80 in Belle Glade, near Lakeside Medical Center.

The project is intended to create 50 direct and 50 indirect jobs, including a facility crew leader, custodians and grounds crews, a concession crew leader and concession workers, administrative positions, head and assistant coaches, merchandise sales management and staff, DJ and commentators, equipment and ticket sales managers, program directors and assistant directors, health and fitness staff, community relations staff and volunteer coordinator.

The project is projected to cost \$10,000,000. The first fundraiser, Walk for Change, is scheduled for Saturday, September 11, 2010. Other fundraising events will follow, and there will be a buy-a-brick program.

Suzanne Harper asked about the board of directors and whether they will contract out with local businesses to help implement the programs. Mr. Newson responded that there is an advisory board to help with programming and implementation. He said that NewKita will partner with

local businesses that have the ability to provide the programming, and intend to have the building built with local labor as available.

Kenneth Holley asked if NewKita would try to facilitate programming by having the space available for existing organizations, or if they would plan to provide the service themselves. Mr. Newson replied that if the opportunity is available, NewKita will partner with the entities that already provide the services.

Brenda Bunting asked what the timeline for the building is. Mr. Newson said that the first step is generating the funding. The intention is to begin construction sometime in 2011, and it should be roughly an 18-month project.

Angela Morlok remarked that in order to succeed, NewKita needs to get the word out further than within the Glades community, and that they needed to ensure the buy-in of elected officials. She also recommended that they plan traffic flow very carefully to accommodate the anticipated 3000 to 4000 people, especially considering adequate turn around room for buses.

Selena Lamotte asked if there will be a mental health provider or social worker on staff. Jerkita McClorin, NewKita's Vice-President, replied that there will not initially be an on-staff social worker, but they have plans to develop such a program.

Mr. Gainer suggested that NewKita meet with Palm Beach County EOC regarding requirements for hurricane shelter use and with Pam Nolan at the Palm Beach County Economic Development department regarding funding that may be available. He stated that if Pahokee still plans to build a community center / equestrian center, perhaps NewKita could partner with them.

**ACTION ITEM: Mr. Tate's office will provide a list of County departments that may be able to assist NewKita's project.**

For more information on NewKita visit [www.newkitagroup.org](http://www.newkitagroup.org).

#### **Oakwood Center, Kristin McCabe**

Mr. Tate introduced Kristin McCabe of Oakwood Center. Ms. McCabe reported that Oakwood Center provides many services including a mental health hospital, outpatient services, psychiatric services, and others. Ms. McCabe, who holds a Masters Degree in Mental Health Counseling, co-authored of a program titled Coping with Economic Stress. The program is presented by Oakwood Center with funding from Palm Healthcare Foundation. The program strives to help people increase their resiliency and coping skills. Funding for the program ends at the close of 2010. If people in the community can benefit from this type of program, it may be scheduled for the Glades area. The typical group is from five to 10 people. For more information visit <http://cache.trustedpartner.com/docs/library/MentalHealthPBC2009/Content/Coping%20with%20Economic%20Stress%20flyer.pdf>

#### **4. Subcommittee Updates:**

##### **Truancy**

Selena LaMotte reported that PBSO will continue to pick up truants during school hours and return them to school. Students on suspension will be returned to their homes. Deputies will complete a Field Interview/Interrogation Report (FIR) and forward it to Ms. Lamotte. Support will be offered to families of habitual truants. Community members are asked to contact PBSO at 561-996-1670 to report truants. The Youth Intervention Program (YIP) has an intake line for families in need of community resources to help handle their truancy situations. The number is 561-688-5423. Ms. Lamotte can be reached at 561-904-8230 or [lamottes@pbsso.org](mailto:lamottes@pbsso.org). For more information visit <http://www.pbsso.org/index.cfm?fa=AIS>

Bettye Boyer requested that the Palm Beach Post column written by LJ Margolis about activities in the Glades be distributed. That column may be found at <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/move-to-south-bay-puts-columnist-in-greater-47552.html?printArticle=y>

##### **Correcting Addresses in the Glades**

Captain Craig Prusansky provided the following written report to be presented in his absence:

- 1) *The street sign correction project is well underway. Most of the signs in the unincorporated areas on The Glades have already been corrected. Thanks to the County departments that were involved with this for making these changes quickly.*

*I have had no response from any of the cities in regards to this project.*

- 2) *Due to several reasons, I have not had time to update the "can911findyou" website recently. I plan on updating it within the next 2 weeks, and from that point on, I will only be updating it monthly.*
- 3) *I want to stress how important it is for the three cities to cooperate with us in regards to the addressing issues out here in The Glades. It directly affects the response times of Fire-Rescue and PBSO to their citizens.*

*There are several outstanding addressing issues that have been submitted to at least two of the cities, and we have not received a response from either city in almost two months.*

- 4) *South Central Florida Express Railroad and FDOT have both been notified in regards to the railroad crossing at Hooker Highway near State Road 15. The crossing is in bad shape, to the point where our crews are complaining that it is causing the patients in the back of our rescue/ambulances to be jolted around. I have contacted Sam Mallo from South Central Florida Express Railroad, who has contacted FDOT, and he has assured me that the problem will be resolved ASAP.*
- 5) *We have recently included Kay Brand from the County's Property Appraiser's Office in our addressing updates. She maintains the Property Appraiser's address records for The Glades, which contains the data that is shown on the PAPA (Property Appraiser Public*

*Access) system. This is making the addresses more accurate for the property owners and anyone else using this system.*

- 6) Parks and Rec was notified that the address of Paul Rardin Park was incorrect on their website. It showed "4600 Bacom Point Rd". The actual address is "4600 State Road 715", as the name "Bacom Point Rd" ends just north of the Pahokee Airport. They have made the correction.*
- 7) While doing my research I have "made friends" with the GIS people at FDOT in Tallahassee. They have pointed me to the frequently updated GIS data for their roadways, and in turn, I have relayed this to the Fire-Rescue and PBSO GIS staff. This information will help them increase the accuracy of the map data for both agencies and their dispatch systems.*

Chief Curtis Rice emphasized the need for the three cities to respond to Captain Prusansky's requests for information and assistance.

#### **5. Participant Updates:**

##### **Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)**

Mr. Tate reported that OCR will work with Palm Beach State College to develop a workshop on Tomorrow's Opportunities for Entrepreneurs. A questionnaire will be distributed to gauge interest and topics to be included.

Mr. Tate reported that the recent NFL / National Guard football program went very well. Glades Central High School won the regional 7 on 7 Tournament and will represent the Miami Dolphins in Daytona Beach. Next year, the program will start earlier to allow for more participation, including after school programs. Mr. Tate stated that the program helps encourage students to stay in school and graduate.

##### **Department of Transportation (DOT)**

LJ Margolis reported on behalf of Roswell Harrington that he would like to have communication from someone with the DOT Design Department regarding a sidewalk along Highway 715 in the Pahokee / Canal Point area. Kenneth Holley agreed that there is a significant need for a sidewalk in that area.

Steve Stokes reported that the US Highway 27 project in South Bay which Ramon Arosemena coordinated is finished. Scott Ryder has started the project that will complete the landscaping about 9 miles south of City Hall along Highway 27 in South Bay. The majority of the work will be improving the paving. The landscaping is done by Vila and Sons.

Scott Ryder reported that the work on SR 729 is complete. The SR 700 detour will end by September 13. The project has been finished ahead of schedule and under budget.

Betty Boyer asked how local businesses might be included in the project. Mr. Ryder replied that the primary contractor General Asphalt hires the subcontractors. He said that contractors are held to certain percentages for women- and minority-owned businesses, and suggested that local

contractors apply to be on the approved vendor list. There was discussion about the previous attempts for local preference and getting jobs for the smaller local businesses. Ms. Boyer reported that she went to several meetings to be considered for local preference when the new jail was to be built, but nothing came about. Dr. Anderson stated that the County does have a local preference ordinance. Barbara Bell-Spence said that at one point WFA had a registry of small businesses.

**ACTION ITEM: A committee will be established for the Cities to work together to look at requirements for local preference.**

**ACTION ITEM: A list of the all the existing committees of GTAC will be distributed.**

#### **Habitat for Humanity**

LJ Margolis reported on behalf of PBSO Lt. Chris Keane that about 50 volunteers turned out for the first build date at the Pahokee house. Volunteers are needed to continue the construction. All interested volunteers must complete an on-line registration and sign up ahead of time for their volunteer times. To register, visit [www.habitatpbc.org](http://www.habitatpbc.org) and click on the VolunteerUP button. For information, email [volunteer@habitatpbc.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatpbc.org) or call 561-433-3351.

#### **Pahokee / Canal Point**

Kenneth Holley reported that the county has evaluated the five new businesses that are planning to establish themselves in Pahokee. He said that within the next month or so they should be established.

#### **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

Angela Morlok emphasized the importance of transportation to a community, providing residents the mobility to get to the hospital, shopping, doctors, work, school and other areas. She reported that Belle Glade's city bus system had over 4,000 trips last month. She encouraged Pahokee and South Bay to consider developing similar transit systems. She said that funds are available to help with the programs. Brenda Bunting said that four (4) bus shelters are being erected and more are planned. Ms. Morlok said that MPO is working with Florida's Rural Heartland Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI) to expand the bus system between Clewiston and Belle Glade. She stated that that bus route sometimes has standing room only. Ms. Morlok said that \$86,000 per year is required for one bus on that route.

#### **Belle Glade Chamber**

Brenda Bunting reported on the upcoming Candidates Forum to be held at the Belle Glade Elks Club.

#### **South Bay**

Arthur Anderson reported that there have been a number of safety complaints from South Bay Villas. Mike McGinnis has conducted a survey in the area and the Health Department is ready to follow up on some items.

**Emergency Management**

LJ Margolis reported that the Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1) held its annual field exercise on August 11. She stated that the Glades need more Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members.

**Palm Beach State College**

Berkley Finley reported that the grand opening celebration for the new building at PBSC's Glades Campus will be held Thursday through Saturday, September 16 – 18. The September 16 events will be by invitation, September 17 will be for high school seniors and on September 18 there will be a Family Fun event for the community.

**Commissioner Jess Santamaria's Office**

Dennis Lipp stated that Commissioner Santamaria appreciates the support he has received from the Glades and is looking forward to the upcoming campaign.

**The EDGE Center**

Suzanne Harper reported that The EDGE Center is planning a Women Business Owners Conference to be held in April 2011 to give women business owners an opportunity to participate in a strategic plan for business development in the Glades Region (Belle Glade, Canal Point, Clewiston, Moore Haven, Pahokee, and South Bay), as well as an opportunity to showcase their business and products. The first organizational meeting will take place on October 6 at 10 a.m. at Lakeside Medical Center in Belle Glade.


Ms. Harper also reported that The EDGE Center is organizing a new agritourism and agritainment business committee. An organizational meeting will be held on September 21, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. at Lakeside Medical Center. All farmers, ranchers, and anyone interested in learning more about starting an agritourism/agritainment business are encouraged to attend.

For more information visit <http://www.edgecenter.info/entrepreneurnews.html>

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

**The next GTAC meeting will be held on September 23, 2010 from 9:30 until 11 a.m. at the Canal Point Community Center.**

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer and LJ Margolis.

  
Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director