

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of September 23, 2010
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Canal Point Community Center
12860 US Highway 441

Minutes

Attendees:

Arthur Anderson, City of South Bay
Linda Camardella, PBC School District
Karen Corbin, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce
Jocelyn Colon, Glades Utility Authority (GAU)
Karen Corbin, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce
Deisy Corona, City of Pahokee
Karis Engle, Glades Initiative
Kim Erickson, Canal Point Community Development
Sgt. Jermaine Ford, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Roswell Harrington, Keene Mobile Home Park / East Beach Family Emergency Depot (EBFED)
Quinn Hayes, PBC Health Department
LJ Margolis, PBC Parks & Rec / Glades Emergency Operating Area (EOA 1)
Knawza McCall, Belle Glade Weed & Seed
Roy "Mike" McGinnis, PBC Department of Health
Derrek Moore, City of Pahokee
Angie Morlok, PBC Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Capt. Craig Prusansky, PBC Fire Rescue (PBCFR)
Erica Redmon, City of Pahokee
James C. Stiles, Glades Utility Authority (GUA)
Jeff Tarr, Pahokee Citizen
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Rashonda Warren, City of Pahokee
William Wynn, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:43 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 Community Development for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Review of Minutes:

The minutes of the August 26, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented, with the correction of one typographical error. Mr. Gainer stated that the minutes can also be found at <http://pbcgov.com/ocr/gtac/gtacmeeting.htm>.

3. Discussion / Updates:

Mr. Tate discussed the structure of the GTAC committee and the direction of upcoming agenda items. He distributed a printout of the following as a starting point for the discussion:

GTAC AGENDA

The Office of Community Revitalization would like to better serve the Glades community by ensuring that your input, concerns and interest are reflected in the theme of our agenda and future research methodology. The following questions are just one element in a more extensive set of activities that collectively help planners coordinate the meeting, execute it properly, and see that its results are effectively implemented.

- What are the present concerns of the Glades Region? What significant trend impacts the Glades community and its charted theme?
- What are the future concerns of the Glades Region? What present scenarios can be developed that express the preferred future for the region?
- What/where is our common ground? The common themes and values cut across all scenarios and are drawn out as a basic framework for unified planning and development. At this juncture, future initiative departs from other strategic planning approaches.
- What is our action planning? The elements of the common ground are transformed into areas for action planning. The next steps in the development are discussions which include the following: outreach, steering committee and coordination efforts.
 - 1.) A discussion of the issues and opportunities that are driving its outcome.
 - 2.) An overview of the future research methodology.
 - 3.) An open dialogue of the appropriateness and feasibility of the future research. (vs. other approaches)
 - 4.) Gather input and data on perceived planning needs.
 - 5.) Can we effectively address our issues with the existing structures or processes or do we need to develop a new approach?
 - 6.) Taking stock in the data gathered.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

The GTAC COMMITTEE (GA) similar to a focus group successfully gathers a wide variety of qualitative information and feedback about a particular initiative or concern. The GA diagnosis problem areas related to the initiative, the community's impression and generate new program ideas for review and implementation.

Selection of Committee members

Each committee member should share a common denominator, such as affiliation with an organization or shared interest in the topic being discussed.

Role of the Chair

The role of the Chair is critical to the success of the committee. The Chair has a primary role in promoting interaction, probing for details when the need arises, and ensuring the discussion stays focused on the topic of interest.

Phases of the Committee - Planning, conducting, and analyzing and reporting.

Planning Phase - Good planning is essential. First, the problem must be defined. Second, develop a detailed list of objectives as they play an important role in determining what questions should be asked.

Conducting Phase – The Chair tries to get each committee member to express differing points of view and to react to one another's comments and input. He or she also must ensure that everyone has an opportunity to express their concern, offers evidence and that a few members do not dominate the discussion.

Analyzing and Reporting Phase – The Chair analyzes and reports the collected information. Determining the content areas and selecting solutions that best reflect, describe or summarize the content area. A final report is forwarded to the Director that summarizes the analysis of the committee.

Committee Critical Success Factors

1. Leadership – A strong center. Committee members will achieve its fullest potential when everyone accepts responsibility for networking, sharing news of progress, providing helpful resources and coordinating additional activities.
2. Scope – A clear and meaningful purpose. The clearer the planners can be about the scope of GTAC initiatives, the greater will be their successes in recruiting the appropriate departments, agencies, companies, etc, and tasking them with the development of a clear and compelling vision, leading to concrete, coordinated action plans. [Explicit meaningful objectives].
3. Participation – The right scale and mix. Who and how many should participate. It is vital to clarify what scale is envisioned. Is it a neighborhood, a city, or a region? Brain storm stakes associated with the theme. Come up with specific names of persons and organization for each stake.
4. Structure – An effective work process. Does it help sustain a dynamic balance between the parts and whole throughout the process so that broad consensus is built concurrently with individual commitment?
5. Results – Will require specific commitments and definite follow through. How can we expect the future GTAC Meetings to produce the right number and right kinds of action plans? How can we be sure that participants will continue to be interested in the meeting content and accept the challenge of enacting the plans? Tailor the action planning to fit well with the intended purpose of the committee findings that effectively drive the planning.

Mr. Tate stated that many accomplishments have been made in the Glades through community and agency participation in the committee. He specifically mentioned the renaming of SR 700 to Connors Highway and the Correcting Addresses in the Glades project. He noted that many issues addressed at GTAC may require coordination among several agencies, county departments and other entities. He emphasized the point that the driving force in resolving issues is community involvement. He stated that when a problem is brought to GTAC, it is important to identify the desired outcome and the steps necessary to reach that outcome.

Mr. Tate stated that the Pelican Lake issue which had been discussed previously will be the subject of the October meeting of GTAC, as a result of the issue having been brought before the committee by Roswell Harrington. Several agencies and county departments will be in attendance to discuss the issue. (Pelican Lake owners sent notice to residents that if the household had children under 18 years old, they would have to move, because convicted sex offenders would be housed in the community.)

The current structure of the GTAC meeting is a special presentation followed by participant updates. He stated that the GTAC meeting should be a valuable use of attendees' time. The meetings should grow beyond a discussion group into an action group, identifying and solving issues. With that goal in mind, he asked for input as to topics for future meetings. Suggestions included the following:

Arthur Anderson suggested that a forum be held to allow the community to present the specific needs of the Glades and develop a timeline for addressing those needs. The entire Glades community should be represented, including unincorporated Shawano and Lake Harbor.

ACTION ITEM: This will be planned for November's meeting. The public will be invited.

Linda Camardella proposed that PBSO make a presentation on crime prevention. Karis Engle stated that a related issue would be job development, because with high unemployment there is also a high crime rate. She noted that virtually every problem in the community – housing, crime, and others – are directly related to lack of employment opportunities. Quinn Hayes suggested including businesses that might provide jobs. Angela Morlok stated that one problem with employment is a lack of transportation. Employees need to be able to get to the jobs. Businesses are not inclined to move into an area where there is inadequate transportation for their employees. Many people in the Glades do not have a vehicle and rely on public transportation. **ACTION ITEM: Crime prevention and related issues will be the topic for the December meeting.**

Mr. Tate discussed the importance of appointing the right people to each committee, the role of the committee chair, the phases of a committee and critical success factors, as outlined in the handout (*inserted above*).

Mr. Tate invited Kim Erickson to discuss the process of having SR 700 renamed as Connors Highway. Ms. Erickson said that she could attest to the fact that one does not have to be an expert in a subject matter to be effective on a committee. She shared the process that she followed to have the name changed. She said that the reason for changing the name of the road came about because the US Highway 98 designation was changed to follow SR 80 instead of SR 700. A permanent name was needed for SR 700 so that the name of the road was not dependent on number designations which may change again in the future.

4. Subcommittee Updates:

Truancy

Selena Lamotte submitted the following written report:

The Youth Intervention Program has agreed to assist the court with students who are having truancy issues (case management services). Keep in mind that we cannot assist if the parent is the contributing factor. We will assist if the child is refusing to attend school or is skipping.

Deputies are actively picking up truants off the streets during school hours. As of 9/17/10, the total thus far is 184. I am also tracking habitual truants who are being picked up by our deputies. Unfortunately, I am unable to obtain their school records to make contact with the families to offer support and resources. I submitted a letter on 9/8/10 to the school board requesting access to their "TERMS" database; no response as of this date.

In a related email message, Linda Camardello stated: *We are at a stand still; the school district will not release school records without parental permission to the PBSO or any other agency except the Children's Home Society or the Urban League. Parents balk at signing releases sometimes. It makes it difficult to partner with her agency at this time.*

Our department is working with the courts to set up truancy hearings. The magistrate or Judge would hear only truancy cases. Nothing more. From what I understand it would take place once a month, or more, as needed. This pilot was slated to start this year, but it hasn't started yet.

Correcting Addresses in the Glades

Captain Craig Prusansky submitted the following written report:

1) Conners Highway Renaming - Kim Erickson has received letters from 8 out of the 17 property owners required to make the change from "US 98" to "Conners Highway" official. We will be working together to make contact with those other 9 so that this project can come to a close.

2) Street Name Sign Project - Arthur Anderson from South Bay was the only one from the three cities to reply after the last GTAC meeting. I gave him the updated list on September 9. To date, I have not heard back in regards to the progress and the signs in question have not been corrected. The other two cities still have not replied back to me and it appears that no progress has been made. I am still awaiting a reply from the County as to the status of their progress. Most of the signs in the unincorporated County have been corrected but there are a few that are still not correct.

3) Hooker Highway Railroad Crossing Issue - The last update I had received from Sam Mallo with South Central Florida Express Railroad was on August 19. Hector Hartmann from FDOT had advised him that they would be addressing the issue. The roadway still has not been fixed. I sent an e-mail to Sam Mallo asking him to pass this along to FDOT to see if the problem can be rectified.

4) 9-1-1 Addressing and Mapping Update - On September 13, County Engineering made the last significant changes to the base map for their GIS system. This is the map that Fire Rescue and PBSO use for their Computer Aided Dispatch system. From this point forward any changes made to the system will be part of a "clean-up" of any remaining spotty data or new additions to the area.

5) Fire Station Warning Signs in Pahokee - The fire station warning signs that were put up over the summer in Pahokee are not in the correct places. We will be making an attempt to contact Pahokee to see if they can be moved to the correct spots. I did some research on the placement of these signs and made the following suggestions based on the findings of this research (graphic below):

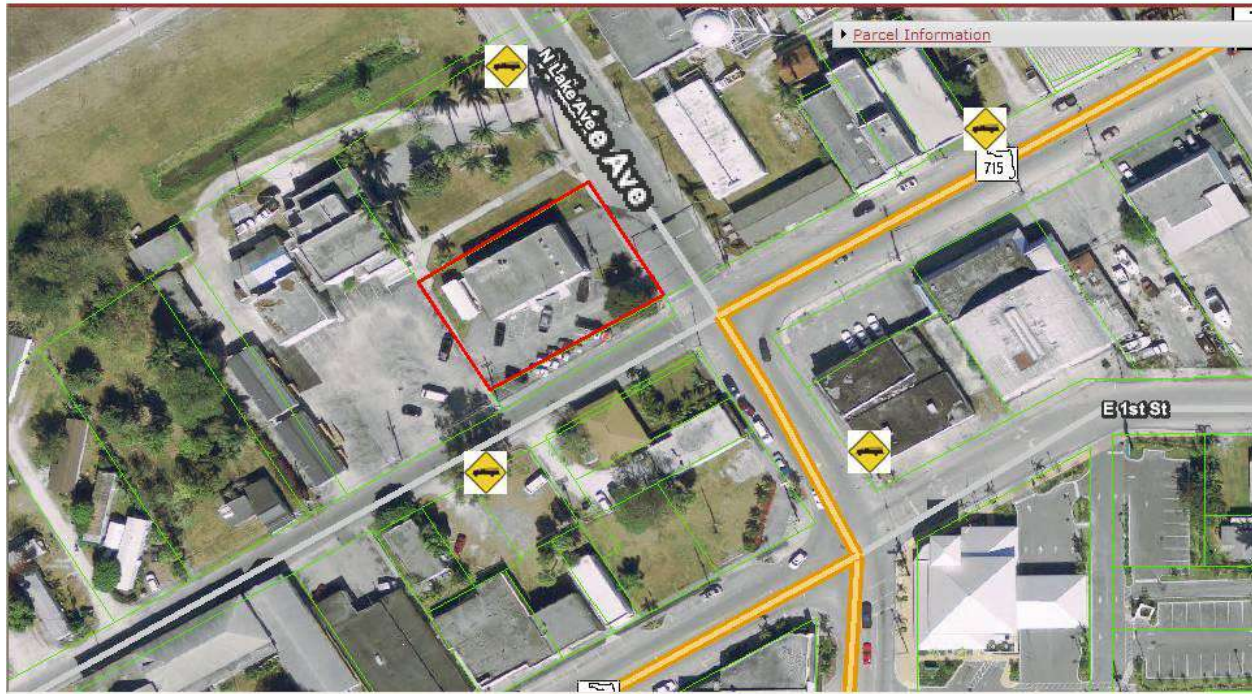
a. Based on the "Sight Distance Requirements" table, which is based on the US DOT Federal Document "AASHTO Green Book, 2001 Edition, Exhibit 3-1", a roadway with a prevailing speed of 35 mph (as those in Pahokee) requires a sight distance of 225 ft.

b. The State of Florida has adopted the US DOT Uniform Traffic Device Manual as their standard.

c. According to the US DOT Uniform Traffic Device Manual, no suggested distances are given in areas with a posted speed limit less than 40 mph.

d. Therefore, I recommend that the sight distance given in #1 above be used as an approximation of the placement of these signs. Using this distance as a guideline, the signs would be placed in the locations as specified on the attached map. These signs are placed approximately 225 ft from the fire station front entrance, facing N Lake Ave.

Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue
Station 72 – Pahokee
Suggested Fire-Station Warning Sign Placement



6) Bauer Construction - A problem was corrected on September 13 concerning the Bauer Construction office on US Highway 441 North near the Martin County Line. When 9-1-1 was called from that location, it would give a wrong address. 9-1-1 Management and AT&T were both notified, and the problem was resolved within 36 hours of notification.

7) Reminder to everyone about signage - We cannot find you if you do not have your address clearly displayed. Per code, the numbers should be minimum 6" for residences and 8" for businesses, and facing either towards the street or facing both sides of the street if on a post or mailbox. If the address is out at the street, it should be clear of brush, overgrowth, or other obstructions. If the address is on the building, it should be clearly visible from the street. If the building is too far away from the street, then an address sign should be placed at the street.

5. Participant Updates:

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Scott Ryder sent a written report stating that SR 700 is open with no detours.

Glades Utilities Authority

Jim Stiles reported that GUA is changing the billing dates for Canal Point and Pahokee. He distributed informational cards on the date change.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

The next GTAC meeting will be held Thursday, October 28, 2010 from 9:30 until 11 a.m. at Quiet Waters, 306 SW 10th Street, Belle Glade.

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer and LJ Margolis.

Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director