Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC) Meeting of December 16, 2010 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Pelican Lake / Miracle Village 120 Pelican Lake Drive, Pahokee

Minutes

Attendees:

Larry Caraccio, PBC Code Enforcement
Richard Colon, PBC Code Enforcement
Nyoka Edwards, Matthew 25 Ministries
Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Dennis Lipp, Office of PBC Commissioner Jess Santamaria
Pat Powers, Matthew 25 Ministries
Capt. Craig Prusansky, PBC Fire Rescue (PBCFR)
Douglas Robinson, PBC Zoning
Stephen Stokes, Target Engineering Group
(Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Jeff Tarr, Citizen of Pahokee
Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Jan TenBarge, Matthew 25 Ministries
Det. Kevin Umphrey, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:50 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 Matthew 25 Ministries and Miracle Park staff for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments, and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Houston Tate welcomed attendees and expressed special appreciation to Jeff Tarr, the only non-Palm Beach County agency attendee in attendance other than the Matthew 25 Ministries representative.

2. Review of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 18, 2010 meeting were delayed. Mr. Gainer stated that, when completed, the minutes can be found at http://www.pbcgov.org/ocr/gtac/gtacmeeting.htm

3. Discussion / Updates:

Pelican Lake / Miracle Park

The purpose of the meeting was to address community concerns about the re-entering prisoners housing at Pelican Lake / Miracle Park, which is managed by Matthew 25 Ministries. Staff members of Matthew 25 Ministries were in attendance to answer questions and to conduct a tour of the Pelican Lake community. PBSO Det. Kevin Umphrey was in attendance to answer questions about PBSO's responsibilities in policing Pelican Lake / Miracle Park.

Jeff Tarr, the only community representative in attendance, asked if the Sheriff's Office would assume the responsibility of security into the future as the population of Pelican Lake / Miracle Park grows. Deputy Kevin Umphrey of the Sheriff's Office's Sex Crimes Unit stated that the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office is to make sure that the residents are registered properly and that all information supplied to the state is accurate, regardless of the size of the population. He said that monitoring probation compliance is the responsibility of the Department of Corrections.

Mr. Tarr raised the question of the influx of population into Pelican Lake / Miracle Park from other counties, and if the Sheriff's office had adequate staffing and funding to manage its responsibilities with that influx. Det. Umphrey stated that the Sheriff's Office has a unit dedicated specifically to sex crimes.

Stephen Stokes asked Matthew 25 Ministries if they were an extra set of eyes or an additional layer of reporting and observing to the sex crimes unit regarding the absconders. Det. Umphrey and the Matthew 25 Ministries staff said that Matthew 25 Ministries staff were an extra layer. In the two absconder cases, they made the initial contact. Matthew 25 Ministries staff are so knowledgeable about the residents that they were aware that one of the absconders had a medical condition and suggested contacting hospitals in trying to locate him.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Capt. Craig Prusansky made two power point presentations, 1) PBCFR Community Assistance Team (CAT) and 2) Explorer Post 355. **PDF files of the presentation are attached to this email.**

Following a tour of Pelican Lake / Miracle Park, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next GTAC meeting will be held Thursday, January 27, 2011 at the Canal Point Community Center, 12860 US Highway 441, Canal Point.

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer and LJ Margolis.

Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director