

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of September 22, 2011
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
City of South Bay

Minutes

Attendees:

Rev. David Broadbent, Canal Point United Methodist Church

Patricia Brown, PBC Sheriffs' Office

Meredith Cruz, the Corradino Group

Sgt. Jermaine Ford, PBC Sheriff's Office (PBSO)

Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

La Void Johnson, Wind Resistant Concrete Systems/TLC Limousines

Monica McCoy, PBC Sheriffs' Office

Tony Miller, PBC Resident

Erica Redmon, City of Pahokee

Cleveland Smith, SDG Associates

Stephen Stokes, Target Engineering

Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Brenda Thomas, Planned Parenthood

Caroline Villanueva, Florida Crystals Corp.

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. introduced him self 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. Houston Tate is out of town.

2. Updates:

Mr. Tate updated the group on the Canal Point Boardwalk by giving thanks to Mr. Weisman for the \$200,000 allocated for the Boardwalk. This is a way to mitigate the safety concerns with regards to fishing. How do we attract people? OCR was able to meet with the Water District and it took 2 years to get the approval. Thanks Pam Mackie and Laura Corry from SFWMD. The money has to be spent by 2013. We talked about the Drainage problem. Mr. Tate asked each of the communities to begin identifying what resources will be required to fund their neighborhood projects. He stressed that county funding is at its lowest. Mr. Weisman and Mrs. Baker have reviewed the Community Action Plans for Revitalizing Glades Neighborhoods and have approved OCR's direction. Lomax Harrelle, Belle Glade City Manager has approved city staff to begin work on the Community Organizing Initiative. OCR will work and to coordinate the technical assistance required to help neighbors to make meaningful decisions about its future. OCR is asking each city to encourage its residents to attend GTAC meetings. OCR has prepared a power point presentation that can be used by city staff with explaining the benefit of organizing its various neighborhoods.

Pastor Broadbent stated that they have been concerned about fishing on the bridge and that is the reason for the Boardwalk. Safety is one of our concerns. By putting in the Boardwalk we can change the buildings along the boardwalk to put in businesses. They see it as a step in economic development. They believe that they will be able to put something nicer there.

3. Participant Updates/Comments:

Mr. Cleveland Smith, SDG Associates, LLC: Currently Mr. Johnson and I are working on a school in Delray and the reason why I asked about a hotel because there is one in WPB that we are working on. It is the old City Hall site. We just need the key people to sit around the table. Looking at the situation here they are looking for people in the South Florida region. He will put them in touch with Mr. Tate. There are a lot of things that we can do as people to enhance the community. Mr. Smith indicated that his boss is the type of person that will go into a community and always give back.

There was discussion about the potential for a hotel on or near the Belle Glade golf course.

Mr. La Void Johnson handles business development. They have been building homes utilizing a unique concrete process. Because of the process the entire home and commercial structures have bigger ceilings. He has handled low income housing. They call it affordable housing because the house is based on the income. They can give you a mortgage of \$330 to \$550 a month. They are building homes in the Dominican Republic. The homes are 2 bedrooms/1 bath and 3 bedrooms/2 bath. They build them from ground up in at least than 5 days. They ensure that it can be done. They choose to come out to the Glades because they do not want to go to an area that is already producing. They want to have neighborhoods with families.

Mr. Johnson added that he also represents a company called Fiber Optic that would allow you to own your own cable company. That is one of the process that they will be utilizing in a Charter School. Their objective is to place solar energy in the homes. This minimizes cost. They are looking at every element to bring residents together.

Mr. Tony Miller stated that energy efficiency is included in this process. He saw a house on television in Port St. Lucie, was that yours?

Mr. Johnson replied yes. The average utility bill is \$27. They save 30% on insurance because the home is concrete and can stand 220 mile per hour winds. Overall the objective is to bring this to our homes. They minimize the cost for the homes. These homes can be built by 4 people. The doors are steel. It is completely a bunker. If it cost less it is not necessarily cheap. They are a company of 8 with each person having certification. Our owners are general contractors.

Mr. Johnson is also an owner of TLC Limousines, Inc. His focus is on accommodating wheelchair assisted students and their parents with luxury limousine services. TLC has a program that will pay for all expenses related to a student's prom, including tuxedos, dresses, hair and nail makeover. The winners are selected based on the best essay submitted entitled, "What would you do to change the world".

Ms. Brenda Thomas is with Planned Parenthood of South Florida and the Treasure Coast. She is a Community Health Educator and talks to teens about prevention of pregnancy, and STDs. They have many components regarding the health, relationships, sexuality, and sex in media. They provide education for the community. She works in the Glades area. She solicits support to go in schools, churches, and communities and talk about safety.

DOT: 45% guardrail completion on SR 80 should be completed the end of Jan beginning of Feb. There is new project that will be started in Oct which is Main Street Belle Glade, Martin Luther King Blvd to east of Main St. and SR 717. Re-surfacing. A conference is on the October 3 on Forest Hill in WPB. Construction should start sometime middle – to end of October.

Meredith Cruz reported on receiving calls regarding the placement of guardrails and how close they are to the roadway. Some people were concerned over them being further not closer to the shoulder.

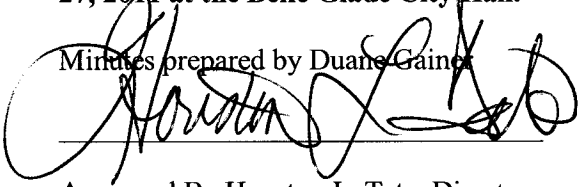
Mr. Gainer asked how Jacque is doing.

Scott Ryder responded that he is doing better. He ended up at JFK. He had a blood clot.

Ms. Redman, City of Pahokee, reported that they were awarded grant money for some emergency equipment for generators, \$159,500, but they have to meet a match of 45% so they are trying to reach out to organizations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next GTAC meeting will be held Thursday, October 27, 2011 at the Belle Glade City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Duane Gainer

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Houston L. Tate", is written over a horizontal line.

Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director