

**Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)  
Meeting of October 27, 2011  
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  
City of South Bay**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Dr. Arthur Anderson, City of South Bay

Rev. David Broadbent, Canal Point United Methodist Church

Patricia Brown, PBC Sherrifs' Office

Brenda Bunting, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce

Linda Camardella, PBC School District

Meredith Cruz, The Corradino Group

Erica Dennard, City of Belle Glade

Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Derrek Moore, City of Pahokee

Angela Morlok, PBC Metropolitan Planning Office (PBC MPO)

Dan Murphy, LORE

Eddie Rhodes, Tri-City Education

Debbie Simpson, PBC School District Police

Stephen Stokes, Target Engineering Group

Jeff Tarr, PBC Resident

Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Caroline Villanueva, Florida Crystals Corp.

Comm. Diane Walker, City of Pahokee

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

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:40 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.

## **2. Updates:**

Mr. Gainer stated that at the last meeting, we went over the updates from Mr. Tate regarding the Boardwalk and Drainage Issue. Mr. Gainer asked the group to take a "Moment of Silence" for the late Roswell Harrington of Canal Point. (silence) There will be a proclamation by Comm. Santamaria and it will be read Nov. 1 at 9:30.

Mr. Tate added that Roswell has made a major impact to the Glades. He has been a tremendous advocate for the needs of the Glades. He has spoke on some very critical pieces. The proclamation will be on Nov. 1 at 9:30. It will be good for the Glades to show the momentum. There were things that the County could take action on because Roswell was there. We helped each other. We want to get people involved and trained.

Mr. Gainer stated that next month Chrystal Matthews will be going to the Board with REAP program grants. We have 6/7 grants that will be awarded here in the Glades. Next year he will be the Coordinator of REAP and will be starting a new REAP steering committee. We are also looking to do a Leadership Summit. We would like to get everyone in one group - Countywide. Staff in the office has attended neighborhood conferences. We have had staff go over all over the United States to conferences.

Funding for our new year started Oct. 1. Mr. Tate has not changing how we interact with the Glades on different issues. We are trying to get to the residents more. In the meetings on the coast a lot of times we have Presidents of HOA's come over and let us know about the streets, lights, etc. We need to hear from Glades residents.

Mr. Tate: The key is when you leave this meeting you leave with some results. We need to find issues that matter most to you. We talk about issues we need to be aggressive and see how do we get people to initiate their time to problem solving. One of the things we talked about the possibility of working with the schools. We are going to need PBSO, the school. We talked about meeting with the Principal of High schools and talk to the Social Studies classes. We can select a group of students and have a student coalition. We want the students to understand what government is and then come in and talk about youth issues. What do cities need to be looking at for the youths? The Boys and Girls clubs are now having Community Gardens. We meet with the City Manager in regards to organizing communities. How do we get it that the community is involved with the issues?

### **3. Participant Updates/Comments:**

Jayvon Walker stated that he can speak on the construction side and there is a large gap/displacement in education. He would like to see how we close the communication gap. Whomever the information is being given to is not getting it out to the local businesses. There is a total disconnect. He is the only African-American contractor in Belle Glade and has not had one job in Belle Glade. There were jobs that were \$50 million for hospitals. We (Glades), need to learn to keep money in our community, for instance a Boys and Girls club ask for funding – how can I make money in the community and not reinvest for kids. The other contractors work here and take the money back to their communities. Nothing comes to Belle Glade because we do not have contractors out of Belle Glade.

Mr. Tate responded that you are correct. The information that starts here stays here. We can't change that unless residences and businesses change their behavior. The first thing is residents need to meet on a regular basis and then bring it back so that it can be addressed. As far as Economic Development you have the Chamber of Commerce here. As we look at the issues we need to set up a committee to come all together in one room. What is not happening is there is no "one" voice – the business is not sharing the voice collectively. The residents may come to a commission meeting but we are talking about meeting themselves. It requires people to be actively involved.

Eddie Rhodes: (Principal/Coach): We have been to every meeting – we offered ourselves – we want to know what you guys can do. We do not have the access to get the big major jobs.

Mr. Gainer stated that he has been here 9 years and this conversation came up maybe once, how do we force the individuals who get the million dollar contracts to force them to use local people. If it is a County contract we say you must use local people. Then they will come back and say we can not find anyone with the skills or with a bond high enough. The second thing you said is communication. The County has tried to do things such as Wi-Fi and Internet access, but right now his sign-in sheet is his bible. LJ has every person that has ever signed in on the sheet in a database that she sends the information to each one of the people. If I have your email I can make sure that everything that goes out, will go to you. I can guarantee if I have your information you will get our information. I also use the email blast from the Glades Initiative (Karis Engle).

Mr. Walker continued and stated that FDOT started a job on Greene Street, they had an open house, after that the following day the job started. IF FDOT know that they are coming to the area to do these jobs, wouldn't it make sense that we at least hire some local guys to do some of the work. We can at least mandate – if we know that all of the stuff is coming – we need to put this in place – we got a deadline go get the people – I want to see some of these people off the streets. If we give them an opportunity to work maybe can take care of the families – mom is going out taking the kids – dad is sitting home and don't have an opportunity to go to work

Mr. Tate: I agree with you – one thing they are going to listen – many times this group may express problems where there was not funding – FDOT find a way to find the funding – they would not have been able to know that if they did not come to the meetings to hear the problems – dissemination of information must be done to the end user a little better – that is what we do – my mission is what I am doing right now - if you come back and stay on the committee and we put together the right team we can

then move forward – we can make that a project for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of next year – we had a major problem with 1<sup>st</sup> responders not being able to get to the right address – the fire department had a major project of fixing the streets – you are going to have to advocate it

Mr. Gainer: I do the minutes – there was a report from DOT as far as the jobs that have been created – 40 positions that is something we started to keep track – it does not need to be the 2/3 guys – DOT has been reporting to us – when we had a lot of participation from Workforce

Brenda Bunting, – Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Walker when we talk about preparing the children for the colleges – Mr. Finley is ahead of the curve on that

Mr. Finley, Palm Beach State College – We just had a meeting with Workforce – we hear the same problems – 2 issues I cannot deal with – generating industry out here – we try to address the opportunity – problems #1 – grades k – 12 students cannot pass basic exams – KDR is requiring certain skill sets – NCCR certification program – programs are expensive and Workforce is picking up tab. The problem is you must pass the Test of Adult Basic Education Test (TABE) people come in here can only go as far as the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. FPL requirement is no criminal record – we trained 100 workers but only got 3 hired because they had criminal records or could not pass the TABE Test – we have hired extra tutors from the college. We cannot get the guys off of MLK and do what we need them to do – we have weekend/evening sessions – the college as well we are not an employment agency – the Benoist Farm project we got 127 hired when we built the Tech building at the College we demanded that they hired local people.

Mr. Gainer stated that hopefully people will sign up for a committee that they have a passion for because it will be a lot of work.

Mr. Tate: Organizing – listen to one component having underlying problems – we go to a need to educate the students to pass the TABE Test – problems have to be broken out – determine who is the best person or department that can help us with the problem. We put together the committee. We were able to maintain our students to keep working on their competency. I hope we can see the importance to develop the committees.

Jeff Tarr - is a PBC resident. He grew up in Pahokee – He went to the old Pahokee HS now proudly serving as the recreation center – he did not come from a rich family and my dad died when he was 8 – He returned to be with my mother –he moved because of his children – one in the National Guard he did not graduate from HS – I did not enroll him in. I back up Mr. Tate – all employees – Steve – I worked with FDOT contractors – I went ahead who the person is to get some stuff done and you see it next month. My sister tell me no guardrail – it is a beautiful job – these people are out there doing their jobs – my conflict somewhat this communication thing – I will speak good about PBC Schools . My point is the right people are not here.

Mr. Tate: Mr. Tarr took on a task to continue the signage problem with incorrect street names. What he did was got involved working with FDOT to correct the problem. Those problems are being solved. It took his advocacy. He was able to get a major problem solved.

Dan Murphy- LORE: FDOT and District 6 held conferences and they passed out contractors of their 5 year program and they put you on a list to be hired on their jobs. We were able to get a 3 year contract to work.

Meredith Cruz- The Corradino Group: Clarify the open house was last week – they usually have a meeting in the beginning to get feedback from the community – usually people do not notice when the job first start – it does not start with digging up it starts with planning.

### **Participants Updates**

Dr. A. Anderson-South Bay: was thinking maybe in the future we can host the South Bay meetings in the Old Railroad Cabin – Boat Ramp- we are moving on with plans to construct the center and the housing complex we will soon have some models there.

Mr. Tate: We try to look at successes at the end of the year. We may want to come to South Bay and take a look at some of those things. There are some things that are happening in the Glade – we will create a name for the committee this will be our first project for 2012 – Are there any other issues?

Mr. Tate: Truancy is a major problem – we have been working on this for a year – the truancy issue needs to be put up there with the employment issue – if students are not graduating then they are not ready for jobs.

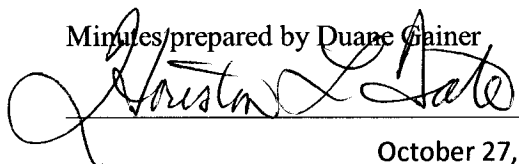
Linda Camardella -PBC School District: she handles the habitual truants and 1<sup>st</sup> of all school has to take attendance correctly if it is not correctly recorded it is not truant – if there is 7 classes a day and 6 teachers mark the absent and 1 teacher marks them present he is there – 15 absents state law the school brings the parent in to counsel – a lot of the parents have not graduated so they make excuses we work with Children Home Society and other stuff and a lot of parents refuse it. Once a case is made we take the students to prosecution – the PBSO will take them back to school. Our job is the habitual truant if we lack documentation – we have an agreement with Children Home Society. If their attorney doesn't feel it is a good case due to lack of documentation they will drop it. It is very frustrating. Everyone is cutting back. The child can go to court and the judge will order them to go to school if they don't go they will be taken out of their home and take them to Children Home Society for 30 days and then they take them to school but not in their area. You can drop out at age 16 in the state of Florida. Parents can drop you out – I can't do anything when that happens. I do not know the truancy rate.

Mr. Tate: This has been a meaningful meeting – we will need more bodies – Thank You – Next meeting will make the change in November

Duane: Next meeting, November 17<sup>th</sup>, Pahokee.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next GTAC meeting will be held Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the Pahokee Wellness Center.**

Minutes/prepared by Duane Gainer



Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director

October 27, 2011 GTAC Meeting