

Glades Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Meeting of November 17, 2011
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
City of Pahokee

Minutes

Attendees:

Linda Camardella, PBC School District

Scott Cavendish, The Corradino Group

Karen Corbin, Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce

Meredith Cruz, The Corradino Group

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

Duane Gainer, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Erica Redmon, City of Pahokee

Eddie Rhodes, Tri-City Education

Monica McCoy, PBC Sheriffs' Office

Scott Ryder, C3TS Transportation Group

Consultant for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

Debbie Simpson, PBC School District Police

Houston Tate, PBC Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Comm. Diane Walker, City of Pahokee

Javin Walker, 2SBW & Associates

Rashonda Warren, City of Pahokee

Lieutenant Wesley White, PBC Animal Care & Control

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Duane Gainer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. introduced him self. Mr. Tate, Director and Mr. Gainer 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. Presentations:

Lt. Wesley White, PBC Animal Care and Control (ACC) - What is offered to the community?

- Spay and neuter for dogs and cats when we go to the shelter. They sell rabies packages on Wednesdays.
- The five components of ACC are 1) the field (the trucks riding around); with the help of PBSO they do sweeps; the trucks are regular ACC Officers. If there is a cruelty issue then they have a special investigation unit which means someone will be charged and may even go to jail. 2) They have a licensing section that takes care of businesses and pet shops, and also the people you see on the side of the road selling animals. They want to make sure that people are selling healthy pets. 3) The kennel portion can house up to 600 dogs and cats. They also house cows, chickens, emus, etc. The kennel also shows the animals for adoptions. They have had snakes and spiders, they get animals when people are evicted, arrested or pass away. They try to stay away from wildlife. The kennel function is to work with pets to get them adoption ready. They are not “a no kill” shelter which means they do put animals down. They will not give you an aggressive animal. They put out a lot of ads out for specials for example if you find an animal five years or older it is only \$10, but if you are a senior citizen it is free. 4) The clinic only deals with animals that are well. If they are injured or sick they will contact the owner. They will write the owner a violation if they do not take care of the animal. They have to take accept every animal that comes to the shelter.

A brief discussion ensued regarding animal issues.

Linda Camardella, PBC School District asked what do you have to do get an animal declared a nuisance?

Lt. White responded that it takes two neighbors that are experiencing the same nuisance. Call ACC speak to Alice and tell her what the problem is she will send you a form to complete and on that sheet you will put your name, a description of the animal and what the problem is. She puts it on file and makes a copy. She then sends it to the person who is responsible for the dog. After 24 hours if you still see the animal you call again. They will issue up to 3 fines from \$91 - \$500.

Someone asked if ACC has a hurricane shelter for the pets of the Glades.

Lt White replied none that he knows of.

Mr. Tate introduced Gerardo and Jose Castillo.

Mr. Castillo called Mr. Tate and said that he had some plans to bring jobs to the community. He purchased apartments and he came in and made major improvements to a facility that was run down. When volunteers came in to help they could stay in these places. He then purchased the Glades General Hospital and is in the process of purchasing a development in South Bay. We want to talk to you about it now.

Mr. Castillo began by saying they are going to hire a lot of people for the hospital.

Mr. Castillo has purchased the development of Villa Lago. They are cleaning it out right now to see what needs to be done. Sixty three units and a church - there are thirty four residents that are all in houses. They are doing something for the kids. When hurricane Wilma came it was abandoned.

They want to create jobs in this area. They want to work with the Cities to create jobs in the near future. They are also partners in this company it is the only business in the state of Florida.

Mr. Tate stated that the hospital and apartments are major employment for this community. What do residents need to do to be ready? Many people heard about it but did not know what was going to happen

Diane Walker, Commissioner, City of Pahokee stated that we need to make sure that we prep the local businesses on what is happening. Mr. Castillo went to Workforce Alliance and they only gave him certain names.

Mr. Tate added that OCR is going to tie you directly to the CEO.

Mrs. Walker replied that this gap will be closed for this case; she is talking about other situations.

Mr. Elroy Reyes, ENAE Corporation (**slideshow available upon request**) - They provide light fixtures from basic to LED. They are for different institutions such as hospitals and schools. This can save you a lot of energy (money) by replacing the illumination. This can be done by doing an electricity study.

Mr. Tate said this meeting is just to tell us what is out there. The details will be discussed with the Cities.

Mr. Reyes stated that the Glades area are going to be the first three cities in the State of Florida to use the lights. Please note that it does not just have to be street lights.

Discussion ensued regarding lighting and potential savings.

Mr. Tate added that he thinks we have more than enough information to get started. He will contact PBSO and the School District. Make sure I get your cards.

3. Participant Updates/Comments:

FDOT: Small project, bridge painting at the end of the month in South Bay. There should not be any lane closures.

City of Pahokee on December 9th they are hosting the Holiday BBQ at the Marina; they want to invite everybody. There will be fishing on the pier and a tour of Lake Okeechobee and a Farm tour.

Belle Glade is having a golf tournament.

Banquet at the Freedom Hall on December 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Jerry Roberts - He is here to enlist assistance for December 28th. The Belle Glade Chapter is having a coming out party introducing themselves to the community. They are primarily interested in youth. There are a lot of problems in the schools. They have talked to School Board members. They will have entertainment and food from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Lake Shore Park in Belle Glade.

Mr. Tate stated that Comm. Taylor has expressed concerned about how we are handling our youth. We need to put together an effective team that will work on different related issues. Our plan will need to be comprehensive that addresses our youth as an asset; what needs are priority and how will they be addressed. This should be the first consideration to determine what problems will need to be identified and solved.

At the next meeting we will be talking about what has occurred over this past year and talk about the successes. We need to have a real good assessment from the residents because they know what is going on and they know the issues – they need to tell us. You get funding based on what you have accomplished, not just talking. He needs to get five people from Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next GTAC meeting will be held Thursday, December 15, 2011 at the South Bay Crossroads Center.

Minutes prepared by Duane R. Gainer, Senior Planner, B.P.M.

Approved By Houston L. Tate, Director

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