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Glades Technical Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Title: Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, Director
Scribe (recorder): Duane Gainer, Senior Planner
Date/Time: January 24, 2013 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Location: Canal Point Community Center

Meeting Attendance:

- 1 Sheila Acevedo, St. George Episcopal
- 2 Deputy Richard Angelo, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
- 3 Rev. David Broadbent, Canal Point United Methodist Church
- 4 Regina Bohlen, Pahokee Chamber of Commerce
- 5 Larry Caraccio, P.B.C. Code Enforcement
- 6 Meredith Cruz, The Corradino Group
- 7 Limontar Fitzgerald, HASC
- 8 Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
- 9 Jerome Govan, Resident
- 10 Van Johnson, P.B.C. Housing Authority
- 11 Gillian Martin, Consultant
Mr. And Mrs. Miller, Glades Guardian Collaborative
- 12 Derek Moore, City of Pahokee
- 13 Rosalind Murray, P.B.C. Criminal Justice Commission
- 14 Estella Pyfrom, Estellas Brilliant Bus
- 15 Eddie Rhodes, Tri-City Education
- 16 Chief Curtis Rice, P.B.C. Fire Rescue
- 17 Morales St. Hilaire, Workforce Alliance
- 18 Stephen Stokes, Target Engineering Group
- 19 Jeff Tarr, Resident
- 20 Houston Tate, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
- 21 Veronique Valery, HASC
- 22 Javin Walker, 2SBW & Associates
- 23 Rashonda Warren, City of Pahokee

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Comments: Mr. Tate called the meeting to order at 9:36 and asked for introductions.

2. Special Presentations

Greg Van Buckle – There are two things to consider when putting together your Community Economic Redevelopment Plan. One is the business view and the other is the financial view. The business view considers the behavior in the market place, such as where can consumers go to purchase their desired goods and services. The financial view considers how consumers get the best price for their purchasing power. How does this perception affect the Belle Glade, Canal Point and South Bay's tax dollars? If our citizens are not purchasing goods and services locally, local businesses cannot grow or expand. If businesses are not re-investing into the business it is because investors don't feel as if they can make an adequate return on their investment dollars. The western communities need to change the way residents are thinking to include re-inventing and re-investing in them. The Okeeheelee Park at one time was used to be a dump site. Today it has become a place where world class water skiing events are held and several golf courses and recreational amenities are available to the community. Successful Fishing Tournaments, Muck Bowl Football Games, and broad recreational use of Lake Okeechobee, are examples of opportunities to re-invent and re-invest into the Glades. It is time to invest into the Glades Community Economic Development. You don't want people have to have a bad taste in their mouth concerning the Glades not being an environment to promote economic opportunities. Efforts should be made to promote Good Will and Tourism. Turn social events into something big that residents want and will draw people to come. The one rule in recruiting new businesses is that Corporations are in the business of making money. Efforts should be made to capitalize on your resources and assist your community to grow a healthy economy. All of these factors will encourage the increasing of sales which increases more business opportunities.

Van Johnson, PBC Housing Authority (PBCHA) and Executive Director: Glades Glen Apartment Complex Update- The PBCHA have a bold 5 to 10 year commitment to the Glades Garden Complex, Quiet Waters Assisted Living Complex, South Bay Villa, acquisition of the Glades Hospital to develop light industrial center for people with disabilities, redeveloping the Belle Glade Trailer Park into an Eco Village for seniors. It was never PBCHA's intention to provide only public housing. The emphasis has evolved into creating a campus of learning that will provide skills for residents to educate themselves toward obtaining self sufficiency. He presented a PowerPoint and discussed actions from a study in 1996 that showed that there was a Summit organized to best determine what could be done about many of underlining problems connected to housing. The PBCHA began to look for sites that had assets, such as Belle Glade Glades Glenn Apartment Complex. It is centered near 8 schools. The more that they evaluated this site it was determine to be a great area for a virtual reality office. Their plan is to raise capital and construct a new broadband infrastructure and broadband tower. The broadband asset is expected bring about a structured learning process through the use of education computer based learning. A call center is planned to be developed that will create jobs. PBCHA decided that we could

make bold plans to go after a HUD loan and then we will partner with other agencies that can recruit students.

Question from Haitian/Hispanic Resource Center: Their concerns are more immediate and directly related to Code Enforcement infractions in Belle Glade. What can the Housing Authority do in the immediate future? Can they investigate what is going on with landlords that are becoming slum lords? The landlords are not helping the tenants. What can we do immediately?

Mr. Tate: Mr. Johnson can address your issues and I would like for Larry Caraccio, Palm Beach County Code Enforcement Division and Code Enforcement Officer to have an opportunity to address the concerns related to code enforcement.

Mr. Johnson stated that they are acquiring South Bay Villas and Marshall Heights and we will rehab both properties.

Rosiland Murray, Criminal Justice Commission: The Criminal Justice Commission applied for a One Million Dollar Grant for crime prevention, collaboration and community development.

Mr. Tate responded that he would like for everyone to know more about the many planning grants that are happening in the Glades.

Ms. Murray stated that the Sheriff's Office is participating in this grant however the implementation process will not be successfully written or executed until the whole community has had an opportunity to step in and provide their input.

Mr. Tate: The Criminal Justice Commission has a planning grant in the amount of One Million Dollars and the Department of Economic Sustainability (DES) has a grant that is in the amount of approximately One Million Dollars. I would recommend that you contact DES and see how the two grants can be leveraged and shared with other organizations. Chrystal Mathews will be assisting you from OCR and who was awarded a Transportation Enhancement grant to build a bridge in Canal Point crossing the L10 canal.

Larry Caraccio, PBC Code Enforcement-is responsible for compliance of PBC ordinances in unincorporated Palm Beach County only.

A question was asked again about what could be done right now about some deplorable "housing" conditions in the Glades. Discussion ensued in reference to County responsibilities, City responsibilities, landlords and tenants/residents.

Mr. Caraccio responded that you can't get it at agency level; this is a political issue; you are going to have to go to the Commissioners.

Mr. Tate stated that we are going to sit down and put together a plan of action because if the landlords began working on repairing their properties, there may be a need to relocate some resident. This problem will require residents to work out individual accommodations related to a specific property. Mr. Weisman sent an email to several county department directors reminding them to attend the Haitian American Solidarity Center (HASC) to learn of the issues that was affecting them.

Mrs. Harma Miller, Glades Guardian Collaborative Update - need go after private investors - The Collaborative is going to look for technical and economic reports. Before redefining the Glades, we have to have people that want change. Glades people do not trust anyone. The organizational leadership has to come from the Glades area.

Mr. Tate added that if you want to make changes, you have to empower community leadership to advocate for positive changes.

Mrs. Miller stated that people have to be motivated to change their situation.

3. Participant Updates/Comments

Steve Stokes, Target Engineering (DOT), reported on the following:

- SR 15 contract time started on Sunday; contract was awarded asphalt; going to start sidewalk
- MLK blvd to Connors come in - should be completed sometime in October.
- They had an Open House at the City of Belle Glade to let the residents know about the projects.
- We have talked to Community Asphalt so that people can be hired locally. His office is in South Bay and if anyone wants to talk about jobs they should come on in. They have talked about a Mentor type position but haven't gone any further; they cannot fund it but maybe Workforce Alliance can.

Javin Walker - They had the opportunity to work with PBC Housing Authority and his construction company has been able to hire 5-6 local people. When people hire outside (non-local) contractors, it does not help bring new jobs in the community. He understands you can't put things in contracts but there are certain things you can. If you don't reinvest into our community, it will suffer.

Derek Moore, City of Pahokee, reported on the following:

- Thank you for everyone coming out and being interested in assisting the Glades;
- Their focus this year is Economic Development and that he supports efforts from everyone that can help make a difference.
- They made a commitment to PBC Board to contributing to work toward getting jobs for our area.
- Their Marina is under "new" management;
- The new Tiki Bar will be open this month;
- The Heritage Festival will be held February 15th and 16th and will offer a variety of music including and not limited to reggae, Cajun, bluegrass, and hip-hop.
- April 11th – 13th "Q" Fest takes place. Anquan Boldin will bring along several of his

professional friends.

- Ricky Jackson will be recognized on March 13, he is in the NFL Hall of Fame, and
- Received NSP III dollars for the Glades. 28 buildings will be knocked down and reconstructed including Canal Point.

Mrs. Estella Pyfrom reported that her program is now called Estella's Brilliant Bus.

Mr. Tate added that he is working with the Glades Guardian Collaborative Committee about implementing a Robotics Engineering program here. The City of Pahokee has two International Baccalaureate Schools. Can you image if the Glades can work to partner with Scripps and NASA to enable Glades students to be connected to a space career path.

Chief Rice, PBC Fire Rescue, reported on the following:

- Pahokee Station has been open for about 3 months;
- South Bay Station will open Feb 4;
- They also need to know when you (County/Cities) change the street name;
- They have a new Battalion Chief, Michael Mackey and he will be coming to these meetings;
- Chief Rice retired this month;

Jeff Tarr, PBC resident stated that residents need to hang in there long enough, continue to nag and call, you will get action. Every time he comes here and in WPB, he gets results. We need to embrace the positive energy.

4. Adjournment

Comments: The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting will be held on February 28, 2013 in Belle Glade.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director

