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Glades Technical Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Title: Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, Director
Assistant Coordinator/Scribe (recorder): Audley G. Reid, Senior Planner
Date/Time: December 12, 2019, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Location: Belle Glade Civic Center Library

Meeting Attendance:

21 Attendees

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

OCR Director H. Tate called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m. Following brief audience introductions Mr. Tate reminded the audience that the OCRs' NEAT grant application window is upcoming in 2020 and encouraged attendees to think about how they could utilize grant dollars to better their communities. A representative for the City of Pahokee spoke at length about the value of the NEAT grant in connection with providing bus stop stands for Pahokee. He emphasized that obtaining bus stop stands through the NEAT grant is a part of the ongoing effort to change face of their community for the better. He mentioned the Cabana Colony CCRT successfully earning NEAT and REAP grants over the years to add value to and enhance the community in small ways. He encouraged those in attendance to go to the mandatory NEAT meeting to learn more.

2. Special Presentations

Mr. Tate then introduced featured speaker Ms. Anne Marie Sorrell, CEO of The Mosaic Group, and asked her to address those in attendance.

NOTE: THE PRESENTATION BY MS. SORRELL IS AVAILABLE IN FULL ON POWERPOINT BY REQUEST FROM OCR STAFF.

Ms. Sorrell began by pointing out that there are job opportunities available at Palm Tran and encouraged people to find out more and apply, if interested, at Palm Tran.

She then discussed the new "Flex" program offered by Palm Tran that is designed to make travelling around the Glades more convenient. This service is for everyone, it is not limited to a particular population in the Glades. This service launched in December 2019. Twenty-one drivers have been hired to help launch the program which emphasizes travelling in smaller vehicles/buses rather than traditionally larger buses. With Flex, buses can

deviate from set stop points to drop off or pick up passengers at home, school or work. There are no income requirements and passengers can call 2 no less than 2 hours in advance from home to request pick up and stop at a specific point.

The general fare is \$1.00 for each stop, which is extremely affordable compared to other fare services. If you are ADA, the ride and stops are free, however, if it is a deviated stops, it will be \$0.50 for each stop. Fares will be collected on-board in cash or with a Palm Tran bus pass.

Ms. Sorrell, via her Powerpoint presentation, then described the routes available with this service.

3. Participant Updates/Comments

Ms. Sorrell offered Palm Tran brochures to everyone who was interested in learning more about the services offered.

An audience member suggested trying to inform students that they can take advantage of this service as well. Many do not realize it is also for them. Ms. Sorrell will plan to address students at schools and colleges to make sure they are aware.

Ms. Sorrell stated that it is very important that Palm Tran get feedback from the community regarding these and other programs. Improvement of service and filling gaps in service are two important outcomes from interacting with the public. She encouraged everyone to go to the Palm Tran website to post their views.

Another attendee emphasized that the cost to riders of this program is minimal and really should be emphasized as a selling point to increase ridership which will increase service.

Ms. Sorrell, responding to a question about serving day care centers, said she will partner with churches among other organizations, to find out how to provide service to those who need assistance going to and from day care centers.

Mr. Tate and attendees thanked Ms. Sorrell for her presence and her presentation. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

4. Adjournment

Comments:

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5. Adjournment

Comments:

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director _____