

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of April 12, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Palm Beach County Vista Center, Room 1E-60

Minutes

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
Al Albrecht, Plantation Village
Deputy Willie Brookins, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Deputy John Chapman, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West
Larry Diegert, Plantation Community Resident
Deputy J. Ellis, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Steven Futch, Plantation Community Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Andy Hartmann, P.B.C. Engineering
Captain Jeff Lindskoog, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Jeanne Matthews, PBC Parks and Recreation
Roy McGinnis, PACE EH/Department of Health
Deputy Newcomb, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
Myrtle Rainford, Gramercy Park Resident
Douglas Robinson, P.B.C. Zoning
Deputy Keith Russell, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Sharon Sheppard, Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA
Houston L. Tate, P.B.C. Office of community Revitalization
Martha Turner, Gramercy Park Resident
Lieutenant Wesley White, PBC Animal Care & Control
Erica Whitfield, Healthy Kids/Healthy Communities
Rachel Williams, Gramercy Park Resident
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Mr. Gainer welcomed the group on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, County Administration, and the Office of Community Revitalization to this month's Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) meeting. He introduced himself and asked meeting participants to state their name, organization and/or neighborhood represented for the record.

II. REVIEW FOLLOW-UPS:

There were no follow-up issues from the last meeting.

II. PRESENTATION:

Mr. Tate introduced Ms. Erica Whitfield of the Robert Wood Johnson Healthy Kids/Healthy Communities Project.

Ms. Whitfield: The Healthy Kids Healthy Communities (HKHC) Grant is a national program from the Johnson and Johnson Foundation. Robert Wood is part of the Johnson and Johnson Foundation family. Their service area is Lake Worth, Palm Springs and Greenacres. This area is one of 41 to get this grant. They received additional funding from the Quantum Foundation and Health Care Foundation to support this grant.

The major focus is obesity. The emphasis is placed on reaching children of all races, ethnicities and geographic locations. They would like to change policies. They have 5 goals and a coalition if anyone is interested in getting involved. They meet quarterly and the next meeting is May 5th. She asked participants to let her know if anything discussed could fit into their community.

The first goal is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable access in the area of Southern Blvd to Lantana, and between the Intracoastal and the Turnpike. They would like to develop community gardens to grow fresh fruit and vegetables. Kids and volunteers get the physical activity and the fresh fruits and vegetables. HKHC began in January of 2010 but did not get started until July.

The following is a list of projects completed since July: the Scottish Rite Temple, South Grade Elementary, Highland Elementary, Greenacres Elementary, Therapeutic Recreation Center, Homeland Elementary, and Palmetto Elementary.

A question from PBSO: Is there a limit on the grant amount or the size of the project? Ms. Whitfield responded that the limit is \$5,000 per garden. They put in fencing and irrigation. She would not like to spend that much.

Another question from PBSO: As far as irrigation, who pays for it? Ms. Whitfield replied that they develop the community gardens near a business that could be a partner with them, except for the one in Lake Worth. Rain barrel collection is used but it is tricky if there is no rain. Someone may donate to the water bill.

Joanna Aiken, SWA representative, stated they make mulch and compost and it is free. They have a partnership with community gardens. They work with the City of Palm Beach Gardens and the Town of Jupiter. Ms Aiken stated that in dealing with the gardens everyone has a different way of gardening and planting, and she asked whether Ms. Whitfield if there was something or a process she follows.

Ms. Whitfield responded that there are 2 common ways to garden. You can plan for each participant to manage their own garden, but if one does not maintain their plot the person next to him suffers for that. The other method is the community garden; one big area and it depends on the number of hours you put in, how much food that you get out. One person puts in 50 hours and another puts in 10. The 10 hour person gets upset because the 50 hour person gets more food so that can be a fight too. She does not focus on individual people getting the food, but tries to do one big volunteer operation. She explained that if a person is assigned to a specific lot, that doesn't mean that all of the harvested food belong to that person. The food is distributed throughout the community. No one grows for themselves, and there is a large participation of youth from the neighborhood.

Cat. Lindskoog, PBSO asked how she would assist them outside of her service area. Ms. Whitfield replied that if someone is interested she will have to put together a packet to develop the gardens. The issue is funding, as she can't spend any of the funding outside of the service area. There is a ton of funding for community gardens and she can guide you on where to go. She stated that, at a minimum, you have to make sure you have a fence, water and volunteers. She can sort of make those happen with her funding.

Joanna Aiken, SWA representative, informed Ms. Whitfield that Channel 5, 12 and 29 are consistently doing stories on gardens in the communities. It seems to be a hot topic. They are really interested. They are always asking her whether she knows about any other gardens. Ms. Whitfield responded that they just sent out a press release. This is a coalition, not a one person affair. May 5th is their next meeting. It is going to be at the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, 2000 N. "D" Street in Lake Worth. She requested meeting participants to provide their e-mail so she can send out updates and meeting dates and times.

IV. DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Andy Hartmann, ENG representative, reported on the following:

- Coconut Road is currently under construction. They will be putting the asphalt down soon.
- Sylvan Lane went to the Board on April 5th for approval. Construction will start within two months.
- Warren Road is currently under design.
- Patio Court will be going to the board on June 21st and construction should start late August or September.
- 182nd Road North, located in the Limestone Creek area. Engineering is still waiting on petitions to provide water/sewer to the residents of that road.
- Ohio Road - The design is 35% completed and the consultant has submitted additional documentation which is currently under review.
- Cinquez Park - the project is completed but Engineering is waiting on some paperwork from the contractor to close out the project.
- Canton Road – Engineering is applying for CCBG funds to construct that project.
- Wallis Rd 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Sunbeam - the design is 100% completed, and we will go to bid in July of this year.

Mr. Gainer asked if the Sylvan Lane is the same project that Engineering has been working on for a while and was the bid opening that Mr. Gainer attended. Mr. Hartmann responded that it was the same project. Engineering will be partnering with CCRT to complete Patio Court.

Lt. Wesley White, Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control (ACC) representative, reported on the following:

- The newly proposed Ordinances have unanimously passed for a total ban on chaining animals in the yard 24/7.

Doug Robinson, Zoning representative, asked what does that mean. Lt White responded that it means that the only time your animal can be outside on a chain is if you are outside with it. In addition, each animal that is kept in an enclosure has to have at least 80 square feet of space and each additional animal has to have 40 square feet additional in space.

Mr. Gainer asked who would be responsible to be looking out for that. Lt. White replied that it is going to be complaint driven. If your neighbor calls then they will come out (not Code Enforcement or the PBSO).

Mr. Tate asked is the space he referred to is usable space or are they looking at the lot size. Lt. White responded that they are looking at the container for the animal and you can stack it.

Jean Matthews, Parks and Recreation (P&R) representative, asked whether this cover only unincorporated PBC or would this extend into municipalities. Lt. White responded that it covers Palm Beach County as a whole. He also mentioned that when you go to a pet shop and purchase an animal, they have to provide you with the origin of birth. This is to cut down on the puppy mills. There are those who are selling puppies without permits. They have to show you health certificates. That is for dogs and cats.

Bestiality is not legal and that has been passed in Palm Beach County. They had the issue of not being able to prosecute because it was not illegal in the state of Florida. It is a civil infraction. There have been complaints. They would go as cruelty to animals. Someone would call and say their dog has been abused and then ACC does the investigation.

Joanna Aiken, SWA representative, reported on the following:

- This weekend is the Great American Cleanup; if anyone needs anything let her know. They took care of the question from last month.

Jean Matthews, P & R representative, reported on the following:

- The Sand Castle building has been razed and there will be benches and lights added to the Park.

V. OCR STAFF REPORTS:

Mrs. Mathews reported on the following:

- REAP is coming up in central County. It starts on May 10th and will be held in the hearing room from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm.
- The Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program has started. She asked meeting participants to see her if anyone has questions.

VI. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES/COMMUNITY Q & A

The Community Connection letter will be distributed later today.

VII. RESIDENT COMMENTS:

Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West representative, reported on the following:

- They had their Health Fair at the end of March. She would like to thank Capt. Jeff Lindskoog and the entire PBSO for working with them. They had over 50 vendors and different organizations that came out and talked about prevention. They had over 400 people participating.
- This past Friday they had their Easter Celebration; Ronald McDonald was in attendance. The kids were able to find Easter eggs stuffed with candy. PBSO did a photo id's session. They had over 80 children I'd. There were 375 people at that event.
- As of January 2011, Lake Worth West became a Bridges site. It is called Bridges of Lake Worth West with Children Services Council. Basically, they have a navigator there and an adult educator who provides adult workshops for moms and moms-to-be. They also are able to help families get food stamps, Medicaid and assistance with utility problems. Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies comes out for a few hours on a particular day. They also have other organizations to come out.
- They also received a grant from Community Foundation. Ruth helped them to put it together. They will be working with Project Aspiration. The organization will come to their facility with a bus that is equipped with 17 computers that will enable them to expand their after school program. They will stay and give the computer instruction to their kids and will be implemented during an 18 week period starting in September.
- They are also working on adults ESOL, GED and toddler classes that are school readiness programs. They get the kids prepared to start school. They are teaching them the basics of color and a, b, c's.

The PBSO representative stated that they heard that there are a number of Bridge Centers to be built over a period of time and asked Ms. Clinton whether she knew which the closest one to Westgate is. Ms. Clinton responded that she is not sure, but there are 10 bridge locations in Palm Beach County. She will be happy to check the map when she gets back to the office. Give her your number. CSC changed the format from Beacons and they basically used the zip codes where there are high teenage pregnancies, crimes, low FCAT scores, etc.

Ms. Sharon Sheppard, Westgate CRA representative, stated that Westgate did not meet the required criteria because they have a Grade "A" school and a low birth rate.

The PBSO representative asked: Let's say the closest one is in Lake Worth; can services be provided for this far north in Westgate and, can we send people down there? Ms. Clinton responded yes, you can send people down there.

Pastor Wayne Padgett, Gramercy Park, reported on the following:

- They had an event in Gramercy Park this past Saturday where they cook out for the kids and they had over 50 kids to sign up to participate in the clean up. They had a DJ and a great time.

Larry Diegert, Plantation Community President, reported on the following:

- They have a Taste n See Ministry they are doing on April 23rd. It will be at 1569 Citation Dr. off of Whitehall. There will be an Easter egg hunt, free turkey meal, and prizes.
- He thanked their PBSO deputy. He has been staying up to midnight trying to get people arrested. He had a confrontation with 2 guys. He told them they will be in jail by 10:30 and they did go.
- They have been working with Pratt and Whitney, they are really pro environmental.
- He will have a computer all set up by the end of the month. His house will be set up by the 18th.

Mr. Tate stated that he recalled that Mr. Diegert asked OCR to come to his community meeting but that hasn't received information on the date. Mr. Diegert replied that it will be the 3rd Thursday at Wynnebrooke Elementary. Last month, they had it at a neighbor's house. This month it will be at the school.

Mr. Gainer asked whether the community had held their election already. Mr. Diegert responded yes they had and he was elected President. Mr. Gainer asked the group to give Mr. Diegert a round of applause.

Mr. Gainer stated that there is REAP sign-up sheet on the table out front. Mrs. Mathews still has some space available. We will be looking for a lot of people.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 10th. Mr. Gainer asked for a volunteer for refreshments, OCR will provide coffee.

Mr. Diegert asked if the delay on sidewalks in his neighborhood was because of the waterlines. Mr. Hartmann replied that Engineering needs to get a permit in order to process it.

Mr. Tate asked Mr. Diegert if his question was about specific sidewalks. Mr. Diegert replied that all the work has already been done except for Meridian and Breezy.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on May 10th.

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

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director _____