

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of February 8, 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
Shirley Cantelo, Old Trail Resident
Deputy John Chapman, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West
Holly Cook
Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Larry Diegert, Plantation Community Resident
Deputy J. Ellis, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Ed Frazier, Old Trail Resident
Steven Futch, Plantation Community Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Deputy Derrick Gentilcore, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Andy Hartmann, P.B.C. Engineering
Anne Helfant, P.B.C. Attorney's Office
Lawrence Knight, Youth Build
Steve Lamb
Deputy Lamm, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Captain Jeff Lindskoog, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Jean Matthews, P.B.C. Parks and Recreation
Roy McGinnis, PACE EH/Department of Health
Stephen Mayer, P.B.C. Housing and Community Development
Deputy Mendenhall, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Linda Moreno, Solid Waste Authority
Deputy Newcomb, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
Reverend Wayne Padgett, Gramercy Park
Myrtle Rainford, Gramercy Park Resident
Douglas Robinson, P.B.C. Zoning
Deputy Keith Russell, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Martha Turner, Gramercy Park Resident
Sylvia Sharps, P.B.C. Water Utility/GUA/EDO
Deputy Staab, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
Joseph Verdone, Carlton Fields/PBA
Brenda Warren, Royal Palm Estates Resident
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. Mr. Gainer thanked his mother-in-law, Mrs. Jennifer Peart, for preparing breakfast this morning for the group. He introduced himself and asked meeting participants to state their name, organization and/or neighborhood represented for the record.

II. REVIEW FOLLOW-UPS:

Mr. Gainer stated that at the last meeting there were some concerns regarding buses traveling through certain streets through the neighborhood.

It was thought that the buses were using the roads as a cut through.

Mr. Gerald Gawaldo, Senior Transit Planner, Palm Tran, researched the issue and delivered a document (map) to OCR depicting that it is an approved route.

Mr. Gainer gave the information to the neighborhood representatives.

Mr. Gainer asked Dep. Ellis if he was able to get with Mr. Hartmann in reference to the 5 year road plan after the last meeting.

Dep. Ellis responded that he did and was unable to completely interpret the plan. But they were able to see that 45th Street will not be connected to State Road 7.

Mr. Gainer asked Mr. Hartmann did he receive an email from Mrs. Moguillansky-De Rose regarding Wallis Road. The email was an official notice to proceed with the sidewalk project.

Mr. Hartmann said yes.

PRESENTATION: Lieutenant Wesley White, Animal Care and Control (ACC)

Mr. Gainer stated that a couple of meetings ago, the Old Trail residents had a few questions about Animal Care and Control (ACC).

Today we have with us a gentleman to give a brief presentation on what their policies are, and to answer questions.

OCR will try to get him to come to our meetings regularly.

Lt. Leslie White, ACC- Gave a brief overview of the 5 components they have at ACC starting with the field component:

The field consists of investigation units which investigate cruelty once they start reaching the level where they start going to court.

They have a license and enforcement unit that investigates big businesses, pet shops, pet supermarket and anyone that sells animals as a hobby.

They also have ACC officers that ride around and try to catch stray animals.

The field component also consists of the dispatch unit which receives and dispatches information to the officers out in the field.

The next component is the clinic. It consists of the Spay Shuttle. Due to budget cuts it no longer rides around. We open a new facility in Pahokee which provides low cost services to most of the low income residents free of charge. The clinic basically treats un-owned animals and owned animals. They will provide rabies and vaccine shots to all animals.

Next is the kennel - they deal with all the animals that come in. The kennel is in charge of maintaining the animals including food, care and good living conditions. They show animals to those residents who have lost their animals and to those potential animal owners looking to adopt. The clinic provides dog training to the public to better acquaint new owners with their dog, thus reducing the frequency of returned animals back to the clinic.

Lastly, is the finance component consisting of data processing and the sale of dog tags. Notices are sent out informing the general public of services and adoptions handled by customer service. To ensure animal safety from previous mistreatment and neglect to all animals, a mandatory background check is performed on all potential pet owners. For those owners interested in purchasing pit bull dogs, a more extensive background check is administered. That is a brief overview.

Mrs. Brenda Warren, Royal Palm Estates (RPE) resident asked what do they do for communities that neighbors allow their dogs out unleashed and allow them to run all day long unsupervised.

Lt. White: We have a person that handles nuisances. You call in complaints and state your problem. We will have 2 affidavits, one for yourself and a second neighbor. Get it notarized with the complainant and who is causing the complaints. We will send the complainant a copy of the complaint. Depending on what the nature of the complaint is, we will give them 2 to 3 days to rectify the complaint.

If it has not stopped you call in and say it has not stopped, we send a unit out to issue a citation. It starts at \$150 up to \$500 per citation. Usually after the first citation they will stop. If not, the next thing is you, the other complainant, and the owner, have to appear in court. They will be required to explain to the Judge why they are allowing this dog to run free. They can pay the fine or pay the court costs and the Judge is the only one that can authorize them to pick the dog up.

Mrs. Warren: Does Animal Care have the authority to come and pick up the dog and let the owner bail him out? It is not the dog it is the owner that is doing it.

Lt. White: (People laughing) We cannot pick up an animal and bring it in if it is on their own property. We would need a warrant. You have to see the animal and call us when it is not on his owner's property.

Ms. Warren: Can it be anonymous?

Lt. White: No, it has to be a person name – we do take anonymous calls – Florida has this information policy but it is not really anonymous.

Ms. Warren: I am scared the dogs are going to be hit by a car. I was hoping that you would just pick up the dog and make the owner pay a fine.

LT. White: It can be a pretty extensive process.

Ms. Cantelo, Old Trail: When dogs are running loose, we call animal control. Why is it that they tell you to pick up the dog and they will come and get it? Second question, an incident in the neighborhood where there is a complaint against the neighbors' dog. ACC came out and investigated it and the complainant where charged a \$60 investigation fee. I thought our taxes pay for that.

Lt. White: First part of your question. One dog running loose and someone told you to pick up dog and then you said it was vicious that, is different. A dog is running loose by the time our officers get there usually the dog is gone. That is why we ask you to contain the dog. If you think the dog is vicious then that is our first priority and we will come out immediately. I don't know if residents realize it, but ACC does more than any other agency in the State of Florida when it comes serving the County. We just recently stop picking up cats that were running the streets. As far of the investigation fees it depends on what the situation is.

Ms.Cantelo: Where does that investigation fee go to?

Lt. White: I can get that answer for you. I can tell you know if we write a citation for \$500 we might get 6% (that is what it sound like)

Mrs. C. Mathews, OCR: What calls are considered priority?

Lt. White: Injured animal, assisting police departments and aggressive animals.

Mr. Doug Robinson, Zoning: The trainees that you have are they just for the people from ACC or is that just for anyone?

LT. White: Just the people who adopt animals.

Mrs. Jean Matthews, P & R: We are having cats left behind in our neighborhood. Are you finding a big percentage of animals being left behind and of the animals, what percentage are being adopted?

Lt White: For cats that remain in the homes, ACC will go in the residence and remove them. However, cats that are running loose around the neighborhoods, ACC will not trap them. To answer your question related to percentages of animals, ACC has noticed smaller sized animals and purebreds being brought into the shelters, and approximately less than 50% are being adopted..

Mr. Gainer: How many animals are put to sleep monthly?

Lt. White: Let's say if we took in roughly 1000 animals in one month. Half are put down because we are dealing with animals with skin problems, sick animals, animals with behavioral problems, old animals. People bring them in specifically to be put down.

Mrs. Moguillansky-De Rose: I know that you have a website. Would it be possible we can get an email that animals that are ready for adoption or fostering so that information is shared with us. OCR can share it with communities that we have.

Lt. White: We do have a website with information that comes from adoptions. I can get with Kelly and see if we can do a outreach program.

Mrs. Moguillansky-De Rose: We have pet lovers that are willing to adopt pets. Just send it to us and we can share it with our contacts.

Lt. White: We have agencies that like pit bull adoption, gold retriever adoptions, we do have something in place. I will get with you.

Mr. McGinnis: Do you still have a leash law?

Lt. White: Yes.

Mr. McGinnis: How do you go about enforcing that?

Lt. White: The leash law is 2 concepts, one is the hand, voice, control leash law; and then the physical leash law. What that is if you call the dog and say the dog is off leash that is hard to enforce. Merely, because you call and say the dog is off the lease doesn't mean it is against the law if the owner is in within 50 yards of the pet.

Mr. McGinnis: What if someones dog is not on the leash and they charge onto your property after your dog.

Lt. White: That is different. If they charge after your dog, call us and it is an aggressive animal. We will come out and do an investigation.

Ms. Cantelo: What kind of dogs are hard to adopt?

Lt. White: Behavioral problem dogs, they can be sick or old. The myth that we only keep dogs for 10 days and put them down is untrue.

Someone asked can you bring a stray in and get it spayed or neutered?

Lt. White: Once you do that, it is your animal. We have them on the record as being yours.

Deputy: What is the expectation for the Sheriff's Office?

Lt. White: If I get a call and there is an aggressive animal, we ask can they go by to see if it actually happening. It is not expected of you to do any trapping.

Deputy: ACC will not come out unless the animal is contained. We are not going to put ourselves in danger.

Lt. White: I am not aware of the staff saying that to the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Gainer: Have you (ACC) done any training with the Sheriff's Office?

Lt. White: We only worked with them on cruelties. In general with illegal fights or annual examinations that are under review and we get together and assist them.

Mr. Tate: Issue dealing with chickens – what do you do with them?

Lt. White: The owner has to be there and it is a cruelty situation. It really is a code enforcement issue. We do not chase them. The caller has to contain them.

If it falls under agriculture you need to tell them to check with the code first. Most of the time people leave them confined.

Mr. Tate: What is the maximum number of dogs allowed on a parcel of land?

Lt. White: Acre or less you can have 11 or less animals, if you have 1.5 or more you can have 21 animals and more than that you can go up to 30.

Ms. Cantelo: I think that it would be great to have ACC have a workshop. I don't think our Deputies will be crucified because a vicious dog is coming after you.

Lt. White: We can't tell them not to do that.

Capt. Linsdkoog: We work very close with ACC and have very clear instructions on how to handle certain situations. If they (Deputies) follow the policies there is not an issue there.

III. DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Mrs. J. Matthews, Parks and Recreation (P&R) representative, reported on the following:

- A request – Sand Castle community fence is going to be extended and look very nice and because of the teens hanging out after hours, we have a request on the table for additional lighting in the park. She took the issue to Parks and basically they are more than happy to add the lights, if the lights request comes from OCR then we will go ahead and install them.

Mrs. Moguillansky-De Rose: Is the Sheriff okay?

Deputy: We do not have a problem. The lighting is very minimal. Kids are trying to light the tables on fire. Every resident is completely on board with this request.

Mr. Tate: Does P&R have the funding?

Mrs. J. Matthews: I don't know. We need \$50,000. We will fit into our budget for a forestry grant open right now for urban areas or low income. It is for \$18,000.

Mr. Tate: Can we get a letter from you?

Ms. Matthews: Can you send the letter to OCR and then let us know.

Ms. Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority representative, reported on the following:

- Her and her assistant have applications for Adopt-a-Spot, if you do not get one see them;
- The Great American Clean Up is April 16; She has not seen a lot of our names on the list. The deadline is Feb 16. We want to push for Adopt-a-Spot. Bring on the paint applications.

Someone asked with Paint Your Heart Out, can a church pick a house?

Ms. Aikens: Sure.

- We are working with the Health Department, Road and Bridge, and PBSO on the homeless situation on Okeechobee by the bridge, just east of Military. They dumpster dive and have set up as a flea market. Keep your eyes on it.

Ms. Sharps, Water Utilities/Economic Development Off representative, reported on the following:

- There will not be any requests to the State of Florida because there is no money. After listening to our Governor speech on pages 134, 135 it listed the appropriations approved there are only 2 that I am familiar with – they are going back to the general fund.
- www.flhardesthelp.org – A Pilot Program that was conducted in Lee County. It did well and the State is giving it another \$60 million.
- There is an unemployment mortgage assistance program and the statement payment program. You cannot be more than 18 months behind.

- Ms Sharps talked to her community and they are going to plant a Community Garden.

Mr. Andy Hartmann, Engineering representative, reported on the following:

- Sylvan Lane – preparing paperwork for construction; have a company on board;
- Wallis Road Sidewalk- the paperwork is preparing to get a consultant;
- Wallis Road 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Sunbeam- the final plan review is being done now.
- Coconut Rd is under construction off of Lake Worth Rd s side of Davis Rd.
- Patio Court- the project is ready to bid. Look like it will start in July.
- 181st and 182 Road North- is a water/sewer project that Jupiter wants to do in Limestone Creek area. We are waiting on petitions on 182 Road N.
- Ohio Road- it is currently being designed.
- Cinquez Park- a checklists is being taken care of by the construction company.
- Whitehall (sidewalks) - should be under construction this morning.
- Meridian and Breezy (sidewalks) - still need LWDD and DOT permits for those. They should start in June.

Mrs. Warren: Does the request for the consultant have to go back to the Board?

Mr. Hartmann: It is part of the process.

Mr. Mike McGinnis, Department of Health representative, reported on the following:

- Westgate Community and the Health Department wishes to thank Dep. Mendenhall and Dep. Newcomb for their work. They made a difference and we were able to hand out 9 bicycle helmets.

IV. OCR STAFF REPORTS:

Mr. Tate, OCR, reported on the following:

- Audley had given me a grant for Dept of Justice for an anti-gang strategy. Mr. Tate attended the Palm Beach County Education Commission meeting this morning, and maybe we can look at Westgate and LW West. It is a \$750,000 grant.
- He is going to give out handouts – “A Money Wise Expo”.
- Ruth, Houston, Verdenia met with PBCSD and Commissioner Burdick to discuss the district’s Career Option program. The School Board has an excellent program. Kids will get certification in pre-law and bio-tech and approximately e 176 other programs.

Ms. Sharps: In light of the changes of the FSRS program, has any lobbyist been assigned.

Mr. Tate: I do not know of anything.

Grant Opportunities:

The Community Connection will be coming out this week.

VI. RESIDENT COMMENTS:

Mrs. Warren, RPE resident: We met with the new community policing officer – thanks PBSO..

Mr. Tate: We attended Gramercy Park community meeting regarding the traffic problems. He invited the Gramercy Park organization to a meeting on Thursday, at 2:00 pm in Engineering.

Ms. Cantelo: Thank you Mr. Gainer for the delicious refreshments.

Deputy: Sand Castle Community –Putting on a Safety Fair for the community on March 5 from 9 – 12.

Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West -will be having their 6th Annual Health Fair on Saturday, March 19th. We need vendors to apply now. We serve food as well.

Mr. Larry Diegert, Plantation Community resident- FOP Lodge is going better. He will run for president for the Plantation Community. He is going to put up 2 lights and pay for it myself.

Mr. Tate: I might can get you information on the Green Grant for the security lights.

Mr. Gainer stated that the next meeting will be March 8th. Mrs. Warren will volunteer for refreshments.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any more questions or comments. There were none.

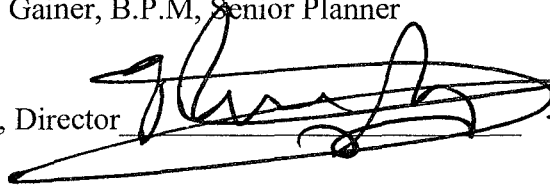
VII. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The next meeting will be held on February 8th.

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

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director



for Houston L. Tate