



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

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Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
Facilitator: Derrek Moore, Senior Planner
Minutes Prepared by: Audley G. Reid, Senior Planner
Date/Time: February 09, 2016, 10-00-11:30 AM
Location: 2300 N Jog Rd., Room 1E-60, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Meeting Attendance:

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| 1. Joanna Aiken | Solid Waste Authority |
| 2. Oscar Alvarez | PZB Contractor's Certification |
| 3. Melanie Borkowski | PBC Department of Economic Sustainability |
| 4. Ken Jackson | PBC Code Enforcement |
| 5. Rick Torrance | PBC Code Enforcement |
| 6. Casey Pranckun | PBC Parks & Recreation |
| 7. Michael Owens | PBC School District |
| 8. David Rafaidus | PBC Community Services Department |
| 9. Gregory Gabriel | PBC Youth Services |
| 10. Sergeant Hightower | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 11. Captain Kirshner | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 12. Sergeant Searing | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 13. Deputy Barricklow | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 14. Deputy DeLaura | PBC Sheriff's Office |
| 15. Isabelle Philippe-Auguste | Florida Department of Health |
| 16. Pam Nolan | PBC Dept. of Economic Sustainability |
| 17. Laura Martinez | San Castle Community |
| 18. Josue Dumercy | Urban League of Palm Beach County |
| 19. Audley Reid | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 20. Derrek Moore | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 21. Robin Rance-Hoffman | Office of PBC Commissioner P. Burdick |
| 22. William Wynn | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 23. J. Pierre | Limestone Creek Community |
| 24. Chrystal Matthews | PBC Office of Community Revitalization |
| 25. Gary Hines | PBC Business Development Board |

Meeting Minutes

I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed all attendees and asked the group to introduce themselves.

II. **Presentation–Gary Hines, Sr. Vice President of Administration, Business Development Board PBC**

After an introduction from Derrek Moore, Mr. Hines provided an overview of the responsibilities of the PBCBDB, and outlined some of the successes the organization has had in bringing to and placing business interests throughout Palm Beach County. The BDB is a non-profit company and is focused on encouraging economic activity, promoting business diversity, and enriching the economic quality of life of Palm Beach County. The BDB works closely with a variety of partners such as, the Board of County Commissioners, Enterprise Florida, business organizations, community redevelopment agencies and others to encourage the relocation, retention and expansion of companies to the PBC area.

III. **Question and Answer**

After the presentation there was a question-and-answer session, some of the responses to questions and comments from the audience are shown below:

- In terms of changes in the average housing prices in PBC overall, PBC is close to the average price levels that existed in 2007.
- Following the 2007 housing market crash, various property interests purchased property and housing, then turned those investments into rental units in order to make a profit.
- This upcoming fiscal year, the BDB will be working with various interests who want to invest in PBC and these efforts are expected to attract 3604 new jobs and an estimated \$284 million in capital investments.
- The recent merger of Office Depot and Office Max may result, unfortunately, in the new conglomerate relocating its headquarters outside of Florida to Massachusetts.
- In terms of space for Class A office buildings, PBC is approaching the limit in terms of the actual number of these types of buildings available to business interests who require 50,000 sq ft. of building space.
- In terms of advocating for the local workforce to gain employment in new businesses that relocate to PBC, the BDB works to introduce local vendors to new business actors and strongly encourages these actors to utilize local shipping and moving companies.
- Approximately, 10% to 20% of the workforce in new businesses attracted to PBC consists of existing employees that relocate with the employer.
- The BDB is interested in making efforts to ensure that the local workforce being employed by new companies and businesses are diverse and that accommodations are made for physically-challenged workers and professionals. A part of these efforts include establishing contact with the PBC Urban League as well as Career Source.

IV. **Department Updates**

Joanna Aiken, PBC Solid Waste Authority representative, reported the following:

- Appreciation was voiced for PBSO and their assistance in addressing illegal dumping in a residential area the previous Saturday, including an area clean-up. PBSO and SWA worked with PBC Roads and Bridges as well.
- On April 2nd SWA will sponsor the 2nd Annual 5K run. The run will take place on a natural trail surrounding the SWA facility. Over 200 runners are expected to participate. The entire event day will be from 9 am to 4 pm, it is free and businesses and non-profits are encouraged to participate in the days activities and to advertise their service interests.

David Rafaidus, PBC Community Development dept. representative, reported the following:

- On Wednesday February 17th, there will be a public forum focusing on senior services at the mid-County Senior Center from 9 am to 12 noon.

- The Department of Economic Sustainability officially has a Facebook page, all those interested are encouraged to link to the site.

Gregory Gabriel, Youth Services dept. representative, reported the following:

- A Youth Empowerment Center located in Riviera Beach will be reopening, date and time will be provided determined and then advertised.

Pam Nolan, Department of Economic Sustainability representative, reported the following:

- DES is completing the required paperwork to obtain funding (in the form of 3% loans) for rural areas in PBC. Loan guarantees may be obtained for over \$200,000 in some cases.

Casey Prankun, Parks and Recreation representative reported the following:

- The grand opening of Westgate Park will take place on Saturday March 19th. The new park will include a fitness zone.
- Parks has obtained the required building permit for the planned Watergate Park and is in the process of acquiring a sidewalk connection permit.
- There will be renovations taking place for the Canal Point playground
- Parks is also working towards obtaining required funding for needed renovations for Lake Lytal playground. Funding will be from CDBG funds.

Captain Kirshner, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office representative, reported the following:

- PBC has made important progress against graffiti; however, it is still a problem. PBSO is adding a second deputy to continue the fight against this challenge. PBSO is encouraging residents to report offenders and is working towards obtaining funds for equipment upgrades. This often becomes a quality of life issue when graffiti pollution is ignored.
- As part of this effort, PBSO is working with Crimestoppers and over 2000 volunteers.

Oscar Alvarez, PZB Contractor's Certification, Director, reported the following:

- Director introduced himself to attendees and explained and summarized the Department's overall responsibilities and activity areas, including dealing with unlicensed contractors as well as consumer abuse claims.

V. OCR Staff Reports

Chrystal Matthews, OCR Senior Planner, reported the following:

- The Residents Education to Action Committee (REAP) begins on March 8th, at the PBC Vista Center, 6-8:30 PM. All those interested are encouraged to register and attend
- The REAP session for western PBC is already currently in session.
- On Friday, February 12th, OCR will host a Neighborhood Tour and Showcase, from 8:45 am to 2:00 pm. The Tour will be a guided journey via trolley publicizing OCR funded projects in the City of Lake Worth. There will be 9 scheduled stops.

VI. New Business
N/A

VII. Residents Comments
N/A

VIII. Follow-ups
N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director