

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of February 10, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Palm Beach County Vista Center, Room 1E-60

Minutes

Present:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
Robert Anderson, P.B.C. Health Department
Jason Bland, San Castle Leadership Group
Bobbi Boynton, P.B.C. Code Enforcement
Gerry Carsillo, Sun Court Resident
Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West
Ruth Mogueillansky-DeRose, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Tim Granowitz, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation
Andy Hartman, P.B.C. Engineering
Deputy J.P. Harvey, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Anne Helfant, P.B.C. Attorney's Office
Brendhan Horne, Royal Palm Estates
Kathy King, Lake Worth West
Deputy Kirklan, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Roy McGinnis, PACE EH/Department of Health
Deputy Martini, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Office of Economic Development
David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services
LaToya Ricketts, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Sylvia Sharps, P.B.C. Water Utilities Department
Houston Tate, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Deputy Dwayne Thomas, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Martha Turner, Gramercy Park Resident
Gail Vorpagel, P.B.C. Code Enforcement
Brenda Warren, Royal Palm Estates Resident
Jim Weiss, County Club Acres
Dean Wells, P.B.C Building Division
Rachel Williams, Gramercy Park Resident
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

I. Welcome Introduction:

Mrs. DeRose invited Brendhan Horne of Royal Palm Estates (RPE) to join the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) and come and sit at the “table”. Mr. Horne accepted.

II. Review of Follow Ups:

Mr. Gainer stated that Follow up Memo was being printed as we speak and would be arriving momentarily.

Mr. Gainer stated that one of the things OCR wanted to follow up on was the commitment of neighborhoods to participate in the “Great American Clean-Up” (GAC) scheduled for April 18, 2009. The deadline for signing up is February 13th. At the last CRRT meeting, a verbal commitment was received from Sun Court/Elmwood Estates, Watergate Estates, Lake Worth West, Royal Palm Estates, Old Trail, and San Castle. Mr. Gainer asked if the neighborhoods had completed the registration. Two additional neighborhoods, Gramercy Park and Schall Circle confirmed their participation. Deputy D. Thomas requested that Joanna Aiken of Solid Waste Authority (SWA) re-send the information to Schall Circle to Keith Adams, the new manager there. Brendhan Horne, RPE, stated that he registered this morning. Ms. Aiken stated that by visiting the Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful website, you can see what neighborhoods have signed up. Old Trail replied that they would register after the meeting. Gramercy Park is confirmed and will be partnering with the Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District.

III. Discussion:

Mr. Gainer stated that one of the handouts on the table is a spreadsheet consisting of the Fiscal Year 2009 OCR/CCRT Funding Recommendations which were approved by the Board on February 3, 2009. Mr. Gainer asked the group to take a few minutes to review the table because there were some changes from the original table that the group reviewed and voted on at the November 18, 2008 meeting. Three projects totaling \$417,000 were removed from the original table for various reasons. The neighborhoods affected by the changes have been notified. Mr. Horne asked if “recommendations” meant that they were approved or simply recommended. Mr. Gainer responded that the “recommendations” were approved. They now become allocations. Discussion ensued about various projects. Mr. Tate added that the projects were removed because of eligibility. Mr. Gainer asked if there were any more questions about the Funding Recommendations. Mr. Horne asked how much had the CCRT budget been reduced from the previous year. Mrs. DeRose responded that last year’s allocation was \$2,225,000 compared to this year’s \$1,957,000. Mr. Tate added that 2007’s allocation was \$4,200,000 so there has been a progressive reduction of our budget.

Mr. Gainer stated that the Follow-Up Memo was now available on the table. Mr. Gainer asked if there were more questions regarding funding or the follow ups. David Rafaidus, Community Services, stated that it appears that the totals on the spreadsheet did not “add up”. Mr. Gainer responded that the table had undergone several changes and that there may be a typographical error. Mr. Rafaidus was concerned with the “District” totals being incorrect. Mr. Gainer stated he would correct any mistakes (the table was accurate). The group thanked Mr. Rafaidus for his attention to detail. Mr. Gainer asked if there were any questions in reference to the follow ups. Mr. Gainer briefly described OCR’s new process for handling follow up issues and what follow up actions took place since the last meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the follow up on illegal signs and their subsequent “disposal”. Mr. Gainer stated that the follow up issue regarding painting and repair of foreclosed properties which was brought up by a Deputy at the last meeting will need more time as well as the “soccer” issue.

Mr. Gainer asked if anyone came to today's meeting expecting information not address in the Follow-Up Memo. There were none.

IV. Department Updates:

Tim Granowitz, PBC Parks and Recreation, reported on the following:

- Presented the plans for the Watergate Estates CCRT park at the Watergate Estates neighborhood meeting last week; thanks to PBSO for coordinating the meeting; development of construction drawing is next; construction should begin within the next six (6) months.
- The splash pad at Glades Pioneer Park is under construction and should be ready for use by the community this May.
- The splash pad at Westgate Community Center plans are being finalized; once the plans are finalized they will be given to a contractor for bid preparations, then it goes to the Board for approval of the contract.

Mr. Horne asked a question about the follow up on the soccer issue. Mrs. DeRose responded that the issue was "site supervision", and using the fields at a reduced cost. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Gainer asked Mr. Granowitz for an update on the CCRT funded park on Bridgeman Road. Mr. Granowitz replied that he is still waiting for WUD to determine what land is available for the park. Mr. Gainer asked Sylvia Sharps of WUD if she could provide assistance with moving this project forward. Ms. Sharps agreed.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any more questions pertaining to Parks. Mr. Gainer asked if there was an update on the Gramercy Park/Community Center. Mr. Granowitz stated that a discussion needed to be held with Environmental Resources Management (ERM) on the acquisition of the land.

Michael Marquis, PBC Engineering (ENG) reported on the following:

- Cinquez Park – paving, draining, water and sewer plans are just about complete; a pre-advertise meeting has been scheduled for February 26, 2009 and if there are no issues the project can go out for bid.
- Navarre Road – just about ready to go to construction; final plans are in; most of the projects will be bid at the same time.
- Sun Court – ready for bid.
- "A" Street – plans are complete but ENG has submitted a request for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that will not be available until January 2010.
- Coconut Road – plans are 30% compete; another 3 to 6 months away from being ready to bid.

Mr. Horne asked Mr. Marquis if there was a "final" completion for the RPE paving on the east side of the canal. Mr. Marquis responded that the final inspection would be held today, which consists of doing a "punch list" of items the contractor needs to take care of (30-45 days to complete), then there is final paperwork to be completed to close the project out, but basically the project is complete.

Mr. Gainer stated that at a previous CCRT meeting Mr. Horne had requested an "Official Notification" from ENG that project was complete to be disseminated to the residents. Mr. Gainer stated that if "Official

Notification” was not something that ENG “normally” did, that OCR could assist with it. Mr. Marquis responded that ENG does not do “notifications”, but go to the Board to “close-out” projects, and that could be 6 months to a year after all the project’s bills are paid. Mr. Horne replied that he is only concerned with actual work in the neighborhood.

Sylvia Sharps, Water Utilities Department (WUD), reported on the following:

- Grand Opening of the Lake Region Water Treatment Plant is tentatively set for March 6, 2009, an invitation will be sent out.
- Wanted to say Thank You to CCRT/OCR staff for their prompt response to requests for information pertaining to the Pahokee Headworks/Canal Point Sewer Project. The project is moving quickly.

Mrs. DeRose commented that OCR is awaiting confirmation of funds from OFMB. Pam Nolan also commented on funding procedures and contracting. Discussion ensued regarding the process of “encumbering and un-encumbering” County funds.

- CDBG Funding – successfully submitted grants on behalf of the City of Pahokee for three projects totaling \$550,000.
- Enjoyed her participation in a REAP session.

David Rafaidus, PBC Community Services, reported on the following:

- Expecting a “surge” in residents seeking services due to the current “economic climate”, will bring brochures to the next meeting for distribution to neighborhoods; there is some confusion as to what services are provided in-house, and what services are contracted out; they have Rental Assistance, FPL Assistance, Countywide services for the homeless; are beginning to see more requests for substance-abuse services, psychological/mental health services, and the prediction is it will continue to get worse. If you have any questions of a “confidential” nature, please feel free to contact him (Mr. Rafaidus).

Pam Nolan asked where does the funding for FPL Assistance come from. Mr. Rafaidus replied that it comes from various sources such as the Community Action Program. They also partner with other agencies like United Way. Mr. Rafaidus added that they also have Food Banks throughout the County. Mrs. DeRose asked if this information was on the website. Mr. Rafaidus responded that it is usually available through the “partner” agencies that are providing the services. A brief discussion ensued regarding websites and referral processes.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were anymore Department updates.

Gail Vorpagel, PBC Code Enforcement, reported on the following:

- The issue brought up at the last meeting concerning a property on Wilshire Street has been processed for violations.
- Conducted a “sweep” of Banana Road (RPE), currently there are four active cases on that road.
- Attended the Gramercy Park Community Meeting; informed the residents that they would get a “full time” Code Officer assigned to their neighborhood who will attend all future community meetings.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were anymore Department updates. There were none.

V. OCR Staff Reports:

Audley Reid reported on the following:

- Conducted site visits with William Wynn and FPL to Plantation Village, RPE, and Haverhill West; FPL will attend next month's CCRT meeting. The tentative start date for these projects is June 1, 2009.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any more questions pertaining to streetlights. There were none.

LaToya Ricketts reported on the following:

- Currently accepting applications for the Resident Education to Action Program (REAP) to be held here March 17 through April 21.

Pam Nolan stated that she had received a phone call from a gentleman from Pahokee seeking computers who said he had attended a previous REAP course. Ms. Nolan was informed that Mr. Barnes had received twenty-two computers from OCR. Discussion ensued regarding different resources for acquiring computers.

VI. Resident Comments:

Kathy King, Lake Worth West, reported on the following:

- Family Night attendance continues to grow.
- "Hose Heads" attendance was seventy-nine (79).
- Movie In the Park attendance was one hundred thirty-six (136).
- The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) purchased food for the Marines that gave away toys in the neighborhood.
- "Ronald McDonald" will visit the community on February 20, 2009.
- February 27, 2009 next Movie In the Park
- The Health Fair will be held on March 21, 2009
- A special thank you to Pam Nolan for the "Farm Your Back Yard" information provided at the last CCRT meeting. They received free supplies for their community garden.

Brendhan Horne, RPE, reported on the following:

- Thanked Code Enforcement for the work on Banana Road.
- Thanked PBSO for assisting with a "problem" house.
- Reiterated to Mr. Tate the community preference for the "deleted" project funds (streetlights and sidewalks). Asked that Mr. Tate attend the neighborhoods' March 2009 meeting.
- Going for the first stage of their 501c3 application.
- Will have a Rummage Sale/Cookout fundraiser on March 7th.
- Happy the paving project is almost complete.
- Met with Race Trac representatives recently; plans going well.
- Still against the airport expansion.
- Will be meeting with "Farm Your Back Yard".

- Requested a follow up on their “sidewalk” project.

Kathy King, Lake Worth West, added that her neighborhood will begin a Fitness Boot Camp on February 26th and distributed flyers.

Illene Long, Old Trail, reported on the following:

- Asked Andy Hartman of ENG if they would be returning soon to finish mowing the ditch. Apparently there was an issue with “bees”. Discussion ensued regarding bee “removal”. Mr. Hartman agreed to follow up with Ms. Long

Deputy Harvey, Watergate Estates, reported on the following:

- Tremendous progress has been made in the appearance of the neighborhood the last eighteen (18) months; Gave thanks to Parks, SWA, Code Enforcement and Building.

Jason Bland, San Castle, reported on the following:

- Juana Ramos has resigned as President due to illness
- Had a “Scholarship Walk” for neighborhood students
- Expressed concern with Code Officer “changes” and missed appointments
- Have decided not to participate in the GAC; are planning a separate “large” clean-up date at the end of April
- Having drainage issue (especially San Castle Road) and “street lighting”
- Requested to meet with David Rafaidus in reference to “food” programs.

Various “team” members provided input to Mr. Bland.

Bobbi Boynton, Code Enforcement, gave Mr. Bland the names of the current code Officers for San Castle and agreed to attend the next community meeting.

Mr. Gainer asked if there anymore questions or comments from the group. There were none.

The next meeting will be held on March 10th.

VII. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

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

Approved by: Houston Tate, Director_____