



PALM BEACH COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

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Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
 Facilitator: Houston Tate, OCR Director
 Minutes Prepared by: William Wynn, OCR Senior Planner
 Date/Time: July 16, 2019
 Location: 2300 N Jog Rd., Room 1W-47, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Meeting Attendance:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Laura Arroyo | Limestone Creek Resident |
| 2. Rachel Bailey | Lake Worth High School-Student |
| 3. Randy Bailey | Realtor |
| 4. Tracy Bailey | Lake Worth High School |
| 5. Margaret Barry | PBC Library |
| 6. Deputy Bickunas | PBSO |
| 7. Deputy Cassie | PBSO |
| 8. Samantha Corr | PBC ERM |
| 9. Deputy Forde | PBSO |
| 10. Bonnie Hodges-Leech | San Castle Resident |
| 11. Helene Hvizd | PBC Attorney's Office |
| 12. Lenore Hydar | Baywinds Resident |
| 13. Wendy Kahan-Winters | PBC Resident |
| 14. Elizabeth Locke | PBC Library |
| 15. Lana Martinez | San Castle Resident |
| 16. Fadi Nassar | PBC Traffic Engineering |
| 17. Gloria Patterson | Limestone Creek Resident |
| 18. Francky Pierre-Paul | Kingdom Minded |
| 19. Deputy Plesnik | PBSO |
| 20. Paul Pontrelli | WBCC-Boca Winds Resident |
| 21. Ike Powell | PBC Youth Services |
| 22. Casey Pranckun | PBC Parks & Recreation |
| 23. David Rafaidus | PBC Community Services |
| 24. Audley Reid | PBC OCR |
| 25. Deputy Roock | PBSO |
| 26. George Schott | PBC OCR |
| 27. Michel Sklar | PBC HES |
| 28. Anna Stewart | Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC |
| 29. Esther Sutofsky | Century Village Resident |
| 30. Gerald Sutofsky | Century Village Resident |
| 31. Houston Tate | PBC OCR |
| 32. William Wynn | PBC OCR |

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Houston Tate, OCR Director, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. and asked the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) members and attendees to introduce themselves.

- II. **Department Updates:**

Michael Sklar, PBC Housing and Economic Sustainability (HES)

- The Board of County Commissioners BCC approved on July 2, 2019, the HES Action Plan for FY 2019-20. This Action Plan serves as the County's application to HUD to receive nine million dollar Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, and details how the funds will be used to address the goals and objectives outlined in the County's Consolidated Plan.
- HES has approximately \$500,000 available for its Emergency Solution Grant program which will help the homeless population within Palm Beach County (PBC).
- HES has \$2,000,000 available for the HOME Program for tenant based rental and down payment assistance for first time homebuyers.
- On July 22, 2019, HES will start accepting names to be placed on their waiting list for owner occupied rehabilitation and the owner occupied utility connection programs.
- HES also has 0% interest deferred second home loans up to seventy-five thousand dollars
- HES also has utility assessment funds available up to \$10,000 to assist eligible homeowners with utilities, sewer connections, etc.
- For additional information on HES' programs and services, please visit <http://pbcgov.com/HES>

Casey Pranckun, PBC Parks & Recreation (P&R)

- P&R has a new park plan for Bridgeman Drive that will go before the BCC for approval this month with possible construction beginning in August 2019.
- Plans are complete for the Limestone Creek and San Castle basketball court expansion projects.
- P&R has been unsuccessful in finding a property for a park location in the Plantation community.
- P&R is waiting on permitting for planned improvements at the Watergate Estates neighborhood park and for the pavillion at the Cabana Colony neighborhood park.
- Kenwood Park playground is currently under renovation.
- P&R will be constructing a new playground at the South Bay RV Park.
- The playground renovation at the Canal Point Community Center is complete.

Ike Powell, PBC Youth Services (YS)

- Youth Services (YS) has provided approximately 4,000 scholarships for youth to attend ninety summer camps around PBC and contracts with a vendor that delivers food to these sites.
- YS provides food year round to 40 community base agencies to ensure the development of our youth.
- YS has several programs that provide summer internships. For more information, please visit YS's website at <http://discover.pbcgov.org/youthservices>

Helene Hvizd, PBC Attorney's Office

- The BCC passed the revision to the County's ordinance about garbage pickup, making it an ordinance violation for garbage cans to be left out when it is not a garbage pickup day.

Samantha Corr, Environmental Resources Management (ERM)

- ERM manages 31,000 acres of natural lands throughout PBC that can be visited 365 days a year at no cost. Some of these lands are located within CCRT areas:
 - High Ridge Scrub, 7300 High Ridge Rd, south of Hypoluxo Rd;
 - Limestone Creek, 6570 Church Street, in Jupiter; and
 - Winding Waters, Dyer Blvd, west of Haverhill Rd, in West Palm Beach.
- ERM also offers free guided hikes. For additional information on ERM's programs and services, please visit their website at <http://discover.pbcgov.org/erm>

III. Presentation: Elizabeth Locke, Manager, PBC Hagen Ranch Road Branch

Ms. Locke spoke about the PBC Library Community Research Services. A summary of her presentation is provided below

- What is Community Research?
 - Librarianship Beyond the Library = Community Research
 - They are building relationships between librarians and people in our community who need our resources and information expertise.
- Started in 2015 with 15 of 30 county departments that responded to the advertisement stating they were interested in the program.
- A Sample of Project Examples from Year I
 - What are the pros and cons of using turf grass in parks?
 - How effective are Batterer Intervention Programs?
 - What practices can individuals and businesses implement to become more environmentally sustainable?
 - What are the best practices for streamlining the Request for Submittal process?
 - Staff loved working with the public and were assigned projects based upon their interests.
- Expansion of Service - In 2016, they broadened the community research service to include nonprofit organizations doing great things in Palm Beach County.
- Some of the organizations that they've worked with include:
 - Norton Museum of Art
 - Families First
 - Palm Beach County Homeless Coalition
 - COBWRA (Coalition of Boynton West Residential Assns)
 - Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
 - Glades Initiative
 - Rico's Scholarship Fund
 - Paul's Place
- What does all this mean to you? - The Palm Beach County Library System's Community Research Service can help you, partnering with a nonprofit, get the information that you need!
- What kind of information do we provide?
 - Funding research
 - Lists of potential funders and prior grants awarded
 - Needs data
 - Demographic information
 - Statistical research findings
 - Data related to community impact
 - Information on like programs/ organizations

- Executive summaries
- Local, state and nationals sources to support your work
- Workshops
- How to use our online resources or computer programs
- Data related to sex trafficking in Palm Beach County
- Research on local civil rights heroes
- Funding sources for artificial reef projects
- Samples of employee mentoring programs
- Research on drug prevention in children up to age 13
- Demographics and data related to PBC cultural diversity
- Best uses of excess horse manure in western communities

* A copy of the entire presentation is available from OCR upon request.

Presentation: Anna Stewart, DCP Manager, Drowning Prevention Coalition of PBC
 Ms. Stewart's presentation focused on "How to Escape a Sinking Vehicle"

Vehicle

Submersion

It's a Drowning Issue!

1. One of the highest fatality rates of single-motor-vehicle incidents in North America—approx. 400 deaths a year. (New York Times, 2017)
2. Florida leads the nation in vehicle submersion deaths. 2017 - Vehicle Submersion Deaths:
 - Broward County – 18% (14 out of 76)
 - Palm Beach County – 13% (6 out of 47)
 - Miami Dade – 10% (5 out of 50)

How To Escape A Sinking Vehicle

Be Informed

- Motor vehicle crashes in canals are the 3rd leading cause of drowning in PBC. (FL Medical Examiner, District 15).
- **GET OUT IMMEDIATELY** and **ESCAPE WITHIN** the **1st MINUTE** after a car enters the water!
- Float time of a vehicle can vary between 30 seconds and three minutes depending on vehicle's weight, design, seals, and structural damage on impact, among others. Unlock doors if possible.
- You have a few seconds in which opening the door might be possible otherwise there is too much pressure against the doors to do so.
- Don't take anything heavy or unnecessary with you when escaping. Your life and lives of those around you are most important.

How To Escape A Sinking Vehicle

Brace for Impact

- As soon as you're aware that you're going off the road brace for impact by placing hands on the steering wheel in the "nine and three" position.
- **REMAIN CALM, DO NOT CALL 911** – panicking and using the phone wastes energy and time you don't have. Concentrate on getting out!

Remember:

1. Seat belt off
2. Window open/break (Window breaking tools will not work on laminated side windows. Know what kind of side windows you have. Laminated or tempered? Call your manufacturer).
3. Children Out

4. Get OUT!!!!

Seat belt off

- Remove using release mechanism or by using a rescue/escape tool that can cut the seat belt.
- Unbuckle children, oldest first (who can then help w/ others).
- There are various types of rescue/escape tools. Do your research. Do NOT KEEP it in the GLOVE BOX or TRUNK!
- Place on keychain, inside center console that opens or closes, attached to visor w/tape. It is illegal to have anything hanging from your rearview mirror in the State of Florida.

Window Open/break

- Open driver side window as soon as you hit water. A car's electrical system can still work so try that first, otherwise use a rescue escape tool in bottom corner of side window to break it or try opening a sunroof.
- No tool or heavy object? Use feet or headrest. Hit not in the center of side window but on side (where hinges are).

Get Out!!

- Look to children first. Heave them up toward the surface as best as you can.
- Take a deep breath, and swim through broken window. Water may be pushing into the car so use your strength to swim out. It is possible!
- When exiting car do not kick feet until clear of vehicle. Be aware of strong currents or obstacles.

Seek Medical Attention!

- Adrenaline in bloodstream after escape may make you unable to detect injury.
- Hail passing motorist who can call for help.
- Hypothermia may be a real possibility depending on water temp.

Other Information

- Once you have escaped the vehicle be prepared for the water to be dark and murky.
- Blow bubbles out of your nose to determine which way is to the surface of the water.
- Clothing and heavy objects in pockets can make you sink. Be mentally prepared to kick off shoes and remove heavy outer clothing such as jackets if necessary.
- Be prepared to discuss this issue with others. Anticipation and planning are critical to surviving life-threatening emergencies.

Thoughts

- Most deaths in this type of scenario are due to panic and not having a plan or understanding what is happening to the car when it's the water.
- By adopting a brace position to survive impact, acting decisively when the car ends up in water, and getting out fast, being trapped in a sinking vehicle is survivable.
- TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN! Never drive into water on a flooded road. Your vehicle may stall or float away, for a vehicle can float in as little as 14-18 inches of water.

Frequently Asked Questions

- What if I have my dog or cat in the car? When you get window open, push animal out of the window. They should be able to get to surface.
- What if I have an infant in the car? Unbuckle infant by quickly slicing harness, open driver side window, exit using teddy bear hold which is like carrying a person in a hug until surface is reached.

- What if I can't swim? Likelihood of survival goes down. However, do anything you can to get up to the surface (i.e. Push off from car to propel yourself to top). Flailing will tire you out.
- Where can I get tool to break a car window? Buy online or get a center punch from DPC for \$10 donation.
- What about rear passengers? Remove head rest, exit through same window.

* A copy of the entire presentation is available from OCR upon request.

IV. Questions/Comments:

- Esther Sutofsky, Century Village Resident, commented on the homeless population and would like to be involved in finding solutions. Francky Pierre-Paul of Kingdom Minded, an organization that assists the homeless, advised Ms. Sutofsky that he would meet with her on this issue.
- Laura Arroyo, Limestone Creek Resident, inquired about what agency can help with the painting of homes. Houston Tate, OCR Director, advised that he will get her information and pass it on the appropriate person. Ms. Arroyo also inquired about who to contact in reference to residents with unkempt lawns. Mr. Tate advised that he will meet with her, obtain additional information on her specific informations, and then forward that information to the appropriate staff.
- Rachel Bailey, Lake Worth High School Student, inquired about information on rehabilitation and painting homes in Lake Worth. OCR committed to provide information on the Solid Waste Authority programs.
- Rachel Bailey, Lake Worth High School Student, asked if there were any resume building workshops for high school seniors. She also inquired about any scholarship programs for high school seniors in PBC. Ike Powell, CCRT representative from Youth Services (YS), responded that there are about forty agencies that help high school seniors with resume building. YS partners with Achieve, Inc. Achieve conducts workshops to help students with scholarships, completing college applications, recommendation letters etc.
- Esther Sutofsky, Century Village Resident, had questions about developers and developments. Houston Tate advise her to contact him and he will refer her to the appropriate staff to address her concerns.
- Paul Pontrelli, Boca Winds Resident, inquired about the SWA turnover of the garbage units as well as changes about garbage collection for his community. Mr. Tate advise him that he will forward his concerns to the appropriate staff.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

RM 8/3/19

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director