



**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION**

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## Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting Minutes

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Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting  
Facilitator: Duane Gainer, Senior Planner  
Date/Time: May 8, 2012/10:00 AM – 11:30 AM  
Location: 2300 N Jog Rd., Room 1VC-60, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

### Meeting Attendance:

1. Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
2. Al Albrecht, Plantation Village
3. Reverend David Broadbent, Canal Point Community Development
4. Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West
5. Deputy John Chapman, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
6. Deputy John DeLaura, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
7. Larry Diegert, Plantation Community
8. Deputy Willy Diejuste, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
9. Deputy J. Ellis, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
10. Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
11. Ann Griffith, FPRC
12. Deputy Harper, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
13. Quinn Hayes, P.B.C. Health Department
14. Anne Helfant, P.B.C. Attorney's Office
15. Lynn Hubbard, P.B.C. Housing Authority
16. Deputy Jim Kirkland, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
17. Deputy J. Lamm, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
18. Captain J. Lindskoog, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
19. Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident
20. Kevin Maher, DebtHelper.Com
21. Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
22. Jean Matthews, P.B.C. Parks and Recreation
23. Bill McDonald, Plantation Community
24. Ruth Moguillansky, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
25. Linda Moreno, Solid Waste Authority
26. Deputy Matthew Ott, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
27. Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
28. Reverend Wayne Padgett, Gramercy Park

29. Deputy Ira Peskowitz, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
30. David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services
31. Audley Reid, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
32. Deputy Keith Russell, P.B.C. Sheriffs' Office
33. Inda Spencer, Weed and Seed
34. Jeff Tarr, P.B.C. Resident
35. Houston Tate, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
36. Thomas Totz, Plantation Community Resident
37. Gail Vorpapel, P.B.C. Code Enforcement
38. Dean Wells, P.B.C. Building Department
39. Lieutenant Wesley White, P.B.C. Animal Care and Control
40. Ken Wilson, P.B.C. Health Department
41. CB Wohl, P.B.C. Health Department
42. William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

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## Meeting Minutes

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### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Comments: Called to order at 10:10 am

### 2. Review of Follow Ups

Comments: There were no follow-ups.

### 3. Special Presentations

Debt Helper.Com - Andrew Bernstein, Certified Personal Finance Counselor, started his presentation stating that Debt Helper.com is a nonprofit agency that seeks to identify and provide free aide to individuals who are experiencing financial stress due to Credit Card Debt and Foreclosure. The agency has been in existence since 1996 and is licensed in 42 states. They have been designated by HUD to be a housing counselor. They are part of the Hardest Hit Program for homeowners and also do counseling for senior citizens about reverse mortgages. They are also designated by the Census Bureau to do counseling for bankruptcy. They teach about budgets, credit, and provide services for organizations. The last 6 years they have been providing seminars for officers, and people with divorce debt.

Mr. Bernstein mentioned that Personal finance education is often overlooked as a necessary curriculum in our educational system and therefore CCMS strives to provide personal finance education whenever possible to local high school and college classes. For community groups and businesses located in the South Florida area, his agency offers free, on-site personal finance and credit education seminars catered to the audience's interests and needs. He said that if anyone is interested in scheduling a personal finance and credit presentation for their group to please e-mail him at [ABernstein@debthelper.com](mailto:ABernstein@debthelper.com) or call (561) 472-8000/ 800-920-2262. They are looking forward to a partnership with the OCR and be able to reach more community groups. There is no fee for consultation. Please see attached document for information provided during the meeting.

#### 4. Department Reports

**Parks & Recreation** – Mrs. Jean Matthews stated that the Crossroad Baptist Church in Gramercy Park always had a basketball court but there is a great need for a neighborhood park. Ms. Matthews showed the proposed park site plan. She explained that an 8<sup>th</sup> of a mile walking trail will run around the edge of the dry retention area. The center of the dry retention areas will be designed with a level, open playing field that can be used as a multi-purpose field. The field will be useable except during storm events. The Plan also calls for a hard court which can be used for tennis, basketball or volleyball, a playground and a 2,800 square foot neighborhood center. The neighborhood center will offer several services. Parks is using Lake Worth West (LWW) as a model. The park site was originally assigned to ERM and was encumbered with a conservation easement, the conservation easement has been removed and the property has been transferred from ERM to Parks. The property is located within the municipal limits of the City of West Palm Beach, and development of the park requires both the land use and zoning designation to be changed. Parks is in the process of rezoning the land to the appropriate designation. There is a special community meeting scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Crossroad Baptist Church to review the site plan and she invited all to attend and provide input.

Mr. Tate added that there is a Concern Identification/Suggestion Form that was handed out to everybody, and requested those who has any comments to please complete the form and return it to OCR staff.

**Solid Waste Authority** – Ms Joanna Aiken reported that the last cleanup was the largest yet. She stated the need for more volunteers because she is getting more and more requests from residents for assistance. Ms. Aiken asked for recommendations from those in attendance.

**OCR Staff Reports** – Mr. Tate again pointed out the yellow Concern Identification/Suggestion Form that was handed out. OCR staff will be distributing this form at every meeting, and it is important for those who want to provide input or have a concern to complete one and drop it off at our office or fax it to OCR.

Mr. Tate gave a summary of the OCR Workshops that were held on March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup>. Communities came out and were direct and honest about their concerns and what is needed from the County. Building upon the complexities of neighborhood dynamics, the workshops brought together a diversity of opinions from individuals with varied cultural backgrounds. In addition, it allowed for an intergenerational exchange of ideas, programs and services that should be provided to both better serve the youth and transform neighborhoods into thriving, safe, healthy, livable communities.

The City Managers in the Glades are looking for more meetings to help organize their communities. Mr. Tate mentioned that a meeting will be held after this CCRT meeting to talk about the outcomes of the workshops and how the information will be used to better serve Palm Beach County residents. Information gathered during the workshops will be used by OCR staff to determine what additional services and/or programs are required to address the unique needs of Palm Beach County neighborhoods.

Mrs. Crystal Mathews reported on the success of the OCR grant application to MPO. She explained that the OCR submitted a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) grant administered by the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The proposed project entitled “Canal Point Boardwalk Project” will construct a connector pedestrian/bike bridge along Old Connors Hwy and cross over the L10 canal connecting to the northern end of the canal linking the downtown area to the Nemaha subdivision in Canal Point. The OCR proposal was ranked number one but the funding won’t be available until 2015. The grant, which will bring \$639,860.00, in Federal funds will be used in the Canal Point neighborhood.

Ms. Ruth Moguillansky stated that the ceremony to celebrate completion of recent improvements at San Castle Neighborhood Park was wonderful as many residents and kids participated. It was held on April 21<sup>st</sup> and hosted by Commissioner Priscilla Taylor. The park now features a new playground for 5 to 12-year-olds and a new drinking fountain. Existing play equipment for 2 to 5-year-olds was repainted, and a portion of the park was cleared to make way for additional green space. The irrigation system was renovated, and new sod and landscaping were installed. She also mentioned that the Great American Clean-Up, which was done concurrently, was very successful as well. She also thanked Deputy Chapman for all his hard work.

## 5. Resident Comments

Comments:

**Plantation Community** – Larry Diegert stated that they held a community meeting outside and had one of the best turnouts in years. Their next meeting will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Trail** - Mrs. Eileen Long stated that her neighborhood is experiencing a problem with construction debris being dumped at an abandoned house (Address: 2434 Cecille). Bobbi Boynton, Code Enforcement Officer, stated that the property has already been tagged. Joanna Aiken suggested that a group of volunteers get together to clean up the property.

**Myla, Vilma, and Myrtle** - Ms. Inda Spencer brought to the attention of the group a private home wall in the CCRT Area which has become an eyesore. Mr. Tate asked Ms. Spencer to complete a yellow form to explain the problem in detail and submit it to OCR, so staff can follow up on the item.

## 6. Time & Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

## 7. Adjournment

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

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director \_\_\_\_\_