



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

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Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting Minutes

Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting
Facilitator: Houston Tate, Director
Minutes Prepared by: Chrystal Mathews, Senior Planner
Date/Time: September 13, 2016, 10:00-11:30 AM
Location: 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach

Meeting Attendance:

1. Sergeant Rich Angelo PBSO
2. Deputy Barricklow PBSO
3. Rudi Bester Memory Trees Corporation
4. Debbie Bester Memory Trees Corporation
5. Lance Burger
6. Deputy Delaura PBSO
7. Gregory Gabriel PBC Youth Services
8. Deputy Ellis PBSO
9. Sergeant James Hightower PBSO
10. Sonja Holbrook PBC Community Services Department
11. Lana Martinez San Castle Community Resident
12. Chrystal Mathews PBC Office of Community Revitalization
13. Bill McDonald Plantation Community Resident
14. Ruth Moguillansky PBC Office of Community Revitalization
15. Derrek Moore PBC Office of Community Revitalization
16. Michael Owens PBC School District
17. Jonasse Pierre Louis Limestone Creek Community
18. Casey Prankun PBC Parks & Recreation
19. Robin Rance-Hoffman PBC Commissioner Burdick's Office
20. Audley Reid PBC Office of Community Revitalization
21. Sam Roman PBSO
22. Michael Sklar Department of Economic Sustainability
23. Julie Sheffy Dillman Heights Resident
24. Houston Tate PBC Office of Community Revitalization
25. Carolina Villanueva Florida Crystals
26. Ken Wilson Florida Department of Health, Palm Beach County
27. William Wynn PBC Office of Community Revitalization

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Tate called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed all attendees and asked the group to introduce themselves.
- II. **Presentation** – Caroline Villanueva, South Florida External Affairs Manager, Florida Crystals Corporation.

After an introduction from Mr. Houston Tate, Ms. Vallanueva provided an overview of Florida Crystals Corporation. Below is a summary of key points made:

- Florida Crystals is America's first and only producer of certified organic sugar, grown and harvested in the United States.
- They produce sugar and rice; Mahatma is the local brand name used.
- It is a sixth generation Florida business and employs over 22,000 people.
- Florida Crystals has agreements with Solid Waste Authority and Florida Power and Light to generate renewable energy and electricity. The renewable energy converts biomass (plant matter) to energy.
- Recycled urban wood, vegetative waste and their leftover sugar cane fiber (bagasse) produces clean, environmentally-friendly energy that powers their sugar operations as well as thousands of homes.
- Florida Crystals owns and operates the largest renewable energy facility of its kind in North America and one of the largest in the world.
- Florida Crystals practices "sustainable agriculture", which works in harmony with the environment to protect natural resources. Laser leveling ensures fields are level to retain their soil and water. Crop rotation with by flooding the fields to grow rice keeps the soil vital and preserves field balance. Canal cleansing removes nutrient –rich soil from canals and spreads it back to the field.
- Florida Crystals is very active in the Glades community founding non-profits such as; New Hope Charities, charter schools such as; Everglades Preparatory Academy and Glades Academy and being involved and supporting Taking Stock in Children, Literacy Coalition, Back to School Bash (yesterday in Belle Glade) and Pahokee's Community Back to School Bash.
- Florida Crystals also has an agreement with Glades Central and Pahokee High School and provided over 1 million dollars since the 70's.
- We also operate a renewable energy facility which is the largest of its kind in North America and provides clean energy that powers our sugar operations along with tens of thousands of area homes. These efforts help us reduce our use of fossil fuels.

III. Questions

Does Florida Crystals work with migrant workers? They do not work with migrant workers they have employees that work year-round in some capacity.

Does Florida Crystal provide tours to schools of their plant? Yes, they can provide tours. Groups of 10 or less are preferred.

IV. Department Updates

Sam Roman, PBSO Community Relations Coordinator, reported on the following:

- PBSO is currently working with the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and WPTV to host the Hispanic Heritage Awards Celebration on Thursday, September 22, 2016 from 6pm to 8:30pm at WPTV News Channel 5 located at 1100 Banyan Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL. Members are free non-members are \$5.00. For more information go to www.prhchamber.com.
- The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County is hosting the Festival Latino on September 17th and 18th, 2016 at the South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center. For more information go to info@latinfestivalpb.com.
- The Summit of Latin American Consulates that was held on August 18, 2016 was a huge success. They had 13 representatives from 12 different consulates and over 600 participants.

Casey Pranckun, Parks and Recreation representative, reported on the following:

- Watergate Park is open but the Grand Opening was delayed due to the weather. A new date will be determined and posted.
- Lake Lytal park renovation is waiting to put the job out to bid around the first of the year as well as Canal Point.

Michael Sklar, Department of Economic Sustainability (DES) representative, reported on the following:

- DES has submitted the Housing and Urban Development Action Plan to the federal government to receive 7 million dollars of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.
- Ruth Moguillansky asked if any CDBG funds were, or are planned to be allocated for CCRT projects. Mr. Sklar stated that several projects that are located in CCRT neighborhoods have been submitted for funding. Mr. Sklar is to follow up on this item.

Gregory Gabriel, Palm Beach County Youth Services representative, reported on the following:

- Future Leaders United for Change will hold its next meeting on September 13, 2016 at 5:30pm-7:30pm at Youth Services located at 50 S. Military Trail 2nd floor-Room #2N-123, West Palm Beach, FL 33415.
- The Race to Equity Summit will be on Friday October 7th and Saturday October 8th at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

V. OCR Staff Reports

Ruth Moguillansky, Office of Community Revitalization's Principal Planner, reported on the following:

- The Board of County Commissioners approved today an amendment to the interlocal agreement executed in 2011 with the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for a flood mitigation project within the CRA (Item 3A-3). The project has been completed, and an extension is needed in order for the CRA to be reimbursed for completion of the project pursuant to the agreement.

Chrystal Mathews, Office of Community Revitalization, reported on the following:

- On September 27, 2016 the OCR is going to the Board of County Commissioners to recommend 30 projects for funding through the America's Next Top Neighborhood Grant Program.
- Planning for the 2017 Resident Education to Action Program (REAP) is underway. All classes will be held on Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The tentative dates and locations are as follows:
 - Western Palm Beach County- Quiet Waters Assisted Living Facility, 306 SW 10th Street, in Belle Glade. Classes will be held on January 26th, February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.
 - Central Palm Beach County- Vista Center, 2300 N. Jog Road, in West Palm Beach. Classes will be held on March 9th, March 16th, March 30th, April 6th, and April 13th.

VI. Residents' Comments

Rudy Bester, Memory Trees Corporation representative, reported on the following:

- Memory Trees Corporation job creation initiative project has successfully created Gramercy Green, Landscaping LLC.
- Memory Trees Corporation has been awarded a grant for \$15,000 to build a playground in Gramercy Park.
- Reese Bester and Deputy Ellis partnered to write a grant for a fence and irrigation in Gramercy Park.

VII. Follow Ups
N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

**The recording for this meeting will be made available upon request.*

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, OCR Director


