



## COUNTYWIDE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TEAM VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

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Meeting Title: Countywide Community Revitalization Team Meeting  
Facilitator: Houston Tate, OCR Director  
Minutes Prepared by: William Wynn, OCR Senior Planner  
Date/Time: April 19, 2022  
Location: WebEx Virtual Meeting

### MEETING ATTENDANCE

- |     |                    |   |
|-----|--------------------|---|
| 1.  | Ruth Ambroise      | PeopleConnect Inc.                                      |
| 2.  | Valerie Aubourg    | Foundcare, Inc.   |
| 3.  | Mohan Baijnauth    | Limestone Creek Resident                                |
| 4.  | Peretheiura Baker  | Health Care District of Palm Beach County               |
| 5.  | Daisy Butts        | School District of PBC                                  |
| 6.  | Dr. Caron          | School District of PPB                                  |
| 7.  | Maria Charleus     | Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition           |
| 8.  | Nicola Chung       | Health Council of Southeast Florida                     |
| 9.  | Ray Coleman        | Pine Jog Environmental Education                        |
| 10. | Samantha Corr      | PBC ERM   |
| 11. | Daniel Duenas      | PBC Parks & Recreation                                  |
| 12. | Dr. Elvis Epps     | School District of PBC                                  |
| 13. | Elizabeth Figueroa | National Wildlife Refuge Association                    |
| 14. | Natalie Frendberg  | PBC Office of Resilience                                |
| 15. | Arthur Frisch      | Country Club Acres Resident                             |
| 16. | Saidy Garzon       | Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group, Inc.           |
| 17. | Tanya Gibson       | Country Club Acres Resident                             |
| 18. | Nikole H.          |   |
| 19. | Steve Henry        | Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge |
| 20. | Violet Howard      | Optimistic Journey, Inc.                                |
| 21. | Margaret Humphrey  | Lutheran Services Florida South Bay Early Head Start    |
| 22. | Helene Hvizd       | PBC Attorney's Office                                   |
| 23. | Erik Johnson       | School District of PBC                                  |
| 24. | Veronica Kelly     | Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge |
| 25. | Bonnie Leech       | San Castle Resident                                     |
| 26. | DaVatrice Lindsey  | Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County                  |
| 27. | Hazel Lucas        | Florida Rural Legal Service                             |
| 28. | Alexander Muhammad | Gramercy Park Resident                                  |
| 29. | Fadi Nassar        | PBC Traffic Engineering                                 |
| 30. | Michael Owens      | School District of PBC                                  |
| 31. | Cassandra Paniagua | Florida Rural Legal Service                             |
| 32. | Pascale Reid       | Florida Rural Legal Service                             |
| 33. | Audley Reid        | PBC OCR   |

34.	Leroy Rouse	Gramercy Park Resident
35.	Edna Runner	Edna Runner Tutorial Center
36.	Shirlon St. Amour	Boynton Beach Resident
37.	George Schott	PBC OCR
38.	Milroy Senat	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
39.	Michael Sklar	PBC Housing & Economic Development
40.	Zachary Stauber	The STEM Stars
41.	Houston Tate	PBC OCR
42.	Sherry	
43.	Steve West	The IN-CROWD
44.	venkatatadepalli	
45.	William Wynn	PBC OCR

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Houston Tate, OCR Director, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. Tate introduced Ray Coleman, Executive Director of the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

Mr. Coleman introduced Steve Henry, Deputy Project Leader at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

### **II. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Ray Coleman, Executive Director, Pine Jog Environmental Education Center**

Mr. Coleman began by stating that he is excited about the partnership that is developing and he thanked Mr. Tate for inviting him to the CCRT meeting. He also introduced Veronica Kelly, Park Ranger, also with the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, and Elizabeth Figueroa, South Florida Regional Partnership Specialist at the National Wildlife Refuge Association. Mr. Coleman was in attendance to talk about the Growing Our Urban Earth Force (Go Urban Earth) project.

\* A copy of the full presentation is attached at the end of this document.

#### **Questions/Comments**

- Dr. Elvis Epps, with the School District of PBC, asked whether the activities would take place after school hours and/or on the weekends. Mr. Coleman responded that there will flexibility to design the program based on what the needs are. The program activities are currently taking place after school and on weekends. Dr. Epps advised that he has informed a teacher and the school's science department chair about Go Urban Earth. Dr. Epps stated that Erik Johnson, one of the teachers, is currently working on something similar so it will be an easy transition for him if Lake Worth High School students are awarded. Dr. Epps also asked whether the students will be compensated and receive community service hours. Mr. Coleman responded that the

students could receive community service hours. Also being explored is the ability for students to be dual enrolled by being in the Go Urban Earth program.

**Veronica Kelly, Park Ranger, Arthur R. Marshall, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Elizabeth Figueroa, South Florida Regional Partnership Specialist, National Wildlife Refuge Association** was in attendance to talk about the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Urban Wildlife Conservation Program

\* A copy of the full presentation is attached at the end of this document.

### III. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Daniel Duenas, PBC Parks & Recreation
  - Parks & Rec is still waiting on the contractor to proceed with the implementation of the Bridgeman Park construction project.
  - The conversion of the Gramercy Park tennis court to a basketball court has been delayed.
  - In the area of Belvedere Heights park there is sidewalk construction going on through the Engineering department.
- Samantha Corr, PBC ERM
  - Great American Cleanup (GAC) at the Limestone Creek Natural Area will be held on April 23, 2022 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The event participation is limited to the first 15 volunteers who register. [discover.pbcgov.org/erm/NaturalAreas/Limestone-Creek.aspx](https://discover.pbcgov.org/erm/NaturalAreas/Limestone-Creek.aspx)
  - The ERM Green Futures summer internship for 17-22 year olds is a four week paid internship. The purpose of the Green Futures summer internship is to inspire and mentor by giving first-hand experience along with real-world skills working in “green” jobs that preserve, protect, and enhance Palm Beach County’s land and water resources.
- Michael Sklar, PBC HED
  - PBC HED is going before the BCC on April 26<sup>th</sup> for a workshop to present strategies in reference to the CDBG, HOME and the Home Investment Partnership Program for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2022. If approved, HED will prepare a draft plan, which will be available to the public in May or June of 2022.
  - HED currently has rehabilitation funding up to \$100,000 for homes within unincorporated PBC. Applicants must attend the mandatory virtual orientation. Applications will be accepted on a first submitted, first qualified, first served basis, subject to funding availability beginning Monday, April 11, 2022 at 8:00am. until Friday, May 13, 2022 at 11:59pm, or until 70 applications have been submitted. <https://discover.pbcgov.org/HED/Pages/ARPA-Owner-Occupied-Housing-Rehabilitation-Program-NOFA.aspx>

### IV. OCR Updates

- Houston Tate, OCR Director, stated that OCR staff is working on the grant applications newsletter. This document will be distributed by the end of April.

## V. Resident Questions/Comments

- Zachary Stauber provided a brief overview of The STEM Stars. The STEM Stars is a volunteer one on one tutoring service for students who are aspiring to go into one of the STEM fields in underserved neighborhoods.
- Steve Henry, with the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, mentioned that the Loxahatchee Refuge is now emerging from the pandemic and has reopened the visitor's center. The center is open seven days a week 9am-4pm. The Refuge is welcoming field trips. In addition, the Refuge has begun taking their programs to the road. The website is: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/arthur-r-marshall-loxahatchee>
- Tanya Gibson, Country Club Acres resident, asked about the reasons for the delays in the construction of parks. Daniel Duenas, PBC Parks & Rec. representative, replied that he believes there is a staffing issue causing the delay, and stated that the delay would push the projects back approximately one month. He mentioned that there is a construction project currently underway at Carlin Park.

Ms. Gibson thanked Daniel Duenas for the contractor contact. She also shared community residents' concern with the physical location of the proposed speed hump that will be located near the traffic light at Monroe Rd. The concern is that drivers exiting from Military Trail onto Monroe Rd. will back up traffic along Military Trail. Mr. Tate replied that OCR staff would have Traffic Engineering make a field visit to the location. Fadi Nassar, PBC Traffic Engineering explained that the reason for the speed hump at this location 200 ft. (8 car lengths) from Military Trail is to slow down the traffic coming from Military Trail.

Ms. Gibson inquired about the Health Clinic and free grab-and-go Narcan email she received from OCR. Ms. Gibson would like to combine the Health Clinic and free grab-and-go Narcan with their safety classes, which is part of their NEAT grant. Ms. Gibson stated that she has spoken with The CPR School. The CPR School conducts safety classes and has conducted the classes with other CCRT area communities. Narcan responses are included in the classes. Ms. Gibson inquired is it possible for her community to get Narcan. Mr. Tate advised that he would get back with Ms. Gibson on this item.

- Arthur Frisch, Country Club Acres resident, asked whether it would be possible to have the speed humps for Lake Blvd installed on both sides of the street. Fadi Nassar, PBC Traffic Engineering, replied that there is no technical reason that this cannot be done even though the street has a curve, which slows traffic.

He stated that there is no stop sign at the intersection of Lake Blvd. and Harrison Rd, either going east or west. Would like a four way stop at this location. Fadi Nassar replied that there are strict guidelines for a four way stops. A four way cannot be installed at this location. There has to be balanced traffic volume according to the national guidelines. If the national guidelines are not met this could be liability unless there is justification for it.

- Tanya Gibson, Country Club Acres resident, inquired if there could be two speed humps installed westbound on Lake Blvd. before Harrison Rd. Fadi Nassar replied that this could be done but there has to be community support for the installation of the speed humps.
- Alexander Muhammad, Gramercy Park Resident inquired about the process to have speed humps installed. Mr. Tate replied that OCR would follow up with him to go over the speed hump program and application process.

He asked whether the community could get “No Trucks” signs installed in the community. Fadi Nassar advised that Traffic Engineering would evaluate and follow up with him on this item.

- Mohan Baijnauth, Limestone Creek resident advised that there would be a GAC event on May 7<sup>th</sup> in his community. All are welcome.

He stated that even though there are expensive homes being built in his community there are still drainage issues on Palm Garden St., and other infrastructure issues that need to address. Mr. Tate advised that he would follow up with him regarding his concerns. Fadi Nassar stated that PBC Road and Bridge should be contacted to look at the drainage issue.

- Bonnie Leech, San Castle resident, thanked OCR, The IN-CROWD and PBSO for the dedicated work in the San Castle community. Ms. Leech stated that she was able to do so many things within the community because of the partnerships.
- Steve West, with The IN-CROWD, also thanked all for the partnerships that is still developing. Mr. West stated that there are two parts to The IN-CROWD program. The first part is getting things to people that need it now! This is the short-term goal. The second part is to bring opportunities to communities that does not have an equal share. This is the long-term goal, which is also called The IN-CROWD University (ICU). The STEM Star another partner provides mentors and tutors to students that are interested in going into STEM careers. The IN-CROWD ICU have classes for English as a second language for Spanish speaking people and remedial math classes. Also starting soon there will be classes for different jobs in the food service industry as well as gardening classes. Other classes can also be created, if needed. He advised that if any organization/group need volunteers to please contact him.
- Edna Runner, Edna Runner Tutorial Center, thanked OCR, PBSO and other partners for the dedicated work.
- Valerie Aubourg, Associate Practice Administrator with FoundCare, Inc. took the opportunity to introduce herself to the CCRT committee and meeting attendees. FoundCare, Inc. is a nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center located throughout Palm Beach County.

*The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.*

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



A photograph of the FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. The building is a modern, single-story structure with a light-colored facade. It features a large, flat roof with a series of solar panels installed on it. The entrance is covered by a white, open-sided canopy supported by several white columns. To the left of the building, there is a palm tree. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text "FAU PINE JOG ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER" is visible on the building's facade.

# FAU PINE JOG ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

## A National EE Demonstration Center

*Where Learning Comes Naturally*



# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DEFINED

*“Environmental education is a process that helps individuals, communities, and organizations learn more about the environment, and develop skills and understanding about how to address global challenges.”*

North American Association  
for Environmental Education



**A means to creating Environmentally Literate Citizens**

# ELEMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

- **Awareness** – memorable experiences to encourage environmental sensitivity
- **Attitude** - develop appreciation and concern for the environment
- **Knowledge** – aid in the understanding of ecological concepts and issues
- **Skills** – develop skills needed to resolve issues or use environmental action strategies
- **Participation** - develop the ability for action and participation





# PLACE-BASED EDUCATION

What is Place-Based Education?



*Where Learning Comes Naturally*



# ABOUT YOUR SENSE OF PLACE





# WHAT IS SENSE OF PLACE?

Two components

Place of attachment

Place meanings





# WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Strong Place Attachment  
+  
Emphasized Ecological Place Meaning  
= Pro Environmental Behavior





# WHAT IF YOUR PLACE LOOKS LIKE THIS?





# OR THIS?





# ECO JUSTICE AND URBAN YOUTH

- Increased exposure to environmental threats
- Low levels of environmental education
- Low research on inner-city youth perception of nature and environmental issues

Arjen Wals, 1995



*Where Learning Comes Naturally*



# EXPERIENCES WITH NATURE

A background

A place for recreation

A place to reflect

A threatened place

A place of unknown

A challenging place

A reflection of past

A threatening place





# BEST PRACTICES FOR URBAN EE

- Listen and learn
- Invest time
- Build relationships
- Choose messengers
- Do homework
- Good will, good intentions, humility
- Become embedded
- Develop partnerships
- Think long-term
- Committed to diversity and equity

(Defalco and Bonta, 2010)





# PARTNERSHIP WITH LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE





# URBAN REFUGE

## Standards of Excellence

Standard 1-Know and relate to the community

Standard 2-Connect Urban People with Nature via Stepping Stones of Engagement

Standard 3-Build Partnerships

Standard 4-Be a Community Asset

Standard 5-Ensure Adequate Long-Term Resources

Standard 6-Provide Equitable Access

Standard 7-Ensure Visitors Feel Safe and Welcome

Standard 8-Model Sustainability





# GROWING OUR URBAN EARTH FORCE

- FAU Pine Jog and Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
- 24 weeks (flexible)- roughly one meeting per week
- Part 1- Survey community environmental challenges
- Part 2-Pick a challenge and design a community project
- Part 3- Implement the project and celebrate the accomplishment





# GROWING OUR URBAN EARTH FORCE

- Fully funded- no cost to organization or participant
- Six students per group
- \$5,000 allocated to complete the project
- Prioritizes lower-income urban communities
- Participants receive \$125 stipend upon completion





# QUESTIONS







FAU PINE JOG ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION CENTER

6301 Summit Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
(561) 686 - 6600

*Visit Us!*

*Where Learning Comes Naturally*

[Ray Coleman](#)

[www.pinejog.fau.edu](http://www.pinejog.fau.edu)  
[Colemanr@fau.edu](mailto:Colemanr@fau.edu)

561-686-6600



# **Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge**

## **Urban Wildlife Conservation Program**

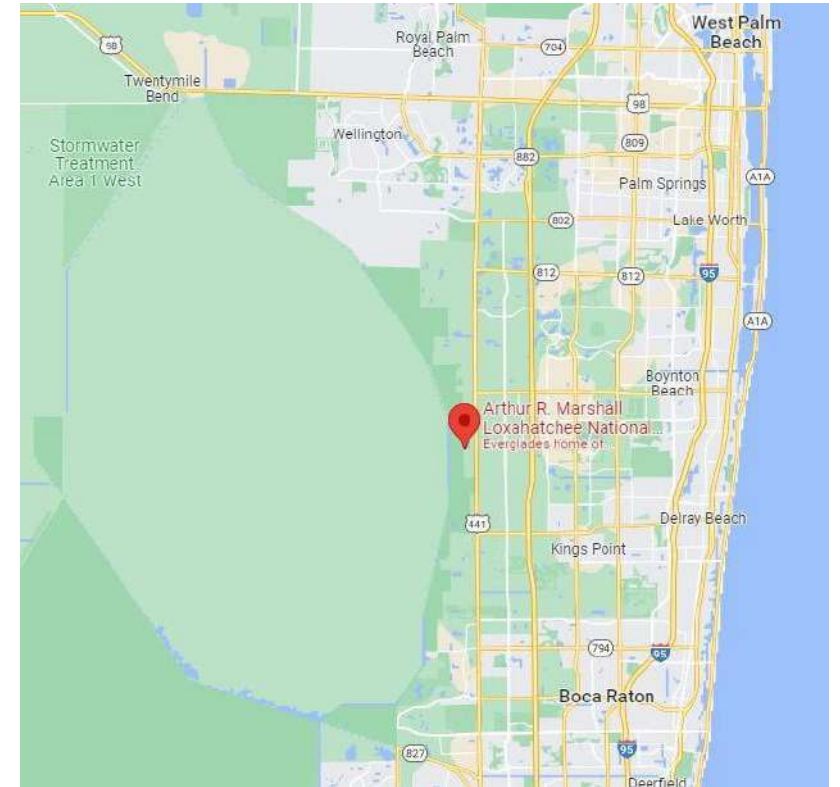


**NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGE SYSTEM**



# Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR

- Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Center in Boynton Beach, FL
- Over 145,000 acres of Everglades habitat
- Opportunities for hiking, biking, paddling, fishing, photography, & more
- We can't do it alone



***“Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance, fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”***



# Urban Wildlife Conservation Program

- 2013 – Designated as an Urban Refuge
  - Located within 25 miles of 250,000 people
  - We are within a one-hour drive of 6 million people!
- Building innovative, trust-based partnerships underserved communities
- Listen to the needs of communities and partners
  - Provide underserved youth with job opportunities
  - Improve access to nature
  - Tools and resources for urban residents to address environmental issues in their own communities



# Growing Our Urban Earth Force (GOUEF)

- \$150,000 funding to help support Pine Jog Environmental Education Center's GOUEF program

## Growing Our Urban Earth Force

- Tools and resources for youth to identify and address environmental issues in their own communities
- Develop connections with professionals





# Community Greening

- \$150,000 funding to help support the Youth Tree Team
  - Help sponsor seven teens for two years
- Youth Tree Team
  - Employs local teens
  - Work on a variety of environmental projects in surrounding communities
  - Increasing tree canopy in low-income neighborhoods
  - Skills and training for “green” careers





# National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA)

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**“As the leading independent voice advocating on behalf of the National Wildlife Refuge System, we protect, promote, and enhance America’s wildlife heritage through strategic programs that serve the System and wildlife beyond its boundaries”**



NATIONAL  
Wildlife Refuge  
ASSOCIATION

# NWRA Urban Refuge Program

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## **Goal:**

Reach beyond Refuge boundaries into communities to connect urban audiences to the natural environment

## **Process:**

- Awareness, Outreach, Communication
- Build Sustainable Partnerships
- Cultivate a Diverse Talent Pipeline
- Support and Advance the USFWS Urban Wildlife Conservation Program



NATIONAL  
Wildlife Refuge  
ASSOCIATION



# Contact Info

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Phone: (202) 557-4186



NATIONAL  
Wildlife Refuge  
ASSOCIATION

# Questions?

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

[www.fws.gov/refuge/arthur-r-marshall-loxahatchee](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/arthur-r-marshall-loxahatchee)

National Wildlife Refuge Association

[www.refugeassociation.org/](http://www.refugeassociation.org/)

Community Greening

[communitygreening.org](http://communitygreening.org)



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