

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of April 5, 2006

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Clayton Hutcheson Building, Hall “B”

Minutes

Present:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
Deputy Barbalaco, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (San Castle)
Dominic Bricillo, Roseland Park Resident
Jorceline Cadet, P.B.C. Housing Authority
Kim Ciklin, Administrative Assistant, Commissioner Koons
Deputy Jose Claudio, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West Resident
Corporal Combs, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Matt Cronin, Emergency Management Division
Sgt. Rick Dempsey, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Deputy W. Dieujuste, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Dan Dumas, San Castle Community Leadership Inc.
Ed Frazier, Old Trail Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Seretha George, City of Greenacres
Tim Granowitz, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation Department
Deputy Gray, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Sylvia J-Hamilton, P.B.C. Water Utilities Department
Cynthia Hammond, City of South Bay
Deputy Willie Hanks, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Dyson Circle)
Joyce Harrell, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Anne Helfant, P.B.C. County Attorney's Office
Ron Hinkle, P.B.C. Criminal Justice Commission
Janel Horne, Royal Palm Estates Resident
Pat Huggins, Old Trail Resident
Jan Jeck, P.B.C. Property & Real Estate Management
Holly McQuire Judd, Country Club Acres West Resident
Edward Kaye, WGHNA
Kathy King, Lake Worth West Resid. Planning Group
Deputy Kirkham, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Nancy Lashway, P.B.C. Health Department
Dave Kouns, Roan Lane Resident
Heather Levy, Solid Waste Authority
Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident
Edward Lowery, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Lt. Ed Luty, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office

Present (Cont'd)

Gary Marcinkosk, San Castle Resident
Michael Marquis, P.B.C. Engineering Department
Tonda Masson, Lake Worth Corridor
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Gerry Metayer, Blue Sky Mobile Home Park/Old Trail Resident
Deputy C. Mosher, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services
LaToya Ricketts, Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Deputy Gary Schettini, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Selva Selvendra, P.B.C. Health Department
Sharon Sheppard, Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA
Courtney Shippey, P.B.C. Health Department
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade
Charles Tear, Emergency Management Division
Corporal Mike Tramonte, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Deputy C. Veneziano, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Deputy K. Viti, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Becky Walker, P.B.C. Criminal Justice Commission
Dean Wells, P.B.C. Building Division
Kathleen Wright, P.B.C. Health Department
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

CCRT Members Absent:

Penny Anderson, P.B.C. GIS
Jeff Collins, P.B.C. Fire Rescue
Diana Cunningham, P.B.C. Criminal Justice Commission
Gerry Gawaldo, P.B.C. Palm Tran
Tim Granowitz, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation
Tom Lefevre, P.B.C. Health Department
Don Loutsch, Children Services Council
Chauncey Taylor II, P.B.C. Facilities Development & Operations Department (FDO)
Guy W. Volk, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development
Gail Vorpapel, P.B.C. Code Enforcement Division

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Duane Gainer introduced himself and asked meeting participants to introduce themselves.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Mr. Gainer asked if anyone had corrections to the March 14, 2006 CCRT minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes.

III. REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UPS:

Mr. Gainer stated that copies of the follow-ups from the March 14, 2006 CCRT meeting were provided for the group. He asked the group to contact him or Chrystal Mathews, if anyone had questions. (See attached follow-ups)

IV. PRESENTATION: Emergency Operations Center – Chuck Tear, Director

Mr. Tear began by stating that he has been involved with this type of work for about twenty-three (23) years and he believes that disaster response happens at the community level. He mentioned that he was working in Miami during Hurricane Andrew, and he spent two (2) weeks in New Orleans helping out after the hurricane. Mr. Tear introduced Matt Cronin, Coordinator for Emergency Operations Center (EOA) Area Program.

Mr. Tear stated that he came on board with Palm Beach County on December 5th. One of the things he began looking at was the response to Hurricane Wilma and the other hurricanes, and as a result what he found lacking was a community-based response. Since that time, he has put together a process to implement a plan to work on this issue. Mr. Tear began to discuss this plan and his thoughts with the group. He believes that we need to respond, especially to a catastrophic event, by identifying the needs immediately. He further stressed that we need to look at the situation from the victim level. Mr. Tear brought packets for the group, which included a map of Palm Beach County showing a breakdown of all six (6) geographic emergency operating areas, Glossary of terms for emergency operating areas, and a chart showing management and coordination of teams for the six (6) emergency operating area needs.

Mr. Tear began to discuss preparing for a CAT 3 or CAT 4 hurricane. He stated that if one of these types of hurricanes were to hit the area, our needs start prior to the hurricane and the winds reaching the area. He stressed the importance of people preparing for five (5) to seven (7) days of inconvenience during a hurricane or for almost any type of emergency. Mr. Tear began to talk about his hurricane experiences and how even more devastating it could be when we are not properly prepared prior to the start of hurricane winds.

Mr. Tear discussed the coordination or implementation process involving the selected teams. He is proposing to identify what some of the needs are for each of the six (6) geographical areas before the hurricane season starts. He stated that the teams involved are already community-based and will be assigned and ready to start bringing people together to coordinate some of the services prior to the hurricane starting. Mr. Matt Cronin, will be responsible for coordinating these teams out in the field. Mr. Tear mentioned that one of the team's is the Parks & Recreation Department, which are already community-based in the various communities. He further stated that he is starting to look at food, water, and distribution systems to identify location of POD's throughout the entire County. He stated that POD's would be placed in the vicinity of the Publix Market's. In advance people will be informed of these locations prior to the wind reaching the area. The distribution sites will be available prior to the hurricane only for people that are not financially able to prepare for themselves.

IV. PRESENTATION: Emergency Operations Center – Chuck Tear, Director (Cont'd)

Mr. Tear talked about his approach for assessing the needs of the community. His approach will be to assess what the health, mental health, and physical needs are of the community. He mentioned that once these needs are identified, he would be seeking funds to help provide for these services. He stated that he would like to hire people that are out of work to assist with these needs. Mr. Tear further commented that every twenty-four (24) hours, during a hurricane, our needs changes. If any organization or community has a specific need, you can email him at ctear@psd.co.palm-beach.fl.us or Matt Cronin at mcronin@psd.co.palm-beach.fl.us.

Mr. Tear stated that he is targeting the CCRT group to assist with pre-identifying some of the immediate services needed after the wind has stopped. He stated that someone from his office would be attending the CCRT meetings for the next few months.

Lastly, Mr. Tear asked Matt Cronin if he had any comments. Mr. Cronin commented regarding another type of distribution service that EOC is planning. He mentioned that the bulk distribution site, located at Lake Lytle Park will be available for the various organizations to register with the County and pick up these items at this location. This year, they are looking at creating bulk distribution sites in North County, South County, and Central County.

Mr. Gainer asked the group for questions.

Deputy Schettini, CPO in Pahokee, commented in reference to Publix Markets stocking the POD's. He stated that the Glades does not have a Publix and he asked if Mr. Tear would be contacting any of the stores to set something up. Mr. Tear stated that he met with the three (3) cities and Department of Community Affairs. He has already identified Publix Markets for the POD's locations. He further commented that he has spoken with Publix and he does not foresee any plans of Publix putting a Publix in this area. He is looking at working with Sysco, Cheaney Brothers, etc. to bring resources to the Glades. He is also looking at putting some infrastructure in place early to be able to bring in temporary housing (connection for mobile homes). He mentioned that he would be attending a Redevelopment Workshop to be held on April 19th, with Department of Community Affairs.

Kathy King stated that Lake Worth West is fortunate to have a community center. She asked Mr. Tear for any suggestions as to what they could do to be more prepared for a hurricane. Mr. Tear commented that someone from his office could come out to help build a community-base response plan for this community.

Someone from the P.B.C. Health Department, stated that she is the PACE Coordinator for Watergate Estates, in West Boca Raton. She commented that this community had some major problems after the last hurricane. Watergate Estates is an unincorporated area. Her concern is that in the past, there has not been a structure for filtering this type of information to this area. She inquired if Mr. Tear had a plan or an approach for getting information out into the communities. Mr. Tear responded that he has already submitted a grant for community outreach. Once the grant is approved, he will hire people to move forward with an education/information process in the communities. He mentioned that there are two (2) projects that he is working on: one is called Project HOPE, and he did not name the other one.

IV. PRESENTATION: Emergency Operations Center – Chuck Tear, Director (Cont'd)

Michael Marquis, Engineering Services, inquired if whether Mr. Tear had looked into the issue with the gas stations not having generators to pump gas. Also Mr. Marquis stated that once there is a power outage, we have no TV or Radios. His concern is with how will information get publicized in advance to people. Mr. Tear commented that during Hurricane Andrew, a daily newspaper was distributed in four (4) languages. He further mentioned using the bulletin board system. At the six (6) emergency operations center locations, there will be a bulletin board with this type of information. Hopefully this system will be in place by this year. His concern is with having accurate information daily. He also mentioned using the blimp in the sky or huge colorful balloons as a resource or location for getting information, etc. Mr. Tear commented that in New Orleans information was passed out daily. This was their only source of information.

Cynthia Hammond, City of South Bay, had a concern regarding evacuation for the Glades area. She inquired if evacuation was an area that he was focusing on. Mr. Tear responded no, currently his major focus has not been evacuation. He mentioned that he had two (2) areas of concern: the entire dam system, and replacing the new weather alert radio repeater. This will help with evacuation, or notifications in the Glades area.

David Rafaidus, Community Services, commended Mr. Tear on the plan that he has put together for this year's hurricane season. He commented that the air balloons were a good idea but wouldn't the weather play a factor. Mr. Rafaidus further inquired about any future trainings/courses in dealing with disasters. Mr. Tear commented that another area he is looking at is a bird and flu plan, and a terrorism plan. Again, he commented that it is important that people be able to sustain themselves for at least five (5) to seven (7) days with food, water & medication supply after a hurricane. Mr. Tear mentioned other future trainings: hazard expo (information on asthmatic, flooding, drowning), and flooding expo.

Kathy Wright, Health Department, inquired whether a public transit plan was part of this process. Mr. Tear responded that he met with Palm Tran to look at several different areas. He stated that this has not been a primary focus of concern. Palm Tran has a good transit system.

Ms. Wright also inquired if neighborhood population were a concern that he may need to look into. Mr. Tear responded that Project HOPE is going to help identify some of these areas. There is a system already in place where you can pre-register to be picked up. Mr. Tear commented that maybe more outreach is needed to let people know that this service is available.

LaToya Ricketts, OCR staff inquired if whether transportation will be available to people that may need transportation to the six (6) emergency operations distribution sites. Mr. Tear responded this has not been developed yet.

IV. PRESENTATION: Emergency Operations Center – Chuck Tear, Director (Cont'd)

Mr. Gainer commented that the above-mentioned issue was also a concern of his. He further commented that some of the neighborhoods are a lot bigger than it may appear on the map. Matt Cronin commented that this is why the areas were divided into six (6) areas; along with having distribution sites within each area. The County is meeting with the municipalities to also identify exactly where their prime locations are going to be. Mr. Tear further explained that there would be more than one POD, feeding sites, and housing sites within each of the six (6) distribution areas.

Edward Lowery commented that the County is extremely fortunate to have him as a part of the County system. It seems as though he brings an extraordinary amount of experience and knowledge.

Mr. Lowery asked Mr. Tear if he had looked into setting up something with any of the grocery stores in the Glades. He further commented that in the entire Glades area, there are no Publix Markets; the City of South Bay does not have a grocery market; and the City of Belle Glade has two grocery markets (Winn Dixie, U-Save). Mr. Lowery also commented that some people might not have the means, a car, or the money to get to a Publix Market, where the POD's are located. Mr. Tear responded that he has not entered into an agreement with any of the grocery markets in the Glades. He is looking at working with Sysco, and some of the other food distribution companies to bring the necessary items to the Glades.

Mr. Gainer informed Mr. Tear that Canal Point is not mentioned on the map. Canal Point is a small community (north of Pahokee). They are totally unincorporated (no mayor, or city manager).

Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton, Water Utilities, also commented in reference to the importance of getting the information filtered to the people that really need it. She mentioned that she worked with Red Cross last year assisting with delivering meals; and also churches. She feels that these organizations are a good place to relay information that need to get to the communities. Mr. Tear commented that the Red Cross has agreed to assign a person at each of the six (6) emergency operation center sites.

A Deputy commented regarding gas stations having fuel but did not have power to pump the gas. Also the stations that did have generators, the lines were extremely long. He inquired if this issue was being looked into. Mr. Tear commented that he has never seen a response to a need as much as he has with generators. He informed the group of a bill that was passed or is in the process of approval stating that for every gas station that has sixteen (16) or more pumps be required to have a generator. Also the legislation as well as ordinances are requiring that all new gas stations have generators or transfer switches. EOC is currently identifying these gas stations.

Kim Ciklin, with Commissioner Koons' Office, inquired about the criteria for allowing people to have access to the bulk distribution centers. Mr. Cronin, responded that there is no specific criteria set yet, besides the County's approval.

IV. PRESENTATION: Emergency Operations Center – Chuck Tear, Director (Cont'd)

Sharon Sheppard, Westgate CRA, commented regarding the traffic after the hurricane. She stated that after the hurricane the traffic was horrific. She further commented that in Miami, County employees were trained to go out and direct traffic. Mr. Tear responded that issuing a curfew after the wind stops would restrict the traffic flow for about 24 to 48 hours. Also the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is looking at including some traffic control training. Additionally, he is looking at placing more stop signs.

Janel Horne, P.B.C. Head Start, asked how efficient would the County be without assistance from outside resources, if we were issued a quarantine notice. Mr. Tear stated that from a hurricane perspective, pre-staged sites are located very close to Palm Beach County. The County is also a part of the distribution system.

Mr. Tear expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Koons for inviting him and staff to do a presentation at the CCRT meeting.

David Rafaidus commented regarding imposing a penalty if someone diverts supplies from one distribution point to another distribution point. Mr. Tear commented that this may be partly their fault, being good neighbors, because EOC said that their fairgrounds could be jointly used. This plan has been changed.

Mr. Lowery inquired if whether the information on gas stations would be available prior to and after the hurricane reaching the area; along with the other information. Mr. Tear stated a seal would be placed at the appropriate businesses on the front of the stores. This will let people know that this business is storm ready.

V. RESIDENT & OCR STAFF UPDATES:

Dan Dumas, San Castle, reported on the following:

- Code Enforcement – He had some concerns with the definition of inoperable. (Code Enforcement staff was absent because of a regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday's).

Gary Marcinkoski, San Castle, reported on the following:

- Code Enforcement – He has a concern with inspection procedures for converting duplexes into houses.

Mr. Gainer inquired if he were concerned with illegal renovation of a building, and changing of zones without getting proper permits. Mr. Marcinkoski responded, yes exactly and he gave examples of some of the things going on his neighborhood.

- Solid Waste Authority – He stated that he has a concern with the service fees. Buildings are being looked at as duplexes when they are not legally duplexes.

V. RESIDENT & OCR STAFF UPDATES: (Cont'd)

Dean Wells commented that most of the concerns mentioned are code enforcement. He could not give an adequate response without going out to the location. Mr. Wells explained code approvals for rezoning duplexes to multi-family, and converting basements into a habital space.

Mr. Dumas inquired about making it mandatory for someone with authority to be present at the meetings from Code Enforcement. Mr. Lowery commented that OCR would check on this.

Mr. Wells further commented that the Building Department can not go on the property without having an agreement or a reason to be there. Once Code Enforcement makes a determination that there is a building violation, then the Building Department may inspect the structure.

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

- Health Fair – This was their first health fair event. It was a success. P.B.C. County immunization provided twenty-eight (28) families with immunizations. She announced that the Sheriff's Office dog (Clue) was the highlight of the event.
- Credit Counseling (free) – will be held tonight.
- Great American Cleanup – will be held on April 22nd.

Mr. Gainer thanked Ms. King for providing the refreshments.

Michael Marquis, Engineering, reported on the following:

- The MSTU is now on the website (PBCgov.com/Engineering/MSTU/StreetImprovements) – to get the status of CCRT projects.

A Deputy, on behalf of the community leader, inquired about the status of the park site in Royal Palm Estates. Tim Granowitz responded that Parks Department is in the process of developing the construction plans, which should be done by the next CCRT meeting. He will be meeting with the residents to review the colors of the playground equipment. The Deputy commented that the next community meeting would be on the first Monday in May. Mr. Granowitz commented that he would be at the next community meeting.

David Rafaidus, Community Service, reported on the following:

- Applications for 5013C – The Department has \$12 million dollars in RFP's. He has copies of the RFP's, if anyone would be interested in applying. The activities being offered for assistance under this program are: 1) Prevention/Intervention Treatment & Emergency Services or Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services; 2) Independent Living & Support Services for Families with Special Needs & Disabilities; 3) Domestic Abuse Emergency & Shelter Services for Women, Children Services; 4) and Human Service Programs of the Palm Beach County Health & Human Services Office.

V. RESIDENT & OCR STAFF UPDATES: (Cont'd)

Janel Horne, Head Start, reported on the following:

- Policy Council – which consist of community representatives, and parents. She announced that they are in need of some community representatives. The meetings are held once a month. If anyone is interested you may contact her or Judy at 233-1626.

Mr. Gainer asked Mr. Lowery if he had any further comments. Mr. Lowery commented that today's meeting was very good. The information is going to be very valuable over the next few months. He reiterated the importance of getting the message to people about sustaining themselves with food, water, etc. for at least five (5) to seven (7) days during a hurricane. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He also thanked Kim Ciklin, on behalf of Commissioner Koons, in facilitating Emergency Operations, Mr. Tear for coming to speak at the meeting.

VI. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Sgt. Rick Dempsey introduced new Deputies: Brandon West, CPO for Lake Worth West; and James Kirkham, CPO for Indian Pines.

Chrystal Mathews announced that the Letter of Intent for the Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program is due by April 21st.

Mr. Gainer announced that OCR would be responsible for providing the refreshments for the remaining CCRT meetings.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

- The next CCRT meeting will be held on May 9, 2006 (Tuesday), 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m., at the Clayton Hutcheson Building.
- Office of Community Revitalization will be providing refreshments for the next meeting.

Minutes prepared by

Joyce Harrell, OCR Secretary

***Note: In reference to the Activity Calendar for May or June, you may contact Joyce Harrell at 233-5311 or make announcement at the next CCRT Meeting. Thank You.**

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