

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of February 9, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Palm Beach County Vista Center, Room 1E-60

Minutes

Present:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
Al Albrecht, Plantation Village
Deputy A. Barricklow, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West
Victor Conlin, Plantation Village
Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Deputy W. Dieujuste, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Jimmy Francisco, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Ed Frazier, Old Trail Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Sergeant J. Gallagher, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Corporal Shawn Goddard, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Tim Granowitz, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation
Dave Gruse, Plantation Community
Andy Hartman, P.B.C. Engineering
Anne Helfant, P.B.C. Attorney's Office
Ken Jackson, P.B.C. Code Enforcement
Kathy King, Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group
Captain J. Lindskoog, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Roy McGinnis, PACE EH/Department of Health
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
Rev. Wayne Padgett, Gramercy Park
Jerry Perry, Plantation Community
David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services
Myrtle Rainford, Gramercy Park Resident
Audley Reid, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Douglas Robinson, P.B.C. Zoning
Deputy J. Schiller, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Sylvia Sharps, Glades Utility Authority/P.B.C. Water Utilities
Sharon Sheppard, Westgate CRA
Jack Simons, Hope/Lake Worth
Deputy Scott Spirn, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office

Ed Summerlin, Plantation Community
Thomas Totz, Plantation Estates Community Association
Martha Turner, Gramercy Park Resident
Brenda Warren, Royal Palm Estates Resident
Dean Wells, P.B.C. Building
Rachel Williams, Gramercy Park Resident
Deputy A. Willis, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

I. Welcome and Introduction:

Mr. Gainer welcomed the group on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, County Administration, and the Office of Community Revitalization to this month's Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) meeting. He introduced himself and asked meeting participants to state their name, organization and/or neighborhood represented for the record.

II. Review of Follow Ups:

There were no follow-up items from last months' meeting. Mr. Gainer asked if anyone in attendance was expecting information from OCR. No one responded.

III. Department Updates:

Sylvia Sharps, PBC Water Utilities Department (WUD) representative, reported on the following:

- Jim Stiles has been named Executive Director of the Glades Utility Authority (GUA).

Andy Hartmann, PBC Engineering representative, reported on the following:

- Bids will open in March for 8th Street (CDBG funded, Lake Worth West area).
- The Patio Court project goes to the Board on 2-23-10.
- The final submittal for Sylvan Lane will happen at the end of the month.
- Sun Court and Navarre Road are under construction.
- The Coconut Road project has been bid.

David Rafaidus, Community Services representative, reported on the following:

- Health and Human Services is projecting a \$1 million decrease in funding.
- Are currently creating "Resource Sheets" of information for law enforcement.
- The Children Services Council is conducting a conference on February 25th & 26th on Evidence Based Programs at the PBC Convention Center (\$100.00 fee).

Michael Owens, PBC School Board representative, reported on the following:

- Pahokee Middle construction is nearing completion. Mrs. LaVoise Smith has been named the Principal of the school which is scheduled to open this August.

Tim Granowitz, PBC Parks & Recreation (P & R) representative, reported on the following:

- Westgate Splash Pad is nearing completion.
- Watergate Estates, Bridgeman Road, and Gramercy Park constructions are on hold due to budgetary concerns. P & R has lost 100 positions due to budget.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any questions. Sharon Sheppard, Westgate CRA asked if the money is in place for construction of the parks, and if the budget deficit only affecting the maintenance of the parks.

Mr. Granowitz responded yes. Discussion ensued regarding prior funding allocations and permitted uses for particular funding sources (ad valorem, park bonds, etc.)

Ms. Sheppard stated that for the past 4 to 5 years, the CRA has worked with the neighborhood in question to become organized and the park was the common issue to be used to unify (rally) the community. She asked about the potential of the community providing maintenance for the park, with the assistance of the CRA. Mr. Granowitz responded that a formal agreement/lease agreement for maintenance would have to be in place before P & R would construct the park. He stated that this would have to be discussed at a higher level.

Ms. Sheppard asked if that was something the CRA could take on. Mr. Granowitz replied that P & R generally leases properties to other government agencies and/or non-profits.

Mr. Gainer asked Mr. Granowitz to refresh his memory on the origins of the "Gun Club Estates Park". Mr. Granowitz responded that several years ago P & R did a study of the 104 CCRT areas and this was one of the few CCRT areas that had County-owned land suitable for a park. P & R requested the funds from OCR/CCRT at that time.

Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose stated that P & R is in a very difficult situation with the budget and ongoing maintenance of these parks is of great concern. Ms. De Rose suggested that discussions need to take place to see if anything could be done to be able to proceed with these types of projects that received funding by the Board and are ready to move forward. Her focus was on those projects for which properties have already been acquired and the design has been already completed. Ms. De Rose also stated that OCR staff has been examining all funded CCRT projects and their status, and will need to be making a recommendation to County Administration either to: 1) keep the funding allocations to complete a project; 2) reprogram any remaining funds for use in other projects and/or programs; or 3) sweep funding allocated for projects that are not moving forward and making those funds available to help reduce the Ad Valorem requirement for FY 2011.

Mr. Gainer asked if any residents had questions about parks. There were none.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any more department updates. There were none.

IV. OCR Staff Reports:

Chrystal Mathews reported on the following:

- The 2010 Resident Education to Action Program (REAP) begins on March 2nd in Belle Glade, and here at the Vista Center on April 6th. Registration forms are on the table.

Cpt. Lindskoog asked Mrs. Mathews if she kept records of which neighborhoods that participated in REAP had homeowner associations.

Mrs. Mathews replied yes. Cpt. Lindskoog requested a copy of the information.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

V. Grant Opportunities/Community Q & A:

Dr. Audley Reid reported on the following:

- He is putting together an inventory of various types of grants that are available.
- An OCR newsletter called Community Connect will feature current grants.
- This month's newsletter lists 16 grants.
- Approximately 80% of the relevant grants require a 501c3 designation to apply.
- The grants are from various sources (federal, state, and private entities).
- There are a large amount of "education related" grants available.

Ms. De Rose added that she is creating a distribution list to ensure all community partners/builders receive the information, and requested contact information for all the deputies working in the different communities so they can help with the dissemination of the information. The goal is the successful attainment of grants by the neighborhoods.

Sylvia Sharps suggested a separate web link specifically for "education" grants.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any questions.

David Rafaidus asked for clarification/confirmation of the fact that the above mentioned grants would be applied for by the neighborhoods, with assistance from OCR or the CCRT.

Ms. De Rose responded that OCR's goal was to share the information with the community groups with the hopes that they will be applying for those grants. OCR is always available to provide technical assistance upon request and mentioned that it would be a wonderful idea if CCRT members would like to get involved as well. There may be an opportunity to share resources, partner with the community groups, even leverage funds.

Mr. Rafaidus stated that he is hoping for partnerships (leverage funds) between neighborhoods and some of the agencies funded by Community Services.

Mr. Gainer thanked everyone for their comments and opened the floor for questions. There were none.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any more resident comments or questions regarding grant opportunities. There were none.

VI. Resident Comments:

Kathy King, Lake Worth West (LWW) representative, reported on the following:

- Announced that she will be relocating to Jacksons Gap, Alabama.
- Has enjoyed her 15 year involvement with the CCRT.
- Would like to relinquish her “seat” to Carol Clinton, Executive Director, LWW.

The group applauded Mrs. King for her efforts and service to Palm Beach County.

Ms. De Rose talked briefly about Mrs. King’s history with the CCRT/OCR, and how her efforts resulted in the creation of the Lake Worth Road Corridor Task Force. Ms. De Rose also talked about her nomination to the Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group for the Best Practice Award from the Office of the Clerk/Comptroller.

Brenda Warren, Royal Palm Estates (RPE) representative, reported on the following:

- Asked why the OCR was developing an “exit strategy” for RPE when there is so much more that needs to be accomplished in the neighborhood such as sidewalks and adequate streetlights.

Ms. De Rose responded that exit strategy does not mean that the CCRT/OCR is leaving an area. The exit strategy means what are the steps that need to be taken so efforts can be indeed started in another area. Ms. De Rose further stated that exit strategies should be actually developed and agreed upon by all stakeholders at the beginning of any neighborhood improvement initiative, to clearly identify the specific roles and commitments of both the County and the community; the type of assistance to be provided; who will be responsible for handling each activity or project; how it will be funded; how it will be monitored; and what will be the role and responsibilities of the community in managing, monitoring, and maintaining efforts after government intervention is discontinued.

She stated again that talking about exit strategies was not a synonymous of leaving an area, but needs to be developed to provide focus and direction to residents for maintaining the continuity of community improvements, and secure the investment that has been made in an area.

As far as the sidewalks is concerned, Ms. De Rose indicated that, she requested to Engineering information on the estimated cost of the project. Based on information provided, Engineering will be able to provide the cost estimate for the design, construction and right-of-way acquisition necessary to construct a sidewalk after the conceptual plan for the design and construction of the pathway is completed.

The plan is well underway, but a completion date cannot be provided at this time. Engineering has indicated that they are currently short-handed and will make their best effort to complete it as soon as possible. This information was forwarded to Brendhan Horne on February 17th.

Ms. De Rose also indicated that there are no funds allocated for this project and, given the current budget situation, both the community group and OCR staff will need to research grant opportunities out there to see if any funding could be procured. It will not be an easy, smooth process, but we are willing to embark on the challenge.

Carol Clinton, LWW representative, reported on the following:

- LWW will be attending the CSC Evidence Based Conference.
- The ESOL program has 30 residents (20 on waiting list); GED has 18 students; Computer Class has 10 students.
- The 5th Annual LWW Health Fair will be held on Saturday, March 20th.
- The Great American Clean Up will take place on April 17th.
- Family events occur every Friday night (Movie in the Park last Friday of the month).
- Participating in Census Drive.

David Rafaidus suggested spotlighting Kathy King (and others) on the OCR website. Ms. De Rose agreed with the suggestion and will try to work on something to post on the website.

Rachel Williams, Gramercy Park resident, reported on the following:

- Thanks to OCR/CCRT for the streetlights, they look very nice.
- Crews are working on 45th Street (widening) now; she does not know what will happen with the “big” lots that have been created there.

Ed Summerlin, Plantation Community resident, reported on the following:

- The community has a problem with speeders/traffic accidents (can the speed be lowered?).
- Requested sidewalk repairs on Velvet and Oro Verde (there have been injuries).

Andy Hartmann, PBC Engineering representative, provided a contact number for new sidewalks, and stated that he is familiar with the sidewalk issues in the community. Most of them are on private property (not within the easement of the roadway). He suggested that the Road and Bridges Department be contacted at 233-3950. Ms. De Rose requested Mr. Summerlin to provide information on the specific location of the sidewalks.

Thomas Totz, Plantation Community (former community President), reported on the following:

- Congratulated Ed Summerlin on being elected President of the neighborhood group, and Dave Gruse on being elected 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President, Jerry Perry.
- Requested that name of Plantation Area be changed to Plantation Community in the CCRT Reassessment.
- Requested a copy of the reassessment document.

- Thanked the group for the assistance provided to his community.

Jack Simons, Lake Worth resident, reported on the following:

- Recently formed two neighborhood associations: 1) Hope Neighborhood Association; and 2) Genesis Neighborhood Association.
- Has received a \$23 Million Dollar Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant (housing) and needs assistance with property demolition, street lighting, sidewalk repairs, etc.
- Will be sending people from both organizations to REAP.

Ms. De Rose suggested Mr. Simon to contact Housing and Community Development (HCD) and, if at all possible, to send a letter to OCR indicating what he is trying to do with the grant.

Dean Wells, PBC Building representative, suggested that if the homeowners are available, to have them apply directly to HCD for demolition funding. Mr. Wells stated that demolition costs for a simple structure approximately range between \$17,000 and \$23,000.

Discussion ensued on demolition procedures, (burned houses, asbestos) and funding options.


Mr. Gainer asked if there were any more resident comments or questions. There were none.

VII. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.

The next meeting will be on March 9th.

Minutes prepared by: Duane R. Gainer, B.P.M, Senior Planner



Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director

