

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of January 10, 2006

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Clayton Hutcheson Building, Room Hall “B”

Minutes

Present:

Mathieu Jean-Baptist, H.E.C.A.
Bret Baronak, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Bobbi Boynton, P.B.C. Code Enforcement
Jorceline Cadet, P.B.C. Housing Authority
Shirley Cantelo, Old Military Trail Resident
Shirley Carsillo, Sun Court/Roan Lane Resident
Gerry Carsillo, Sun Court/Roan Lane Resident
Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West Resident
Jeff Collins, P.B.C. Fire Rescue
Myran Collins, Sun Court/Roan Lane Resident
Sgt. Rick Dempsey, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office
Bob Dovey, Commissioner Newell’s Office
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Seretha George, City of Greenacres
Deputy Harrell, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office
Joyce Harrell, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Deputy James Harryton, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office
Janel Horne, P.B.C. Head Start
David Hoyt, Lake Worth West Resident
Peggy Hunter, Sun Court/Roan Lane Resident
Lt. Ed Jablonski, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office
Ken Jackson, P.B.C. Code Enforcement Division
Deputy Rick Jackson, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office
Jan Jeck, P.B.C. Property Real Estate & Management (PREM)
Sgt. Phyllis Kearney, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office
Kathy King, Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group
Dave Kouns, Roan Lane Resident
Tom Lefevre, P.B.C. Health Department
Eric Lewis, City of South Bay
Ilene Long, Military Park Resident
Deputy Noe Pierre-Louis, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office
Edward Lowery, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Deputy MacLeod, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office
Deputy Karl Martin, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Gerry Metayer, Old Trail Resident

Present (Cont'd)

Bilal Mujahid, P.B.C. Water Utilities
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
Corporal Lucy Quinones, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
LaToya Ricketts, Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Fred Schott, Deaf Service Center of Palm Beach County, Inc.
Sharon Sheppard, Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA
Nora Spear, Sun Court/Roan Lane Resident
Barbara Bell-Spence, Community Development, City of Belle Glade
Mary Stunek, Lakewood Corridor
Deputy Dwayne Thomas, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Deputy C. Veneziano, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Deputy K. Viti, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Guy W. Volk, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development
Gail Vorpagel, P.B.C. Code Enforcement Division
Dean Wells, P.B.C. Building Division
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

CCRT Members Absent:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
Penny Anderson, P.B.C. GIS
Diana Cunningham, P.B.C. Criminal Justice Commission
Dan Dumas, San Castle Community Leadership Inc.
Gerry Gawaldo, P.B.C. Palm Tran
Tim Granowitz, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation
Anne Helfant, P.B.C. Attorney's Office
Don Loutsch, Children Services Council
Michael Marquis, P.B.C. Engineering Department
David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services
Chauncey Taylor II, P.B.C. Facilities Development & Operations Department (FDO)
Dean Wells, P.B.C. Building 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 December 13, 2005 CCRT minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes.

III. REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UPS:

Mr. Gainer summarized follow-ups undertaken by OCR staff and provided responses to the following issues/items discussed at the December 13, 2005 CCRT meeting:

- 1) Kathy King commented on the need of updating OCR's Website.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: OCR is currently working on the website. The recreated website will be up and running in approximately three months. Information on the 6th round of the Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program will be posted on the website at the end of February.

- 2) Dan Dumas requested notification of Code Enforcement Hearing dates.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: OCR contacted Ms. Vorpapel to request information on the Code Enforcement Hearing dates. Ms. Vorpapel distributed the list of dates for 2006 to all CCRT members. She also distributed Code Enforcement update reports on San Castle, Gramercy Park, and Schall Circle/Old Trail. Including Code Enforcement hearing results for December, and cases that will be heard in February.

- 3) Sgt. Hightower inquired about the status of assigning a Code Enforcement Officer to work with a Community Policing Officer regarding problems in the community.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: Gail Vorpapel met with Terry Verner to discuss the issues that were brought up at the last meeting. They have decided on a new policy on assisting the Community Policing Deputies in the future. They will be meeting with the supervisory staff next week and will then schedule a meeting with the supervisors for the Community Policing unit to go over the proposed policy. The new policy may not be in place by next week, but definitely by the end of January.

- 4) Watergate Mobile Home Park Community Policing Officer requests assistance from Code Enforcement.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: Gail Vorpapel stated that she would provide "Lance's" contact information to Watergate's Community Policing Officer.

- 5) Coordination between Code Enforcement Division and the Sheriff's Office.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: Gail Vorpapel met with Terry Verner to go over the issues that were brought up at the last meeting. A decision was made about developing a new policy for assisting Community Policing Deputies in the future. Ms. Vorpapel and Mr. Verner will be meeting with the supervisory staff next week, and will then schedule a meeting with the supervisors for the Community Policing unit to lay out a plan to them. The new policy may not be in place by next week, but definitely by the end of January.

- 6) Stacy Falise, Watergate Estates resident inquired about having shelters available in case of mandatory or emergency hurricane evacuation.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: Ms. Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose has been working on an emergency preparedness plan. The plan calls for OCR to work with both Public Affairs and Emergency Operations Center to obtain printed materials containing information not only on shelter locations and openings, but also on shelter registration, evacuation information and maps, emergency contacts, and other pertinent information. OCR staff, with the assistance of CCRT participating Departments and community policing officers, would like to distribute this information to community groups, homeowners associations, residents and businesses located within CCRT areas at the beginning of the hurricane season.

In addition to the above, OCR is planning to implement a public outreach and education program for the CCRT communities to inform residents about preparedness and mitigation activities (without duplicating the other ongoing efforts undertaken by other County Departments).

- 7) Stacy Falise, Watergate Estates resident, requested a meeting with the Park's Department and the residents regarding them being involved with the developmental process of the park.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: Based on information provided by Mr. Granowitz, no meeting has been scheduled to date. Mr. Granowitz gave the residents his business card but hasn't heard anything back from them yet. Ms. Moguillansky-De Rose will request OCR staff to set up the meeting.

- 8) Shirley Cantelo, Old Military Trail resident inquired about the status of repairing the road on Old Military Trail and wanted to know whether the road was to be lowered or repaved.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: An email was sent to Michael Marquis regarding this item. Mr. Marquis's response was that "Old Military will be lower then it currently is but not much. This is needed to make the drainage work."

- 9) Joanna Aiken requested a list with contact information for the Sheriff's Officers and Code Enforcement Officers assigned to the different CCRT areas.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: Lt. Jablonski provided a list of the Sheriff Officers that are assigned to each CCRT area.

Gail Vorpapel stated that Code Enforcement does not have Code Enforcement Officers assigned to CCRT areas; however they do have the Community Support Team, which are eight (8) Code Enforcement Officers and herself as supervisor. The team typically works in "target areas" most of which are CCRT neighborhoods. Four (4) of those positions, by agreement with the Commissioners are permitted only to work in CCRT areas. It appears that Code Enforcement may want to do a presentation for the CCRT,

and the OCR about how the Code Enforcement Division is structured and its organizational operation. Ms. Vorpagel stated to let her know if OCR thinks this would be helpful.

- 10) Community Policing Officer for Watergate Estates inquired about the process necessary to change Sandelefoot Boulevard to two lanes.

FOLLOW UP UNDERTAKEN/STATUS: OCR contacted Mr. Michael Marquis regarding this item. Mr. Marquis responded that if the pavement is 20 feet wide and there is not a safety or compelling traffic reason to keep the roadway one-way, he would look into that possibility. Mr. Marquis also indicated that if the road can be widened from one lane to two lanes if sufficient right-of-way exists to build the additional pavement and drainage system. The project can be put into the County CIP for the roadway widening, or the community can ask that an MSTU Program project be started. Residents, however, must agree to pay 50% of the total project cost. This option may be changed in late February or March.

IV. PRESENTATION – Fred Schott, Outreach and Education Coordinator for Deaf Service Center Hearing Wellness Center of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Mr. Gainer introduced Mr. Schott and briefly shared his personal experience of how he became knowledgeable of the Deaf Service Center. He thought this information would be very beneficial to the CCRT and community residents.

Mr. Schott began by stating that he would be talking about the agency, hearing loss, and programs offered through the agency. He stated that over 150,000 people in Palm Beach County have some kind of a hearing loss. Although most people have a tendency to associate hearing loss with age or older people, now the biggest group coming through the doors is the baby boomers. Nationally, there are approximately 25 million people who have a hearing loss. This number is expected to double within the next ten (10) years.

The Deaf Service Center Hearing Wellness Center is a private non-profit United Way agency. They have serviced Palm Beach County for about 21 years. There are a number of programs that the agency provides: 1) The agency does a tremendous amount of advocacy for people who have hearing loss, which evolves around people who are deaf and their first language is sign language. Also agencies, companies, doctors, lawyers and anyone providing service to the public are required to provide accessibility to their services. The agency encourages businesses to be in compliance with ADA (American with Disabilities Act); 2) One of the agency's biggest program is Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program. For about 12 years, the State of Florida provided free telecommunication equipment to anyone who is a resident and that has any kind of a hearing loss. The most common equipment is the amplifier telephone and he mentioned those features. Part of the funds to pay for this program is charged to anyone who has a phone line in the State of Florida. Mr. Schott quoted that if your vision begins to go away, you will know; but if your hearing begins to go, everyone else will know. He stated that simple technology could change a person's life; just by being able to have a conversation with your grandchildren.

Mr. Schott further described the voice carryover phone. This is where the voice goes through a special operator and the relay operator types the words. This phone is for people that have good voice but have gotten to the point where they cannot understand the language anymore.

Mr. Schott talked about severe antibiotic treatment and over toxic drugs (poison to the ears that will cause hearing loss, either temporary or permanent). He briefly gave an example of someone that had a medical problem and went through antibiotic treatments. Sometimes when communication is blocked, people will tend to give up.

Mr. Schott mentioned that the State of Florida is setting up an educational program to help people understand, and become familiar with the Florida Relay. He encourages businesses, agencies, and community or residents to contact him regarding this program. The Florida Relay is a special operator that becomes a communication conduit for people who are using special text equipment.

Also available at the Wellness Center is a full-time audiologist. Services provided at the center include hearing tests, hearing screenings, and sell of hearing aides. The Wellness Center has a hearing aid bank. These are donated hearing aides. The ones that can be reconditioned are available for financially needy people at no cost. Mr. Schott stated that since approximately two (2) years ago, Medicaid stopped assisting with payment for hearing aides and now the agency is overwhelmed with people on Medicaid who cannot afford hearing aides and have no other resources. He therefore encourages people not to throw away their hearing aides. Mr. Schott brought posters and reading material for the group. If you need further information or if you would like to invite him to do a presentation, you may contact Mr. Schott at 802-3353 or Delray at 278-6444. At this point, Mr. Schott asked the group if anyone had questions or comments.

Edward Lowery inquired if there were any income or age eligibility requirements for any of the programs. Mr. Schott responded that the only program with financial criteria is the Hearing Aide Bank Program. For all the other programs, the only eligibility criteria is, you must have a certifiable hearing loss. Also you must be a Florida resident.

Mr. Lowery also commented regarding increase of hearing loss, due to new sound technology. He inquired if any research had been done by the agency. Mr. Schott commented that there are National information and research going on about the damage done. He stated that any amount over 90 decibels for a consistent period of time could do damage. Once your hearing is broke, you cannot fix it; any technology is just a help trying to fill in some of the gaps. Mr. Schott thanked OCR for inviting him.

V. DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Bilal Mujahid, Water Utilities, reported on the following:

- Dillman Heights/Sutton Terrace – For Dillman Heights an Informational Hearing is scheduled for February 7th at 5:30pm; and for Sutton Terrace at 7:00pm. The Public Hearing is scheduled for February 28th. Construction should start within the next thirty (30) days.

- A year ago, the CCRT approved two (2) projects: Donnel Road (between Okeechobee Blvd. & Westage Avenue, near Military Trail) and Ranch Road (south of Southern Boulevard, off Congress Avenue) – An informational meeting is scheduled for February 22nd at 7:00pm. He talked about assessment fees for both projects. Mr. Mujahid invited OCR to attend the informational meetings.

Mr. Gainer commented in reference to the report on CCRT projects with left over funds. He will be contacting the Departments for their input and requests.

Gail Vorpapel, Code Enforcement, reported on the following:

- Ms. Vorpapel reported that during the month of December, Code Enforcement scheduled a total of 123 cases to be heard before the Special Master. She gave a breakdown of the number of cases closed and/or corrected, continued or rescheduled, contested, and admissions. All thirty-two (32) contested and admissions cases heard were successfully prosecuted. Of those 123 cases, she reported in detail the code enforcement activity in each of the following CCRT areas: Gramercy Park, Schall Circle/Old Military Trail, San Castle, and Watergate Mobile Home Park. Ms. Vorpapel stated that January Code Enforcement Hearing was cancelled. The next hearing is scheduled for February 1, 2006; which 124 cases are on the agenda. She reported that 38 of those cases are in CCRT areas and she gave a breakdown of the Code Enforcement activity to be heard at the February's Code Enforcement Hearing in some of the CCRT areas: Lake Worth Corridor, San Castle, Watergate Mobile Home Park, Schall/Old Military, Gramercy Park, Glades area, Westgate/Belvedere Homes, and Royal Palm Estates/Wallis Road.

Sgt. Kearney inquired about the status of code enforcement for the Kennedy Estates area. Ms. Vorpapel stated that the Code Enforcement Officer had resigned. They are in the process of training the new person.

Ms. Vorpapel commented in regards to a report she requested from Lt. Jablonski on community policing sites and the deputies for those sites. Ms. Vorpapel stated that she had prepared a schedule assigning the Community Policing Officer and Code Enforcement Officer to go out into the CCRT areas. She requested to meet with Lt. Jablonski after the meeting to discuss the schedule.

Lt. Ed Jablonski, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office, reported on the following:

- He gave acknowledgements to the Sheriff's Office for nominating Deputy Leslie Barbalaco, Community Policing Officer for San Castle, for the Palm Beach Post Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in Crime Prevention.
- Neighborhood Partnership Grant (NPG) – A committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, January 11, 2006.
- Law enforcement action is being stepped up in all the community policing sites. For the month of December, the Sheriff's Office was busy with Christmas projects.

V. DEPARTMENT UPDATES: (Cont'd)

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Canal Point Sanitary Sewer Expansion – Letters were sent out to the property owners. The hurricane caused the project to be a little behind.
- Development Regions Grant Program – The program will begin on January 23rd – March 17th. She will be meeting with the communities to discuss opportunities for businesses in that area. She commented regarding the \$200,000 from OCR for the Business Frontage Program. OCR and Economic Development are combining the programs together to assist the businesses in the CCRT areas.
- Glades Public Market – This market will be a wholesale market for specialty/ethnic/small growers and retail components. She hopes this will attract tourist to the Glades and the Lake Okechobee Scenic Trail. She further discussed other plans for the trail (bike trail, entryways).

Willy Volk, Housing & Community Development, reported on the following:

- In FY '04/'05 HCD assisted with funding (\$937,036) for four (4) projects that were completed. Two (2) of the projects were water main projects, done in conjunction with P.B.C. Water Utilities Department; one (1) was a water mains project, done in conjunction with the City of Atlantis; and one (1) project was an infrastructure improvements project. All of these projects were in CCRT areas:
 - 1) Westgate (Infrastructure project)
 - 2) Schall Circle (Water mains project) – done in conjunction with Water Utilities Department
 - 3) Sky Ranch/Whispering Pines (Water mains project) – done in conjunction with P.B.C. Water Utilities Department
 - 4) Lake Worth Corridor, south (Water mains project) – done in conjunction with city of Atlantis.

Mr. Gainer inquired about CDBG projects. Mr. Mujahid commented that he would provide a report on all the CDBG projects.

VI. RESIDENT & OCR STAFF UPDATES:

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

- 10th Papa Noel/Santa Claus – was a success. The community handed out toys to approximately 200 kids. She thanked Fire Rescue for supplying the truck. A picture was placed in the LWW newsletter. Ms. King brought copies of the newsletter for distribution. Also, Ms. King thanked the Sheriff's Office and Toys for Tots Program for assisting with supplying some of the toys; YMCA had Santa to deliver toys to eight (8) families in the LWW community.
- She provided a list of the programs being offered at the LWW center.

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

Kathy King, Lake Worth West, reported on the following: (Cont'd)

- Health Fair event – is scheduled for August 25th. She brought applications for anyone or for the Departments that would be interested in being in the Health Fair. She asked Lt. Jablonski to provide a K-9 for an event at the fair. There will be other fun activities at this event.
- ESOL Program – Flyers were distributed. She is trying to get people that speak Spanish to become interested in the community group. She was very excited that twenty (20) people showed up to register for the ESOL Program.
- Movie In The Park event – will be on January 27th, at 6:30p.m. She requested the Sheriff's Office to provide some patrol activity for this event. Ms. King will meet with Deputy Dempsey after the meeting regarding this request.

Gerry Carsillo, Sun Court (The Roan Lane Area, off Northlake Blvd.), reported on the following:

- Thanked the Deputy for providing his assistance in this area. The CCRT should see some community changes in the future. He stated that revisions need to be made to code enforcement policies and dealing with habitual offenders.

Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade, reported on the following:

- Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail activity – a walk on the trail is scheduled for Saturday, January 14th, at 8:00a.m., starting in Belle Glade and South Bay. The two cities will walk toward and meet each other at the end of this event. This event is sponsored by Step Up Florida and is part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. activity.
- Leon Campbell Park – The site plans has been approved.
- She inquired about the status of the Neighborhood Beautification Program in reference to the residents selected for the program. William Wynn responded that he and Mr. Lowery would be revisiting and reassessing all the homes chosen. In reference to hurricane damages incurred, the maximum amount of \$3,000 per house still remains the same for the program. Also, the houses will need to be reassessed by the contractor. Mr. Wynn stated that a letter was sent out to the residences notifying them that they were chosen and that a contractor will be doing estimates on requested damages. Another letter will be sent notifying the resident that the damages/repairs need to be reassessed. Presently, OCR is revisiting the Juno Ridge area. Next, OCR will be going to the Glades. Mr. Lowery commented that the biggest problem is getting a contractor because contractors are so busy.

Ms. Bell-Spence inquired about what needs to be done to increase the number of registered contractors. She is aware that insurance requirements may be an issue. Mr. Lowery suggested that she contact Remar Harvin, with HCD; The Contractors Certification Office; and John Brown with The Business Loan Fund of the Palm Beaches.

VI. RESIDENT & OCR STAFF UPDATES:

Chrystal Mathews, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- NPG Program – A Review Committee Meeting will be held on tomorrow, January 11th, at 9:30a.m., to discuss the revisions to the application for the 2006 NPG cycle. The deadlines for this program are: Release of grant is February 27th, Letter of Intent is due by April 21st, and deadline for submittal of application is June 16th. In reference to the 2005 grants, she is requesting to meet with the applicants so they can start to implement their project. She requested to meet with residents from Roan Lane after the meeting to get their information for mailing purposes. Ms. Mathews explained what the NPG Program is about.

Ms. Bell-Spence inquired about the status of the grants presented for REAP. Mr. Gainer commented that he is working on developing individual agreements for the five (5) winners. Mr. Gainer mentioned that one issue is with insurance requirements. He has been in contact with each of the grant winners.

Bret Baronak, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Royal Palm Estates/Wallace Road Visioning Plan – He has finalized a draft of the plans. He would like to schedule a meeting with Janel Horne to review the draft. Next the Steering Committee will review the draft plan.
- Roan Lane Street Lighting Program – He contacted the Engineering Department for an update on the Roan Lane Street Lighting Project. An agreement from FPL is going to the Board for approval today. Once the agreement is executed, construction should start within 4 to 6 weeks.
- Neighborhood Street Lighting Programs – The following neighborhoods are interested or have submitted applications: Gulfview Heights/Westgate, Old Trail, Gramercy Park, and Homes of Lawrence.

Shirley Cantelo, Old Trail, inquired about the status of the park. Mr. Baronak responded that everything is still on schedule. The project is scheduled to go to the Board in June for approval.

At this point Mr. Gainer turned the meeting over to Mr. Lowery for comments. Mr. Lowery commented that on an annual basis, OCR would be taking a look at all the projects and accounts where OCR had allocated funds. OCR will be requesting verification of completion for each of those projects. This process will determine what monies are left over. These left over funds will provide for activities, which may occur during the year.

Mr. Lowery commented that this year's 2006 NPG Program is beginning to kickoff. He acknowledged Chrystal Mathews for doing a good job.

Also, Mr. Lowery commented regarding combining funds for the OCR's Business Frontage Program with funds from Economic Development's Development Regions Grant Program. He encourages everyone to notify the various community small businesses, in the various CCRT areas, informing them that there is money available. This grant is for up to \$50,000.

VII. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Shirley Carsillo, Sun Court, inquired about a road needing to be paved. Mr. Lowery commented that OCR would contact Michael Marquis, Engineering Department, regarding this issue.

Mr. Gainer asked for a volunteer to bring refreshments for the next meeting. Gail Vorpagel, Code Enforcement Division volunteered to bring refreshments.

VIII.ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

- The next CCRT meeting will be held on February 7, 2006 (Tuesday), 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m., at the Clayton Hutcheson Building.
- The Code Enforcement Division will provide refreshments for the next meeting.

Minutes prepared by

Joyce Harrell, OCR Secretary

***Note: Please come prepared to announce activities for January & February or you may contact Joyce Harrell at 233-5311 to place this information on Activity Calendar. Thank You.**

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