

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of February 12, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Clayton Hutcheson Building, Hall “B”

Minutes

Present:

Kimberly Bush, Abundant Life Fellowship CRC
Jorceline Cadet, P.B.C. Housing Authority
Gerald Carsillo, Sun Court Resident
Carlton Cartwright, TCCI
Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West Resident
Jeff Collins, P.B.C. Fire Rescue
Ed Frazier, Old Trail Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Seretha George, City of Greenacres
Tim Granowitz, Parks & Recreation
Cpl. Hamilton, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Kenwood Estates)
Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton, P.B.C. Water Utilities
Joyce Harrell, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Anne Helfant, P.B.C. County Attorney's Office
Sgt. Jimmy Hightower, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Capt. Ed Jablonski, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Kai Jones, PACE EH (Watergate Estates)
Edward Kaye, Westgate/Golfview Heights Resident
Kathy King, Lake Worth West Resid. Planning Group
Heather Levy, Solid Waste Authority
Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident
Roy M. McGinnis, PACE EH/DOH
Tonda Masson, Lake Worth Corridor
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office
Satu Oksanen, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services
Audley Reid, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
John Richter, Sun Court Resident
LaToya Ricketts, Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Launa Thorton, Westgate/Golfview Heights Resident

Present (Cont'd)

Brenda Warren, Royal Palm Estates Resident
Anthony Wint, Zoning Division
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Gloria Zimmerman, Area Agency on Aging

CCRT Members Absent:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
Tripp Cioci, P.B.C. Property & Real Estate Management (PREM)
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 Department
Nancy Hashway, P.B.C. Health Department
Ron Hinkle, P.B.C. Criminal Justice Commission
Don Loutsch, Children Services Council
Lt. Ed Luty, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Michael Marquis, P.B.C. Engineering Department
Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Gail Vorpapel, P.B.C. Code Enforcement Division
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 January 16, 2007 CCRT minutes. There were no corrections.

III. REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UPS:

Mr. Gainer stated that copies of the follow-ups from the January 16, 2007 CCRT meeting were available on the information table. He asked the group to contact himself, Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, or William Wynn, staff responsible for the follow up this month, if anyone had questions. Mr. Gainer made a correction concerning the response to follow up #1F. He stated that the Royal Palm Estates community representative did not say that a petition for streetlights would be submitted by February 12th. He asked the group for comments or questions regarding the followups.

Next, Mr. Gainer informed the group that Gloria Zimmerman, Area Agency on Aging, would briefly talk about her organization today.

Ms. Zimmerman began by stating that the organization is concerned about the seniors in the community. Her position with the organization is with Emergency Readiness & Response. Some of the community emergencies they respond to are hurricanes, tornados, fire, etc. The agency works with the community to help develop an emergency readiness plan and an emergency response plan, so that residents will know what is happening in the community after an emergency. Ms. Zimmerman brought door hangers, which are distributed across the county for residents to indicate whether they are ok or if they need help before or after an emergency by placing the door hanger on the door. Ms. Zimmerman concluded by stating that if anyone is interested in knowing what the Area Agency on Aging can do in emergency response or planning, to please contact her at (561) 684-5885.

David Rafaidus commented that the Area Agency on Aging does a lot more than emergency preparation. He suggested inviting the agency to do a presentation on all the services offered. Ms. Zimmerman stated that she would be glad to come back and do a presentation of the other services.

IV. DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

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

- Operation Gang Buster Taskforce – is doing very well across the County.
- Hiring of Community Policing Officers – He appreciates everyone's patience. Some of the officers will be coming back soon.

Duane Gainer inquired about the process to be followed up on by a neighborhood to request a Community Policing Officer. Mr. Gainer stated that the Sheriff's Office did a presentation at the Resident Education To Action Program (REAP) held in the Glades. After the presentation, the participants wanted to know how could they get a Community Policing Officer for their neighborhood. Capt. Jablonski commented that there are six (6) community police sites; four (4) in unincorporated Pahokee, one (1) in Belle Glade, and one (1) in South Bay. Mr. Gainer inquired about Canal Point. Capt. Jablonski commented that if a community leader has been identified, then they would put in the request for the neighborhood. Mr. Gainer asked Audley Reid to contact Canal Point in regards to this matter.

Tonda Masson stated that her neighborhood does not have a community police officer. She inquired about someone to contact, other than always calling on Sgt. Jimmy Hightower, if they are having problems in the neighborhood. Capt. Jablonski stated that she could contact Capt. Miles at 688-3000.

IV. DEPARTMENT UPDATES: (Cont'd)

Tim Granowitz, Parks & Recreation, reported on the following:

- Royal Palm Estates (Caroline Drive) – is under construction. The project should be complete by the end of February. The park should be open some time in mid-March. He talked about planning for the Grand Opening. Brenda Warren commented and requested that the park be fenced and mulch put down to prevent having an accident. Mr. Granowitz responded that although “No Trespassing” signs are posted, he would fence the area.

Mr. Gainer commented that per Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose’s request, he is planning to coordinate a meeting with Kim Ciklin, from Commissioner Koons’ office, Tim Granowitz, and residents of Old Trail (including Ms. Long and Ms. Robinson) regarding a concern with a ditch.

Kai Jones inquired about the status of the water improvements. Mr. Granowitz commented on behalf of Tripp Cioci and stated that he believes the project is moving forward. He further stated that he believes there was an issue that came up regarding Home Owners Assessments.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development, reported on the following:

- Glades Entryway Designs Workshop – is scheduled for Monday, March 12th, 6:30p.m. – 9:00p.m., at the Dolly Hand Cultural Arts Center in Belle Glade to meet with area residents. One entryway will be located in each of the four communities (Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and unincorporated Canal Point).
- Business Frontage Program – will start in the Lake Region areas. They will be bringing in an incentive in helping with and implementing the design for the front of the businesses.
- Canal Point Sanitary Sewer – She is working on the contracts. Engineering Services Division will be going before the Board for approval. She is waiting on other funding for the project.

Heather Levy, Solid Waste Authority, reported on the following:

- Great American Cleanup – is coming up on April 21st. If you would like to register to participate, you may contact Lourdis Ferris, with Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, at 686-6646.
- Paint Your Heart Out – They are currently seeking applicants who want their house painted.

V. RESIDENT UPDATES:

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

- Monthly Community Meeting – will be held on February 21st. The guess speaker is from Vita Health (low cost health insurance).
- Movie in the Park – will be held on February 23rd. They are starting to plan something every Friday night, which will be called Family Night.
- She announced that everyday there is a program for the adults and the children, such as: yoga, belly dance, homework help, cheerleading, basketball, etiquette, & etc.
- Pal State Meeting (Orlando) – They sponsored twelve (12) kids from the neighborhood to go to this event.
- Monthly Board Meeting – Two items were mentioned: 1) dead end of Maine Street – is not being mowed, and people are starting to liter there; 2) Urquhart Street property – is looking awful.
- Garage Sale event – The next garage sale will be held on April 3rd.
- She commended the Parks Department for maintaining the park.

Brendhan Horne, Royal Palm Estates Neighborhood, reported on the following:

- Monthly Community Meeting – Thanked Code Enforcement for the show of officers at the meeting.
- Community Police Officers – Inquired about the status of when officers will be reassigned to the neighborhood. Officer Dieujuste was assigned to the Gang Task Unit. Capt. Jablonski commented that Officer Tramonte should be returning within the month, and Officer Dieujuste should be returning in three (3) weeks.
- Wallis Road East Project – She inquired about the status of the funds for the roadway improvements and the drainage. Mr. Gainer stated that OCR would follow up on this item. Ms. Warren further commented that the only thing that has been completed to date is the installation of the water.
- Streetlight Survey – A group of the residents went out and mapped out the locations of all the existing poles on the streets. They still have to complete the paperwork, get the petitions, and map out where new streetlights need to be.
- Turning lane on Wallis Road & Haverhill – is torn up and she realizes that this is part of the Southern Boulevard construction. There has been construction going on for the last two (2) years. She is requesting information on what is going on. She further inquired about a contact person with Department of Transportation. Mr. Gainer stated that he had that information. OCR will follow up on this information.

Kai Jones, PACE/EH (Watergate Estates), reported on the following:

- Monthly Community Meetings – are held on the 2nd Thursdays. In reference to the water project going on, she is requesting someone to attend the meeting and explain to the residents about what is going on with this project. The next meeting is March 8th.

V. RESIDENT UPDATES: (Cont'd)

Kai Jones, PACE/EH (Watergate Estates), reported on the following: (Cont'd)

- Inquired about the status of the projector. Chrystal Matthews, NPG Coordinator, explained that she was referring to the 2005 NPG extension. The neighborhood wanted to do a movie in the park with the remaining grant funds from the community outreach project. She further commented that she is waiting for the item to be purchased through the County's purchasing department.

Mr. Gainer asked Ms. Matthews to briefly talk about the meeting held to discuss the cleanup of the canal near the Watergate Estates area. Ms. Matthews stated that Jon Van Arnam, Assistant County Administrator, requested a meeting regarding this issue. Code Enforcement sited the canal owner for debris in the canal. The canal is behind Watergate Estates; which is a CCRT area. The County does not own the canal. The canal is privately owned.

Ilene Long, Old Trail, reported on the following:

- Water Project – Two (2) of the property owners did not get water. Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton, Water Utilities, gave Ms. Long her business card and asked her to call the office. She will also relay the information to Bilal Mujahid.

Next Mr. Gainer asked Kimberly Bush, with Abundant Life Fellowship, to briefly talk about the organization. Ms. Bush is the Program Director of the Abundant Life Fellowship Community Resource Center Project. They submitted a request to OCR for funding and did receive the funding approval last week from the Board.

Kimberly Bush began by thanking everyone for the assistance provided with the approval process for the funding received. Abundant Life Fellowship is a 5013C non-profit organization. The home office is currently located in Stonybrook, in Riviera Beach; although they do serve kids from the Gramercy Park area. Beginning in March, they will be partnering with the West Palm Beach Housing Authority, so that the organization can utilize the Robinson Village Center which will offer an after school program. She reviewed the organization's services offered: GED Prep Program, Job Training & Placement (17 young men in the GED's Program were job placed); and case managers on site. Presently, their biggest problem is transportation. They need a van. She stated that part of the funds from the CCRT would be assisting with taking forty (40) kids on a college tour. Ms. Bush asked the group for suggestions in reference to getting transportation.

Ms. King suggested that Ms. Bush contact the PAL's Program of Palm Beach County in reference to getting the organization a van/transportation.

Ms. Bush further commented that the community resource center has been in existence for one (1) year and has been a very successful program for the residents in the community. Ms. Bush asked the group for comments or questions. The group asked questions in relation to statistics of the program and their location.

OCR STAFF UPDATES:

Duane Gainer, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Review of projects funded – the progress of projects are reviewed on a monthly and quarterly basis. OCR staff reviews the projects that were completed to see if all the funds were expended. If there are any funds left over, those funds will be placed in another account for other project requests.

Ms. Zimmerman commented on the families in the Glades area that are facing eviction at the end of April from the FEMA housing. Also a lot of the public housing is boarded up. She inquired whether there are any plans to reopen those houses. She further inquired if the CCRT is doing anything to help relocate those families. Mr. Gainer stated that the CCRT generally doesn't get involved with housing issues. Housing & Community Development usually handles housing issues. He stated that OCR has a Home Beautification Program, but that program only focuses on exterior beautification repairs to homes.

LaToya Ricketts, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Resident Education To Action Program - The 2nd session will start on March 13th (Tuesday's) in central Palm Beach County (PZ&B, 2300 N. Jog Road), at 6:00p.m. – 8:30p.m.
- OCR Website – is accessible to the public. If you have any information that you would like to be announced, you may contact her at (561) 233-5239.

Chrystal Matthews, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- 2006 Neighborhood Partnership Grant participants – The status reports are due February 19th. Her contact information is (561) 233-5565.

Audley Reid, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Canal Point Community Visioning Workshop – On January 27, 2007 OCR held a workshop at Canal Point Elementary School. There were over fifty (50) residents that attended the workshop. He is currently working on the summary of what was discussed at the workshop.

VI. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

- The next CCRT meeting will be held on March 12, 2007, (Monday), from 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m., at the Clayton Hutcheson Building. The next GTAC meeting will be held on February 22, in Pahokee.
- The Office of Community Revitalization will be providing the refreshments for the next meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes prepared by

Joyce Harrell, OCR Secretary

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

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