

# Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of April 9, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Clayton Hutcheson Building, Hall “B”

## Minutes

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### Present:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority  
Lisa Archer, Habitat for Humanity  
Jorceline Cadet, P.B.C. Housing Authority  
Tripp Cioci, P.B.C. Property & Real Estate Management (PREM)  
Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West Resident  
Margaret Doucett, Royal Palm Estates Resident  
Dan Dumas, San Castle Community Leadership, Inc.  
Ed Frazier, Old Trail Resident  
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Deputy Shawn Goddard, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office (Watergate Estates)  
Tim Granowitz, Parks & Recreation  
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  
Brendhan Horne, Royal Palm Estates Resident  
Capt. Ed Jablonski, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office  
Kai Jones, PACE EH (Watergate Estates)  
Edward Kaye, Westgate/Golfview Heights Resident  
Deputy Kirkham, P.B.C. Sheriff’s Office  
Alicia Kuga, C.A.T. Program Coordinator, Fire Rescue  
Lillie Latimore, City of Pahokee  
Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident  
Roy M. McGinnis, PACE EH/DOH  
Tonda Masson, Lake Worth Corridor Resident  
Derrek A. Moore, City of Pahokee  
Bilal Mujahid, P.B.C. Water Utilities  
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office  
Satu Oksanen, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development (HCD)  
David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services  
Audley Reid, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
LaToya Ricketts, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

**Present (Cont'd)**

Anna Plokin-Stuart, Manager of Drug Intervention Coalition of Palm Beach County  
Mary Tarr, Old Trail Resident  
Houston Tate, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)  
Launa Thorton, Westgate/Golfview Heights Resident  
Corp. Mike Tramonte, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Royal Palm Estates)  
Anthony Wint, Zoning Division  
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization  
Gloria Zimmerman, Area Agency on Aging

**CCRT Members Absent:**

Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization  
Gerry Gawaldo, P.B.C. Palm Tran  
Nancy Hashway, P.B.C. Health Department  
Don Loutsch, Children Services Council  
Lt. Ed Luty, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office  
Michael Marquis, P.B.C. Engineering Department  
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District  
Gail Vorpagel, P.B.C. Code Enforcement Division

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:**

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

Next, Mr. Gainer introduced Houston L. Tate, new OCR Manager. Mr. Tate briefly commented and stated that he is happy to have been selected as the new OCR Manager. He feels confident that his former experiences as City Manager, Public Works Director, and Public Utilities Director will help him in attaining the mission and goals set by the County Commissioners, and County Administrators. He commits to you a renewed and continual focus on teamwork and accountability that are required to successfully manage our challenges and effectuate needed improvements. He is enthusiastic about working with a very dedicated staff and is looking forward to working with all of you.

**II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Gainer asked if anyone had corrections to the March 12, 2007 CCRT minutes. There were no corrections.

**III. REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UPS:**

Mr. Gainer stated that copies of the follow-ups from the March 12, 2007 CCRT meeting were available on the information table. He stated that there was three (3) follow up issues. Chrystal Mathews, staff person, was responsible for the follow up issues this month, if anyone had questions.

#### IV. PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Gainer announced that there would be two (2) presentations given today.

##### **1) Presentation by: Anna Plokin, Manager of Drowning Intervention Coalition of Palm Beach County**

Anna Plokin-Stuart began by stating that Commissioner Warren Newell established The Drowning Intervention Coalition Program in 1997. In 1997, there were fifty-five (55) people who drowned. Commissioner Newell felt that we needed some type of program in place to help prevent drowning. The coalition's mission is to promote, develop, and support training and community education efforts that prevent drowning, near drowning, and other water related incidents in Palm Beach County. The coalition goes into the community and does free water safety presentations to schools, clubs, and PTA's. The coalition has a special program called the Drowning Prevention Program. This program provides free-swimming lessons to qualified families. There are over twenty (20) facilities in Palm Beach County that participate in this program. Regardless of one's age, race, gender, or social economic background, everybody is susceptible to drowning. Between 1997 and 2004, there were 417 people who drowned in Palm Beach County; the majority were adults and senior citizens.

Next, Ms. Plokin-Stuart asked the group to respond to the following question. She asked what is the number one (#1) reason why people drown. The group began to express their reasons. She stated that the number one reason is lack of supervision, and the number two reason is adults swimming alone. In case of an emergency, the coalition encourages people to always swim with another person. It only takes two inches of water to get in the body to cause drowning. Ms. Plokin-Stuart further asked the group for the number one (#1) place where people are most likely to drown. The number one place is the swimming pool, and the second place is cars going into water.

Ms. Plokin-Stuart commented that the coalition's purpose is education on water safety, going into the community and spreading the importance of learning how to swim, stressing on never swimming alone, supervising your children, and the importance of getting swimming lessons. She informed the group that the coalition has a safety DVD for free. She brought copies for the group.

Ms. Plokin-Stuart concluded by stating that she is willing to come out and do a presentation for any group. She brought brochures for the group. Ms. Plokin-Stuart asked the group for questions.

Ms. Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton inquired about the criteria for applying for free swimming lessons. Ms. Plokin-Stuart responded that the program is government assistance. If anyone is interested in the program, you may contact her at (561) 616-7068 to find out if you qualify.

Someone inquired whether the coalition had a swimming lesson program for a child with special needs. Ms. Plokin-Stuart responded that several facilities in the program deal with special needs children.

Someone inquired about a program for the children who don't qualify for the free swimming lessons program. Ms. Plokin-Stuart responded that they could still participate in the program and that she would provide them with a list of the facilities along with the cost.

Mr. Gainer inquired if this program is instituted at all County aquatic facilities. Ms. Plokin-Stuart responded yes. She further commented that the coalition is partially funded by the Board of County Commissioners and the Children Services Council. The coalition's main office is located in the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue building.

Someone inquired about special programs for seniors. Ms. Plokin-Stuart commented that there are adult swimming lessons offered.

**2) Presentation by: Alicia Kuga, Coordinator of the Community Assistance Team for P.B.C. Fire Rescue**

The Community Assistance Team was formed to assist the elderly population in the community. The elderly population is age 90 or older. The medics noticed that in the communities, there was a high percentage of elderly population. They noticed that the elderly population was not able to hear for themselves. They also noticed situations with homes burning down and leaving families with nothing, people with mental health, loss of a loved one, or just getting older. Fire Rescue wanted to provide the best customer service they could to the community. The medics got together and came up with the idea of getting into the social service business. The medics did some research and created a resource bank. This resource list would be very beneficial when the medics are called and they go into people homes to assist them. They will be able to further help them by telling them about other resources in Palm Beach County that may be needed. Ms. Kuga commended the Sheriff's Department in Palm Beach County. She stated that she has not met a Deputy that did not go beyond the call of duty.

Ms. Kuga began to mention other services offered through the program. They respond to calls after people have suffered a loss either through death, illness, or fire; crisis mitigation; crisis intervention; mental health & bereavement; social service referrals (example: loss of spouse, etc.). The organization can be contacted at dispatch number (561) 712-6550, 7 days, 24 hours. She brought brochures for the group. Ms. Kuga further mentioned that this response team is comprised of herself, retired doctors, lawyers, nurses, psychologist, counselors, and teachers. Ms. Kuga concluded by asking the group for questions.

LaToya Ricketts asked whether the organization provides smoke detectors. Ms. Kuga responded yes, Fire Rescue does have a smoke detector program; which is under the community education section in the brochure. The contact person is Angela Brown 616-7033.

Brendhan Horne inquired whether the organization was subsidizing or testing existing smoke detectors. Ms. Kuga responded that she no longer handles the program and asked him to contact Ms. Brown.

Ms. Plokin-Stuart also wanted to mention that the Drug Intervention Coalition also does health & safety fairs. A representative would be glad to set up a table or booth displaying information on water safety.

## **V. DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

### **Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority, reported on the following:**

- Adopt-a-Spot Program – Ms. Aikens announced the award of the year for this program. On behalf of the Solid Waste Authority, Ms. Aiken's presented a plaque to Deputy Goodard, Community Policing Officer for Watergate Estates Community, for his outstanding participation. Deputy Goodard commended the Solid Waste Authority for their help in making things possible in the Watergate Estates community.

### **Captain Jablonski, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office, reported on the following:**

- Gang Task Force – Approximately five (5) deputies (Community Policing Officers) are still assigned to this group. He further mentioned the activity and progress being made through this group.
- Community Policing – are partnering with Juvenile Probation to enforce the decisions of the court.
- Westgate Community – The officers made arrests in this neighborhood.

### **Bilal Mujahid, P.B.C. Water Utilities, reported on the following:**

- Ranch House Road Project – The project is moving along well.
- Coconut Grove Project (south of Lake Worth Road/off Davis) – is moving forward. Expect to have easement issues resolved by this month. In the process of getting CSA (Consultant Services Authorization) done. Next, the design should be done in August '07. He anticipates the project should be complete by the end of this year.
- Old Military Trail Project – This project will be going before the Board tomorrow.

### **Tripp Cioci, P.B.C. Property & Real Estate Management (PREM), reported on the following:**

- Watergate Estates Park project – The project is moving along. The contract was sent out last week.

## **VI. RESIDENT UPDATES:**

### **Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident, reported on the following:**

- Streetlights – The lights were installed two (2) weeks ago. She thanked the CCRT team, and OCR staff for their assistance.

## **VI. RESIDENT UPDATES: (Cont'd)**

### **Dan Dumas, San Castle Leader, reported on the following:**

- Community Policing Officers – Mr. Dumas briefly corrected an incorrect comment made regarding a discussion at the last meeting. Additionally, Mr. Dumas commended the new Deputies: Sgt. Ewell, Deputy Ryan and Deputy Roberts are doing an excellent job.
- Annual Great American Clean-up – will be coming up soon. He mentioned that through the NPG Program, they were able to get the material needed to properly do a good job for this activity. He thanked the Solid Waste Authority in advance for assisting with this event.

### **Brendhan Horne, Royal Palm Estates Leader, reported on the following:**

- Park's Grand Opening Ceremony - On behalf of Ruth Mogueillansky-De Rose, Chrystal Mathews stated that she was advised that May 5<sup>th</sup> was good for the Commissioners. Ms. Mathews asked Mr. Horne to contact her to confirm this date. Ms. Mathews and Mr. Horne will further discuss this after the meeting. Ms. Mathews further mentioned a meeting with Cindy Verner, from Commissioner Santamaria's Office, to coordinate this event.
- Great American Clean-up – is scheduled to be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Parks & Recreation – He requested that the sign be removed off the backcourt prior to having the Grand Opening Ceremony.
- Community Policing Officers – Since the Deputies were reassigned back in the neighborhood, the crime rate has dropped.
- Code Enforcement – Officers have been very active in the neighborhood. He mentioned colored maps done by the Officers. The residents have been responsive and the neighborhood is looking better.
- Streetlights – He stated that Brenda Warren is working on getting the residents signatures and would be submitting the information soon.
- Resident concern – He requested to speak with a representative from the Housing Authority regarding a resident.
- Road Paving – The issue is still pending with the County. He mentioned a Public Hearing for remainder of funds for the project.

## **OCR STAFF UPDATES:**

### **Chrystal Mathews, OCR Staff, reported on the following:**

- NPG Program – Letter of Intent is due on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Submittal of NPG applications is due June 22<sup>nd</sup>. In reference to the 2005 NPG extension, all information (invoices, reimbursements, etc.) is due by April 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mathews reminded the 2006 NPG applicants about status reports for current grants. If you have any questions or need assistance, please see her after the meeting.

**LaToya Ricketts, OCR Staff, reported on the following:**

- OCR website – The site is up and running. If anyone is interesting in having a link from OCR website, please give your website information to her. Also if you have any news or information that you would like announced, please contact her at 233-5239.
- OCR Gazette – The gazette is being published. Ms. Rickett anticipates the newsletter to be ready by the next CCRT meeting. She is currently working on articles for the next quarterly newsletter. If you have any information or events that you would like announced in the next newsletter, please contact her at (561) 233-5239.
- REAP Session – This is OCR's 5<sup>th</sup> REAP Session on the coast. The REAP Graduation is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Airport Hilton Hotel. Invitations should be going out this week. Ms. Ricketts is requesting that you RSVP for this event.

**Duane Gainer, OCR Staff, reported on the following:**

- REAP Graduation – He announced that Greta Von Unruh would be the keynote speaker at the graduation. He talked about presenting participants with the mini grants and certificates of appreciation. He further mentioned that several County Commissioners would be attending the event.
- BCC Agenda Item – He mentioned an agenda item regarding additional funding for Old Trail. He gave a brief history on project requests for this community.

**VII. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

None

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

- The next GTAC meeting will be held on April 26th in Canal Point. The next CCRT meeting will be held on May 14, 2007, (Monday), from 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m., at the Mounts Botanical Building, in the Mounts Auditorium (directions: the building south of the Driver's License Office, on Military Trail. You may enter the door with the Handicap Ramp - door is closest to the auditorium room).
- 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

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Joyce Harrell, OCR Secretary

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

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