

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of March 9, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Palm Beach County Vista Center, Room 1E-60

Minutes

Present:

Al Albrecht, Plantation Village
Jason Bland, San Castle Leadership Group
Deputy Willie Brookins, P.B.S.O.
Jorceline Cadet, P.B.C. Housing Authority
Shirley Cantelo, Old Trail Resident
Victor Conlin, Plantation Village
Deputy J. Delaura, P.B.S.O.
Ruth Mogueillansky-De Rose, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Deputy W. Dieujuste, P.B.S.O.
Ed Frazier, Old Trail Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Deputy T. Graham, P.P.B.S.O.
Andy Hartman, P.B.C. Engineering
Thelma Inman, San Castle Leadership Group
Demetrius (Demi) Jacques, Gramercy Park Resident
Gary Koopman, Plantation Community
Captain J. Lindskoog, P.B.S.O.
Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Roy McGinnis, PACE EH/Department of Health
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
Pat Packard, San Castle Leadership Group
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
Sharon Sheppard, Westgate CRA
Jack Simons, Hope/Lake Worth
Deputy Scott Spirn, P.B.S.O.
Ed Summerlin, Plantation Community
Houston L. Tate, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Tina Thompson, Schall Landing Resident
Thomas Totz, Plantation Estates Community Association
Martha Turner, Gramercy Park Resident

Deputy M. Walsh, P.B.S.O.
Brenda Warren, Royal Palm Estates Resident
Rachel Williams, Gramercy Park Resident
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.

Brenda Warren, Royal Palm Estates (RPE) resident, asked about the cost analysis for sidewalks along Wallis Road.

Mrs. Moguillansky-De Rose stated she sent an e-mail to Brendhan Horne indicating that based on information provided by Andy Harman, from Engineering, the conceptual 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. Mrs. Moguillansky-De Rose also stated that the construction of the pathway will require enhancements to the existing drainage system to maintain an outfall for several properties along the north side, and additional right-of-way acquisition is likely for the above improvements.

Andy Hartmann, Engineering representative, added that the planner assigned to the project is Mark Sinkhorn and he is currently working on a project on Sylvan Lane. Wallis Road is his next priority.

Mr. Gainer asked if anyone else in attendance was expecting information from OCR.

Mr. Totz asked about the status of making the CCRT Reassessment Study available online or if could he get a hard copy.

Mrs. Moguillansky-De Rose responded that at this time the report is not available online and that OCR will provide black and white copies to interested parties after the meeting, if desired. She also stated that she will obtain a pdf file from Ms. Mathews and post it on the website.

III. Department Updates:

Andy Hartman, Engineering representative, reported on the following:

- Sylvan Lane – Engineering is currently addressing LWDD comments
- Navarre Road is under construction
- Sun Court was finalized March 4th

- Cinquez Park is under construction
- Patio Court's initial maintenance is almost complete
- Whispering Pines area needs outfall route for drainage and Engineering is having trouble finding one
- 1, 2 and 3rd Sunbeam is under design

Mr. Gainer asked if there was anyone in attendance from Patio Court with any questions from what Mr. Hartmann mentioned.

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

- Palm Beach County agencies have been gearing up to address the Haitian migration to Palm Beach County since the earthquake. Key agencies involved are the Department of Children and Families, the Health Department, and the School District as far as placement of children in school. The Sheriff's Office is involved and the Community Services Department is also involved through the Human Services Division. In addition, the US Coast guard is on notification to control the migration. If someone has a specific question regarding this subject, they can see Mr. Rafaidus after the meeting.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any questions for Mr. Rafaidus. There were none.

Pam Nolan, Economic Development Office (EDO) representative, reported on the following:

- EDO went before the Board with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Revolving Loan Programs for businesses to apply to make energy efficiency improvements to their buildings. The criteria was approved by the Board on 02/23. The loan program is looking at 3% interest for up to 10 years. EDO is currently waiting for the closing agreements to be completed. After receiving the closing agreements, EDO will advertise the loan program. EDO has a total of \$1.1 million dollars but hopes to increase it as it goes along. EDO estimates the loans to be around \$15,000 to \$16,000 dollars mostly for the air conditioning crisis. The grants are open to any business located in Palm Beach County.

IV. OCR Staff Reports:

Houston Tate, OCR, reported on the following:

- Will begin forming committees of residents to work on certain neighborhood issues such as crime and home mortgages. Looking forward to resident participation.

Crystal Mathews, OCR, reported on the following:

- Resident Education to Action Program (REAP) began in Belle Glade on March 2 and was a huge success; 45 people attended; including 10 youths; a total of 72 persons registered;
- So far, 27 residents have registered for the Central REAP sessions starting 04/06; those interested in participating can go to the OCR website to download the brochure, press release and registration form. Brochures are also on the table if anyone would like to register today.
- Graduation for both REAP sessions is 06/12.
- The Glades sessions submitted 10 letters of intent for the REAP grants.

- 1 new component for the REAP grant is the opportunity for groups that are incorporated but do not have a 501C3 tax designation to be able to obtain funding to cover the cost of obtaining such designation from the IRS.

Gary Koopman, Charity Express, Inc. representative from Plantation Village, asked if they were eligible to apply for the grants.

Mrs. Mathews replied yes, for neighborhood beautification or other projects that would benefit the community, up to \$2,500.

- In regards to last years' REAP, Ms. Mathews stated that those grants expire on 05/15 and only 2 grants out of 15 have been completed. She stated that if anyone has received a grant through REAP please contact her.
- The Neighborhood Partnership Grant (NPG) program is a program available to CCRT areas, unlike REAP which is open to the entire County. The Letters of Intent for the NPG program are due 04/23 and the grant applications (\$20,000 maximum) are due on 06/18.

V. Grant Opportunities/Community Q & A:

Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, OCR, reported on the following:

- OCR's Community Connect is an e-mail communication intended to provide Palm Beach County residents and all interested parties with information regarding grant opportunities, relevant community events, and tools or information that can be used to assist in community revitalization efforts. She stated that it is in its early stages of implementation, and appreciates everybody's feedback and patience. Please let her know what your thoughts are, and keep OCR informed on how you are using the information provided, and what type of initiatives and/or improvement projects you have been able to implement as a result. Ms. Moguillansky-De Rose also asked those who are not on the mailing list and are interested in receiving OCR's Community Connect, to provide her with their contact information.

Audley Reid, OCR, reported on the following:

- This months' Community Connect contains 16 grant opportunities. OCR has developed a template to incorporate the description of the grants, how much money is available, the eligibility requirement, and contact information for the grants. The template is organized by several categories, such as culture, community development, environment, training, etc;
- Over 50% of the grants require an on-line application and will not accept hard copy.

Someone asked if the OCR's Community Connect is available on the OCR website. Mrs. Moguillansky-De Rose responded that it is not available online and, for now, cannot be placed on the site. Mr. Tate added that it will be distributed by email every two weeks.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any further questions.

Brenda Warren, RPE resident, asked if Mr. Reid would be available for an appointment to go over questions that may arise as residents prepare a grant application. Mr. Reid responded yes.

Mr. Gainer stated that the OCR's Community Connect and grant opportunities will be on the monthly CCRT agenda from this point forward, and encouraged anyone with ideas or specific grant needs to let OCR know.

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

VI. Resident Comments:

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

- Thank you to the County for the prompt response to the sidewalk issues that they had; problems were fixed just two weeks after bringing the issue to the CCRT.
- Traffic issues require more study before submitting anything to OCR.
- The neighborhood needs funding for additional streetlights.

Demi Jacques, Gramercy Park resident, reported on the following:

- Thank you to OCR, officials, and Commissioners for the streetlights.
- The community need crossing guards at 45th Street and Haverhill and 45th and Military Trail.

Michael Owens, School District representative, stated that they have an agreement with the municipalities and Mrs. Jacques should talk to Capt. Kenney at the Sheriff office for Haverhill and the City of WPB for Military Trail.

- Thank you for the plans for the park on Park Ave. The community is excited. They want to station the Sheriff there, and in the future cameras. Some concerns are the bathrooms, noise, park closing, park benches, tables and chairs.
- Special thanks to Mr. Wynn. The streetlights had a personal touch and it was not just a gray pole.

Tina Thompson, Schall Landing resident, reported on the following:

- Thank you CCRT and community residents appreciate all the help provided.

Jason Bland, San Castle Leadership Group, reported on the following:

- He has been relocated to North Carolina so this is his last meeting.
- Thank you to the CCRT/OCR and PBSO. Keep up the good work.

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

- At 45th Street and Jog Road they are working on lights and widening road. The residents are worried about the increase in noise. Ms. Williams asked whether there will be a noise barrier.

OCR will follow-up on this item.

Ilene Long, Old Trail resident, reported on the following:

- Needs to talk to someone about streetlights. They were supposed to get 20 but only got 14, and the community needs the additional lights.
- Thanks to PBSO for Deputy Brookins.

OCR will follow-up on the streetlight item.

Thomas Totz, Plantation Community resident, reported on the following:

- The community needs more streetlights and sidewalks.

Mr. Tate responded that he can always submit a written request but in terms of the process it is all based on availability of funding. OCR was not approved for any additional funding except utilizing fiscal funding brought forward from past fiscal years. OCR has funding for 3 new street light applications.

Discussion ensued regarding funding, streetlights, and prioritization.

VII. Adjournment:

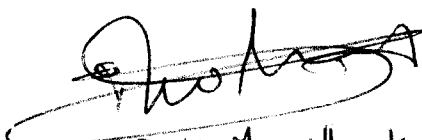
The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

The next meeting will be on April 13th.

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

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director

March 9, 2010 CCRT Meeting


Bath Magillinsky-De Rose for
Houston L. Tate