

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of May 12, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Palm Beach County Vista Center, Room 1E-60

Minutes

Present:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
Jason Bland, San Castle Community Leadership Group
Denny Burk, Plantation Estates Resident
Ron Faber, Whispering Pines
Ed Frazier, Old Trail Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Deputy T. Graham, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Tim Granowitz, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation
Deputy Grimsley, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Andy Hartman, P.B.C. Engineering
Deputy J. Harvey, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Anne Helfant, P.B.C. Attorney's Office
Sergeant J. Hightower, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Brendhan Horne, Royal Palm Estates Resident
Kimberly Johnson, Schall Landing Resident
Kathy King, Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group
Jody Kistenmacher, Whispering Pines Resident
Sergeant J. Kula, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Captain Jeff Lindskoog, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident
Michael Marquis, P.B.C. Engineering
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Roy McGinnis, PACE EH/Department of Health
Deputy C. Miccea, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Seth Olaynick, Whispering Pines Resident
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services
Myrtle Rainford, Gramercy Park Resident
Audley Reid, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Latoya Ricketts, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Sylvia Sharps, P.B.C. Water Utilities Department
Houston Tate, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization
Deputy Dwayne Thomas, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Thomas Totz, Plantation Estates Community Association

Martha Turner, Gramercy Park Resident
Gail Vorpapel, P.B.C. Code Enforcement
Claudia Williams, Schall Landing 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:**

A memo summarizing items discussed at the previous CCRT meeting was distributed by William Wynn. Mr. Gainer asked if anyone in attendance was expecting information not contained in the memo. No one responded.

III. **Presentation:**

- Joanna Aiken of Solid Waste Authority asked to speak to the group on behalf of Paint Your Heart Out. Gail Vorpapel of Code Enforcement joined Ms. Aiken at the podium. Ms. Vorpapel and Ms. Aiken presented the OCR/CCRT with a "token of appreciation" from the Board of Directors of Paint Your Heart Out. The token is glass shaped like a flame on a metal base. The inscription reads "Paint Your Heart Out Palm Beach County Gratefully Acknowledges Office of Community Revitalization for Giving Back to the Community." The award was accepted by Mrs. Chrystal Mathews. So far this year, seventy-five (75) homes have been painted and over seven thousand (7,000) gallons of paint have been donated to residents. The group applauded.

IV. **Department Updates:**

Mr. Gainer began this portion of the meeting by distributing Construction Work-in-Progress (CWIP) printouts to the Water Utilities Department (WUD), Parks and Recreation (Parks), and Engineering (ENG.). Mr. Gainer explained the process that is done periodically by Finance. Houston Tate added that the CWIP request is different from the request for information concerning "inactive" projects.

Michael Marquis of ENG asked if projects listed as "complete" on the CWIP report required any additional actions by him. A brief discussion ensued regarding definitions and the process of closing out projects.

Tim Granowitz, Parks representative, reported on the following:

- Glades Pioneer Park Splash Pad is complete and the Grand Opening is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend;

- Westgate Splash Pad design is complete; contractor is preparing the bid; the project should be completed in about six (6) months (Nov.);
- Watergate park plans are fifty (50%) percent complete; construction should begin this summer;
- Met with WUD regarding Bridgeman Park (land transfer);
- Still in the process of acquiring the property for Gramercy Park; Due to budget cuts Parks does not have funds to run programs at the Community Center; before the project can move forward, program funding must be identified; based on preliminary budget reviews, program funding could be approximately \$250,000 per year.

Mr. Tate asked if it was still planned to do the project in phases. Mr. Granowitz replied yes they could but, if all necessary funding falls in place and an entity is available to program and operate the community center, it could all be done at once. Mr. Gainer asked who will make the decision of which route to take. Mr. Granowitz replied that he thought it would be the Parks Director and County Administration. Mr. Gainer asked if there was any criteria for the partner agency for the programming at the center and if Parks would like assistance in identifying a suitable partner. Mr. Granowitz responded no because no one has directed Parks to work on that. Parks has been talking with Juvenile Justice and Weed and Seed with regard to programming. Mr. Tate added that the Boys and Girls Club was another option and Mr. Granowitz agreed. Mr. Gainer asked the residents of Gramercy Park in attendance if they had any questions. There were no questions.

Michael Marquis, Engineering (ENG) representative, reported on the following:

- Cinquez Park has a Public Hearing tentatively scheduled for July 19th and a Public Information meeting scheduled for July 7th at the Jupiter Community Center. Mr. Tate added that he would meet with Mr. Marquis later to discuss additional funding needed for Sun Court and other current MSTU projects.

V. OCR Staff Reports:

Audley Reid, OCR staff, reported on the following:

- Street lighting projects should be completed soon for Haverhill West, Plantation Estates, and Royal Palm Estates.
- OCR is currently working with FPL to hire a sub-contractor for Gramercy Park; a portion of the lights must be “underground” and FPL doesn’t do underground installations.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any questions. Deputy J. Hightower asked Mr. Reid if he had been contacted by anyone from Whispering Pines. Mr. Reid said he did not think so. He gave Deputy Hightower his phone number. Michael Marquis of ENG stated that he is working on a paving and drainage improvement project in the neighborhood. Deputy Hightower stated that PBSO received a complaint/request from the Commissioner’s Office concerning illegal activities in the neighborhood. PBSO is trying to get the residents organized. The residents wrote a letter to the Commissioner requesting assistance and PBSO was brought in. OCR was notified as well. Mr. Tate stated that Whispering Pines is not a CCRT area and therefore does not qualify for funding assistance. OCR, however, has still met with them and will help the organization. Mr. Tate thanked PBSO for their participation in REAP.

Denny Burk of Plantation Estates Steering Committee thanked OCR for the commencement of the street lighting project in his community.

Mr. Gainer clarified that OCR funding is limited to designated CCRT areas, however, Commissioners will contact OCR for any neighborhood issues in unincorporated neighborhoods within their Districts. There are a lot of things OCR can assist non-CCRT areas with that do not necessarily require funding.

Chrystal Mathews, OCR staff, reported on the following:

- Neighborhood Partnership Grants (NPG) Letters of Intent were due on April 24th and twenty-four (24) letters were received. The application is due on June 19th by 5:00 pm. Mrs. Mathews asked anyone needing assistance to feel free to contact her at 233-5565; \$100,200 is available for this round of grants;
- The NPG Review Committee will be restructured as well as the grant process (paperless).

LaToya Ricketts, OCR staff, reported on the following:

- The REAP Graduation Ceremony was held this past weekend. Sixty-two Palm Beach County residents received certificates of completion. In addition, seventeen America's Next Top Neighborhood Grants (ANTN) were awarded totaling approximately \$22,000.

Mr. Tate thanked Ms. Ricketts for her efforts with REAP. The group applauded. Mr. Tate also thanked Sylvia Sharps for serving as the MC for the event. Joanna Aiken lead the group in wishing Ms. Sharps a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were any more OCR staff reports. Mr. Tate asked the attending community residents to communicate any issues they may have to the OCR and any ideas for activities the OCR could assist with that are not of a financial nature. David Rafaidus of Community Services suggested OCR to produce a document similar to the one used in Orlando that was distributed by the REAP Graduation Keynote speaker. It lists the accomplishments of the office over a specific time period. Mr. Rafaidus also wanted to remind the group of the presentation at next month's meeting on the Home Energy Assistance Program.

VI. Resident Comments:

Denny Burk Plantation Estates representative, asked about pressure cleaning instead of painting (manufactured homes). Mr. Tate asked Mr. Burk to make the recommendation to OCR and give us an opportunity to respond. Mr. Burk then asked what was the process for a community to receive a neighborhood park. Mr. Tate responded that the community should make the request to OCR in writing, however, no funds are available for theirs or any new project. A brief discussion ensued regarding the current funding environment.

Brendhan Horne, Royal Palm Estates (RPE) representative, reported on the following:

- Playground signs have been installed around Caroline Park.
- The Great American Clean up was a success; special thanks to SWA. There was a brief discussion regarding hazardous waste removal.

- The RPE Crime Watch Group now has Florida Not-For-Profit status.
- Requested an update on sidewalks for the west side of canal.

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

- Their Annual Meeting will be on May 20th and new Board members will be elected.
- Family night is scheduled for May 22nd.
- Armed Forces Day is May 15th.
- Movie in the Park will be held on May 29th.
- Day classes are winding down; gearing up for Summer Camps.
- LWW is partnering with the PBSO for Harmony in the Streets Camp June 8-12.

Illene Long, Old Trail representative, reported on the following:

- Thanked Joanna Aiken and SWA for picking up a pile of trash which was there for about eight (8) months (illegal dumping); two (2) propane tanks are still there. Deputy Thomas volunteered to pick them up.
- Requested a “No Dumping” sign for that location. Ms. Aiken responded that the SWA is out of those signs but that Old Trail will get one when SWA has more.

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

- Thanked Joanna Aiken for all of her assistance with the Great American Cleanup. Over 160 people participated; a home was painted.
- Requested a list of abandoned homes in the neighborhood and a supply of garbage bags so that volunteers can keep the properties clean.
- Awarded their first vocational scholarship.
- Thanked the PBSO for participating in their cleanup (7 Deputies).
- Had their highest number of Haitian residents to participate.
- Requested a sidewalk on Mentone Road; there are two (2) school bus stops on the street and children currently have to walk in the street to catch the buses.
- Currently working on the NPG.
- The streetlight project is almost complete.
- Will have a Fourth of July Cook-out.
- Thanked the CCRT for their assistance.

Mr. Gainer stated that he would ask Code Enforcement to provide a presentation on their procedures at a future meeting.

Michael Owens, School District representative, stated that he believes there is a State program (Safe Paths) that may be able to assist with funding for sidewalks. Discussion ensued regarding buses, speed bumps, and funding.

Mr. Tate asked Mr. Bland to include his concerns in a letter to OCR.

Claudia Williams, Schall Landing representative, reported on the following:

- Requested funding assistance or assistance in identifying funds for summer programs. Mr. Tate responded that OCR could provide her with what the County had available.

Mr. Gainer asked if there were anymore resident comments.

- Seth Olaynick, Whispering Pines resident, asked what the criteria for a CCRT area were. Mr. Gainer and Mrs. Mathews briefly went over the criteria used for the current CCRT areas (104) and for the future CCRT areas (85) and Mr. Tate asked Mr. Olaynick to come to the office to further discuss this.
- Sgt. Hightower asked if Mr. Olaynick could be updated on the road project in the neighborhood and receive assistance with a cleanup they are planning. Joanna Aiken, SWA, suggested they become an Adopt-A-Spot and thereby receive support for clean-ups.

Michael Marquis of ENG stated that the design of the road project has begun and is 35% complete. Mr. Marquis will provide periodic updates on the road project. Mr. Olaynick asked if traffic calming was a part of the current design. Mr. Marquis responded that currently it was not but he would take it up with the Engineer.

- Mr. Olaynick asked about streetlights and was directed by Mr. Tate to speak to Mr. Reid.

Mr. Gainer asked if there any more comments or questions.

Claudia Williams of Schall Landing wanted to thank REAP and OCR for the \$2,200 ANTN grant her community was awarded at the REAP Graduation.

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

VII. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

The next meeting will be on June 9th.

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

Approved by: Houston Tate, Director