

Countywide Community Revitalization Team

Meeting of September 11, 2006

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Old Location: PZ&B, 2nd Floor Conf. Room

Minutes

Present:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
Jorceline Cadet, P.B.C. Housing Authority
Shirley Cantelo, Old Trail Resident
Cpl. John Cardascia, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Carlton Cartwright, TCCI/Children's Coalition, Inc.
Tripp Cioci, Property & Real Estate Management
Carol Clinton, Lake Worth West Resident
William Cox, Lantana Homes HOA
Sgt. M. Custer, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Dan Dumas, San Castle Community Leadership, Inc.
Ed Frazier, Old Trail Resident
Duane Gainer, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Deputy Shawn Goodard, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Tim Granowitz, P.B.C. Parks & Recreation Department
Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton, City of South Bay
Anne Helfant, P.B.C. Attorney's Office
Ken Jackson, P.B.C. Code Enforcement
Kai Jones, Pace EH, Dept. of Health
Edward Kaye, Westgate Heights Neighborhood Association
Kathy King, Lake Worth West Resid. Planning Group
Heather Levy, Solid Waste Authority
Nancy Lodise, Pleasant Ridge Resident
Ilene Long, Old Trail Resident
Tonda Masson, Lake Worth Corridor Resident
Chrystal Mathews, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Ruth Moguillansky-De Rose, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
Bilal Mujahid, P.B.C. Water Utilities Department
Michael Owens, P.B.C. School District
Ora Owensby, P.B.C. Zoning Division
Audley Reid, Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)
LaToya Ricketts, Office of Community Revitalization (OCR)

Present (Cont'd)

Doug Sager, P.B.C. Code Enforcement
Sharon Sheppard, Westgate/Belvedere Homes CRA
Courtney Shippey, P.B.C. Health Department
Barbara Bell-Spence, City of Belle Glade
Deputy Dwayne Thomas, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office (Schall Circle/Old Trail)
Launa Thorton, Westgate Heights Neighborhood Association
Guy Volk, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development
William Wynn, P.B.C. Office of Community Revitalization

CCRT Members Absent:

Diana Cunningham, P.B.C. Criminal Justice Commission
Gerry Gawaldo, P.B.C. Palm Tran
Lt. Ed Luty, P.B.C. Sheriff's Office
Don Loutsch, Children Services Council
Michael Marquis, P.B.C. Engineering Department
Pam Nolan, P.B.C. Economic Development Office
David Rafaidus, P.B.C. Community Services
Willy Volk, P.B.C. Housing & Community Development
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. MOMENT OF SILENCE (9-11-01):

Mr. Gainer reminded everyone about the most tragic terrorist attack in U.S. history that happened five (5) years ago today. At approximately 8:30a.m./8:45a.m., in New York City, the first building was hit and approximately 8:56a.m., the second building was hit. Then approximately 30 to 45 minutes later both buildings began to fall or crumble. This attack killed numerous people, and injured numerous people; and had an effect on all of us. At this point, Mr. Gainer asked the group to observe a moment of silence for the victims of 9-11 '01.

Mr. Gainer mentioned that Joyce Harrell is on vacation and he thanked her for picking up the refreshments and other preparations for the meeting. He thanked the OCR staff for filling in and setting up for the meeting.

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Mr. Gainer asked if anyone had corrections to the August 8, 2006 CCRT minutes. There were no corrections to the minutes.

IV. REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UPS:

Mr. Gainer stated that copies of the follow-ups from the August 8, 2006 CCRT meeting were available on the information table. He asked the group to contact him or LaToya Ricketts if anyone had questions.

Mr. Gainer asked Mr. Dumas if he had any questions regarding the report made at the last meeting about San Castle not having a Community Policing Officer in the neighborhood. He wanted to know when the Sheriff's Office would be assigning a new Community Policing Officer to the area. Mr. Dumas responded that he was informed at today's meeting that San Castle would be indeed getting a new Community Policing Officer. Mr. Dumas further commented that Solid Waste Authority is doing a great job. Also, Code Enforcement is doing a fantastic job.

Kathy King made a comment to Dan Dumas about the presentation the Sheriff's Office has on gang related violence or problems. She further commented that Lake Worth West has invited the Sheriff's Office to come to their monthly community meeting several times to talk to the residents.

V. DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Bilal Mujahid, Water Utilities, reported on the following:

- Dillman Heights/Sutton Terrace – waiting on bacteriological and pressure testing to be released from the Health Department. The as-built drawings also have to be checked. He estimates at least another two (2) weeks before the water is turned on.

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

- Neon Affron Park (on Sarafica, off Melaleuca) - In the process of completing the park. The grand opening is scheduled for September 29th.
- Carolyn Drive Park – Have received bids. Construction should start soon. He mentioned that he would be bringing a budget transfer to the Board to complete this project.
- Old Trail – Should receive bids back this week. Received permits to install pipes on the south side. Also, he would need to submit a budget transfer. The request to cut the grass in the park will be included in the construction of the project.
- Next fiscal year projects - Looking to acquire several properties for park development in Watergate Mobile Home Park, Gramercy Park, Westgate, and Ranch House/Homewood.

Ilene Long, from Old Trail, commented that the park site is overgrown and need to be mowed. Mr. Granowitz responded that there is no maintenance budget setup for the park until it is built.

Joanna Aiken offered her assistance in helping out with the mowing of the park site. She suggested that the volunteers that work with the Solid Waste Authority could assist with this project. She will look into getting this done through the Adopt-A-Spot Program. Mr. Granowitz commented sure that is a good idea.

In reference to Watergate Mobile Home, a Deputy commented that Deputy Goodard had got in contact with the church and that a new community policing office was opened in the neighborhood.

Mr. Gainer inquired about the budget transfers mentioned by Mr. Granowitz. He asked if the requests would be for this fiscal year or the next budget year. Mr. Granowitz responded that the budget transfers would be in October. Ms. Mognillansky-De Rose asked Mr. Granowitz to send a copy of the agenda items to OCR and reminded him about the need for the OCR Manager to sign items related to projects funded by the OCR/CCRT.

Tripp Cioci, Facilities Development & Operations, reported on the following:

- Lake Worth West – He received a call from Carol Clinton, Executive Director, regarding exterior damage to the community center. She further commented that in October they are looking toward some funds being allocated. He stated that at that time he would provide some additional information. Ms. Clinton asked if this meant yes that they would provide some assistance. Mr. Cioci responded yes.

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

- International Coastal Cleanup (Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful) – will be held this weekend, September 16th. If you are interested in participating, it is not too late to sign up. She brought T-shirts, given to the volunteers, for the group to see.
- Adopt-A-Spot Program – This program is for every neighborhood. She would like for all neighborhoods to sign up. There are lots of opportunities.
- Paint Your Heart Out Program – This activity will be held on October 28th. She brought applications and flyers for the group. She is soliciting interested applicants to apply if they need their house painted. If you don't qualify for the painting of your house, SWA will donate the paint.
- Rebuilding Together Program – Volunteers will be working in the Old Trail neighborhood repairing houses. She has applications available for residents to register.

Deputy Thomas suggested that she contact CDM Roofing for volunteers for the Rebuilding Together Program.

VI. RESIDENT/OCR STAFF UPDATES:

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

- International Coastal Cleanup – The Lake Worth West Resident Planning Group will be the site coordinator for this event, which will be at the Lake Worth Beach (south west corner of parking lot/south of Casino). She gave further details about the event.

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

- CCRT/OCR Activity Calendar – LWW Monthly Community Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. This month, the Lake Worth Community Development Corporation (CDC) has been invited to do a presentation about the First Time Homebuyers Program. In addition, someone from Express Consolidation will be speaking on Improving Your Credit Score. The October 18th community meeting is cancelled, and they will have open house from 4:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.
- Fall Classes – will start September 18th. The LWW Newsletter has a listing of the class schedule. One of the new program's is Homework Help, scheduled at 2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m. She is seeking volunteers to help the children with homework. She brought copies of the LWW Newsletter for the group.
- Youth Group – will be attending an event on tomorrow, September 12th, on Democracy In Action, held at the Water Shed in Boynton Beach, at 4:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.

Pastor Wayne Padgett, (Crossroad Baptist Church) Gramercy Park, reported on the following:

- Improvements or positive things are happening in the community – there is more involvement from the community, the Police Athletic League, is working with The City of West Palm Beach Police Department, and the County Sheriff's Office.
- After-School Program – will be starting today, September 11th.

Deputy John Goodard, Watergate Estates, reported on the following:

- Community Policing Satellite Office – Grand Opening Ceremony of the building was held on September 10th. He stated that he appreciate Joanna Aikens, Heather Levy, and the Health Department for their support for this event.

Kai Jones, PACE Program, Dept. of Health, reported on the following:

- Commended the Sheriff's Office and We Care on the open house and the ceremony. There was excellent attendance. The department was invited and a table was setup, and talked with the residents about their concerns and issues of the community. They are gathering the data from the surveys regarding the neighborhood.

Nancy Lodise, Pleasant Ridge, reported on the following:

- 2004 Neighborhood Partnership Grant - is coming to completion. The project included renovating entry features on US Highway 1.

Kathy King commented regarding a CD that the youth made in the studio, which Ms. King played for the group a few months ago at the CCRT meeting. There were several requests and interest in purchasing the CD. Ms. King announced that she now has copies of the CD. All donations will go toward next year's summer camp. Ms. King requested names of anyone interested in a CD and she will bring them at next month's CCRT meeting.

Mr. Gainer reminded the group that Audley Reid, the new OCR staff person, is handling the Street Lighting Program. Mr. Reid commented that an agenda item would be going before the Board for approval in October.

Tim Granowitz commented in reference to Kenwood Estates Park. He stated that Parks is waiting to pick up the permit for the streetlights.

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

- Belle Glade Pioneer Park – She commented regarding the park's grand opening. They had a wonderful turnout. The facility is beautiful.

In reference to the Belle Glade Pioneer Park, Ken Jackson inquired about installation of water fountains. Mr. Granowitz commented that they would be putting in all new water fountains, if there is water available.

Mr. Gainer inquired about the status of the OCR Gazette. Ms. Ricketts commented that she did receive some information for the gazette from the CCRT group.

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

- Sun Court Streetlights – This project entails the installation and 20 year maintenance of 12 streetlights. An agenda item will be before the Board tomorrow, September 12th, for the approval of the project and the necessary budgets transfers and amendments.
- Lantana Homes Streetlights – This project entails the installation and 10 year maintenance of 20 streetlights. An agenda item will go before the Board for the approval of this project on October 3rd. She further commented that after Board approval, a formal request will be sent to FPL for the initiation of the projects.
- OCR Gazette – The Gazette is almost complete. Staff anticipates distributing the Gazette before the end of the month.

Duane Gainer, OCR Staff, reported on the following:

- Funding Recommendations – The final recommendation report will be going before the Board on October 10th. The report needs to be completed by September 20th. He talked about OCR's commitment when funding projects. OCR would like to see projects that are ready to go and completed within the fiscal year.

Ms. Moguillansky-De Rose explained that OCR is focusing on projects that are ready to move forward with implementation.

Ms. Bell-Spence inquired if OCR is still accepting requests for streetlights. Ms. Moguillansky-De Rose responded that it is not too late for submitting applications. She further explained that street lighting, while funded as part of the overall annual budget, is a separate program.

Bilal Mujahid, from Water Utilities, commented regarding projects having the ability to be completed within a fiscal year. He stated that it would be difficult to complete a project within a fiscal year. This does not happen with capital projects. He further explained that the designs cannot be done until the property owners have affirmed that they are in support of the project, and this is not a quick process. He further talked about having to get cost estimates.

Mr. Granowitz emphasized on Mr. Mujahid comments about completing projects within a fiscal year. He commented that designs and construction are two different things. You have to establish the cost to do the project, and this takes time.

Mr. Gainer further explained a concern with allocating funds for a project, when the project is not moving forward, and the funds are just sitting in an account not being used. Ms. Moguillansky-De Rose further commented that OCR is aware of the time capital projects take to implement, and what is important when considering what projects to fund, is the ability for a project to move forward either with design or construction. That doesn't mean the project has to be completed the same year.

Carol Clinton inquired about getting a directional sign, pointing down to Main Street, directing people how to find the community center. Mr. Gainer commented that this would be a follow-up issue.

Edward Kaye commended the CCRT group for working together in resolving community issues brought up at the monthly meetings. He feels that the CCRT meetings are worthwhile having and attending.

Mr. Kaye expressed a need for a four-wheel drive truck. This will be very helpful for the cleanup. People are walking blocks with bags of garbage to be placed out for solid waste to pick up. A deputy suggested that he contact Sgt. Dickinson, Westgate Community Policing Officer and he also works with the unit for hunting land.

Mr. Kaye commented regarding a statement made by President John F. Kennedy about pulling together on something that had not been done before. The statement made by President Kennedy "a lot of people complained about the way things are, but he dreams of things that are not and ask why." He used the Sheriff's Office as a great example for what happens when you pull together. He stated that during the hurricane they had to deal with crime and traffic, and the different law enforcement entities began to work together to put a plan in place for Palm Beach County. There was team effort in law enforcement.

Mr. Kaye began to talk about forming another type of team for the Westgate/Golfview Heights area. He talked about the Westgate Community Center and the great programs offered, but he is concerned about the duplication of programs, and suggested that all the agencies and organizations meet and discuss ways of how they can better offer the services for all ethnic groups that live in the Westgate/Golview Heights area. He named agencies and organizations that are located in the area. He asked for comments or suggestions.

Ms. Moguillansky-De Rose advised Mr. Kaye to contact who ever is managing the community center, and ask that a meeting with all the agencies and organizations in the area be called to discuss what can make the programs work better for the community.

Ms. Joanna Aiken stated that she feels it is a good idea to get all the agencies together to discuss duplication of services. She also commented that the Solid Waste Authority has opened up communication efforts in the area in order to be effective with garbage, trash, and other issues. She commented that the organization also gets involved with painting. Ms. Aiken offered arrangements for picking up of debris after the neighborhood cleanup.

Mr. Kaye commended the Solid Waste Authority for their efforts in July and August with picking up all the debris in the community. With the SWA showing interest in keeping the neighborhood clean, this effort made property owners take more of an interest in maintaining their property. Ms. Aiken said thank you and they had a great time doing it.

Next, Mr. Gainer stated that he and Mr. Lowery had met with Abundant Life Fellowship Church about a request submitted for assistance with a project called Project Exodus. He received information from the Parks Department and also Commissioner Addie Greene asked that OCR look into this. Mr. Gainer asked Ms. Bush to give her presentation about the project.

Ms. Kimberly Bush began by stating that she represents Abundant Life Fellowship. The organization was created in 1998. At that time, they were doing projects around the holidays to provide services to the community. The organization started a community resource center in October of 2005, which is a 501.3C. The recreation center/resource center is located in the Stony Brook Apartments, where they provide after school services to children that live there. Later, they found out that other children from the surrounding community were coming to the program. The number of children increased from thirty (30) to sixty (60) children. Also, the organization has a three (3)-bedroom unit in Stony Brook, which is used to operate services from. The organization is also looking at bringing a health care clinic on site for the residents.

The organization also started a feeding program in Carribean Villas and Springbrook Commons, both located in the Gramercy Park area. They serve approximately 400 meals per day; 200 breakfast + 200 lunches.

PrimeTime is assisting the organization with the after school program. The organization has encountered a huge success. One barrier has been transportation for the kids that live outside of Stony Brook. They are currently using their own vehicles to transport the kids. Also, the organization has partnered with No Child Left Behind, tutors work with the children with FCAT, math, and reading. The organization is doing a lot of things in the community, such as: coordinating college tours, assigning case managers to meet with families to find out needs of the family, and encouraging the kids on the corners to get back in school or get a GED. As a result of this effort, three (3) of the young men now attend the Adult Education Center.

The organization is requesting assistance from OCR. They are looking to expand by having a satellite office in Carribean Villas to operate similar programs for the residents. Ms. Bush asked the group for questions or comments.

Sylvia Jackson-Hamilton, from the Water Utilities Department, inquired if Ms. Bush had contacted Patrick Franklin, Director of the Urban League. Ms. Jackson-Hamilton commented that she has done volunteer work for the Urban League, and they do have vans. She further suggested that maybe the organization could seek partnership with them.

Willie Volk, from Housing and Community Development, suggested that there may be a community development block grant to assist Ms. Bush, depending on the projects that she is looking to work with. The CDBG applications will be available next month (October). If you would like further information on the CDBG application, you may go to pbcgov.com/hcd.

VII. QUESTIONS/COMMENS:

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

- The next CCRT meeting will be held on October 10, 2006 (Tuesday), 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m., at Clayton Hutcheson. The next GTAC meeting will be held on September 28, 2006, at 9:30a.m. – 11:00a.m., at City of Belle Glade.
- The Office of Community Revitalization will be providing 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 October & November, you may contact Joyce Harrell at 233-5311 or make an announcement at the next CCRT Meeting. Thank You.**

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