

Brevard County's Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP)

January 25, 2011 Workgroup Meeting 1 - Notes and Summary

The first Brevard County Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan Workgroup Meeting took place at the POW/MIA Park Building in Melbourne on January 25th from 9:00am to 11:30am. After a general introduction and discussion of the organizational structure and responsibilities of the PDRP workgroups, a review of the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats exercise from the December 14th kick-off meeting was conducted. Each workgroup member was provided with a folder that contained topic specific documentation including an excerpt from the DCA Guidebook outlining required, recommended, and advanced achievement levels, as well as examples from other county's PDRPs. At 9:30am the first of two "workgroup breakout" sessions began and at 10:30 the second "workgroup breakout" session began. The meeting concluded at 11:30am. A list of the notes and a summary of the workgroup discussions from the meeting is included below.

Land Use Workgroup: Joshua Hoffman & Phil Laurien

There were a total of 8 workgroup members. Through the group discussion a general understanding of the importance of pre-disaster planning was recognized. For non-conforming uses, the use of GIS would be critical in identifying and then notifying land owners about the policies for build back and their status as a non-conforming use. The overlap in approach and goals with 'housing' was discussed and ECFRPC planner Josh Hoffman informed the group that they would be kept in the loop about housing/land-use related issues.

- Interconnected streets encourage reconnections for build back
- Avoid development in environmentally sensitive areas
- Waivers of certain land use standards such as landscaping post disaster
- Waive permit fees for rebuilding to expedite redevelopment
- Waive pre-permitting for emergency repairs post disaster, do after-the-repair permit and inspection
- Possible temporary moratorium on non-emergency repairs to structures to allow for initial stabilization of community - services, access, etc.
- Recognize need for temporary housing (FEMA trailers)
- Enforce non-conformity clauses to require rebuilding to certain new standards
- Reconvene Board of Zoning appeals to adjudicate non-conforming uses -> use termination cases

- Identify NC uses in
- Planning, Building and Code enforcement most coordinate permit review simultaneously post disaster
- Pre disaster notifications about non-conforming uses so owners know their situation.
- Consider risk/reward mapping for predictable high danger areas (flood plains, storm surge)
- Prioritize areas for redevelopment post disaster perhaps more compact, walkable, etc.
- Prioritize pre disaster areas you don't want to redevelop if substantially damaged in a disaster (managed withdrawal).
- Link PDPD to comp plan
- Move damaged repetitive dangerous/disaster neighborhoods
 - Increase density on safer opportunity sites
- Identify fire-vulnerable areas pre-disaster – (GIS)
- Historic preservation/restoration – identify those neighborhoods that are historic and must still comply with standards post disaster (GIS)
- Offer GIS services to smaller communities that didn't have them

Economic Redevelopment Workgroup: Elizabeth Rothbeind & Phil Laurien

- Is there an inventory of all businesses in Brevard County?
 - Consensus was reached that this information is needed pre-disaster
- Do all facilities have generator or solar power?
 - This information is needed
- Grants to provide solar power to key facilities including convenience stores that would provide groceries, gasoline, water and ice after disaster.
- Survey the business community - What do they need to operate, How to use Social Media
- Workgroup for medium size businesses to plan for post-disaster redevelop
- Workbook/plan for small business on what to do post-disaster
 - Contacts, etc.
- Develop a website pre-disaster to marry available labor with jobs/demand
- Possible use of CRA money as loan funds – may need FS 163 revision
- Preparation for transferred/volunteer emergency service workers – housing, food, temp power
- Emergency management coordinate with EDCs, Chambers of Commerce, etc. post-disaster
- EDA Post-Disaster Grants – ECFRPC as EDD → Funnel

Housing Workgroup: Joshua Hoffman & Kate Hillman

There were a total of 8 workgroup members from the Brevard community. A topic of concern was government doing too much in emergency situations, especially as it is related to housing, but the group was able to regain focus on the long-term goals of the PDRP. The discussion got to a few good issues regarding temporary housing and the ability for homeowners to stay at their residence while different permitting mechanisms are implemented. Also, the need for someone to assist homeowners and renters on what to do would help in the short and long term recovery options.

- Long term recovery committee - \$ for fixing mobile homes unavailable from FEMA

- How \$ is distributed/program availability
- Rental issues – similar to mobile homes, waiting for recovery and \$
- How to connect FEMA trailer to utilities = not set way – (should have provisions met beforehand).
- Temporary housing timeframe for ‘temporary’
- Staff on hand to help citizens with paperwork for FEMA, understanding process -> could be in disaster recovery centers
- Reactive/proactive code enforcement (vacant lots) -> demo
- Code enforcement – Bobby Bowen
- Issues with waiving fees (permitting for temp repairs)
 - Loss of revenue, shoddy repairs, insurance, etc.
 - _____ of permits given to avoid problems oversight
- Maintain stability without putting public safety at risk
- Code enforcement to maintenance code

Infrastructure Workgroup: Matt Boerger & Tara McCue

- Communications – county-wide; primary
 - Free Wi-Fi capacity
 - Number/Volume; as many as possible
 - Public communication to where they are located
 - ID sites for cell/wireless capability
 - Investigate coordination with private companies (Phone, Computer)
 - Weather radio importance (Public communication program)
 - Countywide communication plan and resources
 - Long term public awareness program for shelter/evacuations, etc.
- Identify sites for longer term temporary housing; available utilities
- Agreement with phone companies for portable phone trailer
- ID sites for temporary housing (schools, parks, public land).
- Infrastructure analysis for temporary and long-term housing/redevelopment
- Work with schools to set up/access Wi-Fi for emergency management stations
- Waste management plan for resources
- Pre-selected contractors – remediation, clean-up, debris removal
- Where is waste/etc. going at temporary sites. (utility over-use/existing + new infrastructure analysis)
- Create a standard for tapping into existing infrastructure for temporary/long-term operations
- Coordinate with FEMA to have quicker response for funding and assistance (Create plan? Expectations?)
- Public awareness to educate them on their responsibilities/plan outreach/for recovery/FEMA education
- Contract with Brevard County for debris removal
- Debris fields identified. Identify strategic locations

- Issue of Debris fields being developed? Analysis of existing/potential debris fields and growth pressures
- Encourage county/towns to meet FEMA regulations. Make sure regulations are updated yearly? Biyearly?
- Ideas to congress concerning FEMA issues/changes?

Health and Social Services Workgroup: Kate Hillman

Each group member was provided with a folder that contained Health and Social Services specific documentation including an excerpt from the DCA Guidebook outlining required, recommended, and advanced achievement levels, as well as examples from other county's PDRPs. In addition to reviewing these documents, the following topics were discussed:

Goals:

- Determine which hospitals are in storm surge zones. Post-disaster decide which, if any, hospitals should not be rebuilt in current location.
- Create relocation plan for nursing home residents if facility is destroyed
- Create relocation plan for special needs and elderly persons who become displaced following a disaster. If possible, determine funding source for relocation.
- Create donation management plan to mitigate possible donation shortfalls.
- Determine which schools are in storm surge zones. Post-disaster decide which, if any, schools should not be rebuilt in current location.
- Create medical field retention plan.

Strengths:

- Nursing schools and EMT schools in county staff shelters
- United Way spontaneous volunteer center and long term recovery committee
- Behavioral health team (through state regional mental health)
- Healthy Communities already in place

Contact for Future Involvement in Health and Social Services Workgroup:

- SCAT
- School facilities representative
- Healthy Communities representative
- 211 Representative
- ESF 8 Hospital Representative

Environmental Restoration Workgroup: Tara McCue & Matt Boerger

Using the handout provided, consensus was reached that the issues and strategies provided were a good start for the environmental section of the Brevard County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan. The environmental strategies presented were well received as being inclusive of issues in Brevard County,

minus coral issue. Below are the notes taken during the work group discussion. A document with the draft issues, goals and strategies will be developed for work group review.

- Appropriate land use in flood plains and along the St. Johns River
- Perform a risk analysis of development in Flood Plains
- Incorporate urban forest policies into comprehensive plans, including re-forestation guidelines/recommendations
- Search for programs to help fund urban reforestation
- Link landscaping codes and plans to replanting efforts after storm or fire
- Review/Identify buffer requirements for urban conservation/urban forest areas
- Require debris management and fire plan for urban forest and conservation areas
- Implement a public education campaign based on concerning urban trees and appropriate maintenance mechanisms to reduce storm and fire damage
- Secure grant money for boat removal
- Work with appropriate agencies and state to streamline boat removal process.
- Assess boats after disaster for pollution, leaks, gas
- Review areas for mooring field sites; recommend more dry docking
- Establish debris management plans in each jurisdiction, include county-wide consistency
- Seek dedicated funding sources/grants for conservation areas especially for debris management
- Review Space Center housing sites and VAB for temporary housing sites
- Require management plans for conservation areas in county and city codes for subdivisions/PUD/DRI
- Develop countywide plan for temporary sites
- Prohibit temporary sites in flood plains
- Review all funding and permits to ensure they are active for beach restoration after a storm event
- Boat owner hurricane education outreach
- Establish city/countywide post disaster communication plan for Hazmat resources

Government Operations Workgroup: April Raulerson and Elizabeth Rothbeind

The workgroup members present for the first workgroup meeting on Tuesday, January 25th, 2011 agreed that effective communication would be the biggest issue Brevard County in a long-term redevelopment event. If traditional means of communication are no longer available then municipalities will have to be prepared to communicate through other means. Additional issues to address would be finance and the overall continuity of government if faced with technology challenges. Below are the notes taken during the work group discussion. A document with the draft issues, goals and strategies will be developed for work group review.

- The key to success is pre-disaster planning
- Make sure there is an accurate county-wide asset inventory and resource management plan and system in place
- Brevard is a coastal county and with that in times of evacuation some areas require 100% to leave
- Water damage is a major concern at PAFB
- Brevard has multiple bridges that serve as the only access to the barrier islands

- What if we had a terrorist event to recover from and in the long-term had to plan around not having certain bridges
 - How would we service our residents?
- Terrorism is on the top of the list for many
 - They feel we are the least ready for this type of event
 - A government response would be needed
- PAFB is on the barrier island and in certain situations may have to close A1A causing traffic to have to be rerouted
- If bridges were not accessible to and from the mainland alternate modes of transportation need to be available
 - Boat
 - Helicopter
- The bridges may need a gated check to have access to/from islands
- Government would need to ensure infrastructure was still available
- Complete a basic communications assessment for the county
 - Some of these resources already exist
 - RDSTF, UASI, Brevard County communications
- Need contract for extra communications in period of long-term recovery
 - Would provide services such as communication sign boards
 - Extra billboards
 - Detour information
- Use AM stations and HAM radio operators to get messages out to the public about where to go for long-term assistance
- Citizens often look to government for a sign of how the community is doing
 - If government buildings are up and running this can provide more of a calm atmosphere for citizens
- Look at and Plan for back-up operation abilities
 - Plan for full data failure
 - Continuity of Government in the long-term
 - Assist neighboring communities with government operations if in need
 - Provide server space, employee workstations, etc.
- Long-term recovery may require a back to basics type of approach
- Municipal exercises are a must to have all small governments prepared
- Look at putting together a brochure with all community buildings/resources available
 - Have each municipality create one
 - Used to assist for continuity of operations and relocation of government services
- The biggest issues discussed was communications
 - From government to government
 - Municipality to municipality
 - Government/municipality to CITIZENS
- Know how to effectively work off of mutual aid agreements for a long-term scenario
- Assessment, mobilization, communication, and financing were all discussed with this initial workgroup meeting