

**Drew Park Community Redevelopment Area
Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2015

Tampa Police District 1 Headquarters

3818 West Tampa Bay Boulevard

Attendees

Committee Members: Bert Garcia, Chair; George Adams Jr., Vice-Chair; Travis Allred; Maritza Astorquiza, Dr. Robert Chunn; Randy Coen; Susan Collins; Michael Martinez; and Eric Muller

City of Tampa Staff: Jeanette LaRussa Fenton, Urban Development Manager

Others: Tommy Castellano, Nelson Suarez, Joshua Bent, Andy Castellano

I. Opening Comments / Introductions

The regular meeting of the Drew Park Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee convened at 5:34 p.m. on February 3, 2015.

II. Tampa Police Department Update

Ms. Fenton reviewed the monthly "Big 4" report. There were 7 crime incidents; 2 were business break-ins, 4 were car break-ins and 1 was a car theft.

III. Approval of Minutes November 5, 2014 and Meeting Notes January 6, 2015

Copies of the Minutes from the November 5, 2014 and Meeting Notes from the January 6, 2015 meetings were previously distributed for members to read and additional copies were provided at the meeting.

Mr. Muller made a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2014 and Meeting Notes of January 6, 2015. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Fenton explained that Mr. Garcia's term as Chair is now up and typically the Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair and a new Vice Chair is selected. Mr. Muller nominated George Adams, Jr. for the position of Chair and Michael Martinez as Vice Chair. Dr. Chunn seconded the nominations. There being no additional nominations, Mr. Adams and Mr. Martinez were unanimously elected as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the Drew Park Community Advisory Committee.

V. Façade Grant Funding Reprogramming

Ms. Fenton explained the need for additional funds for the Façade Grant line item to provide money for approved grants that have not yet been paid out and anticipated applications for new grants. She provided a handout that described the current program balance (-\$13,651), approved grants not yet appropriated (-\$107,676) and a recommended amount for future applications (\$100,000) totaling a funding need of \$221,327. Ms. Fenton recommended transfer of \$147,672.52 and \$10,000 respectively from the Land Use and Business Assistance line items.

Ms. Fenton further recommended that no further applications for the Façade Grant Program be accepted except for those businesses that staff was already working with and who had begun preparing applications. These businesses would be advised of the need to submit their applications within the next 60 days if they want to pursue funding. This would allow for completion of any in process applications. Ms. Fenton also explained that this would limit funding so that the program could be reopened for Lois Ave. businesses once street improvements were completed. She believes that this would provide some measure of relief for Lois Ave. businesses that had endured hardship and inconvenience during project construction. As was done with Grady Ave., letters would be sent to Lois Ave. businesses encouraging them to apply for the Façade Improvement Grant. Ms. Fenton also suggested the possibility of going to an application cycle rather than accepting applications throughout the year when the program is reopened to Lois Ave. businesses.

Mr. Muller motioned and Mr. Coen seconded the reprogramming of funds as described by Ms. Fenton and outlined in the handout and the suspension of applications for the Façade Grant program until further notice. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Project Update Report

Lois: Project remains on schedule. Paving and curbing has been extended to Alva. Landscaping has been installed up to South Ave. and looks very attractive. Heavy construction is now concentrated in the residential area south of MLK.

Community Markers:

Ms. Fenton reported the application for the community markers along Dale Mabry is being submitted to FDOT. Due to previous discussions between City staff, the consultant and FDOT staff to resolve issues prior to submittal the application should be approved.

Drew Park Street Lighting: Ms. Fenton reported that City staff is currently working with TECO on a plan to complete installation of streetlights in Drew Park. She will provide more details as the plan advances.

Drew Park Neighborhood Association:

Ms. Fenton stated that a final community meeting was held to determine the interest in proceeding with formation of a Drew Park Civic Association. There were very few that

attended and the consensus of those present was not to proceed with a civic association.

HCC Projects:

Dr. Chunn informed the CAC that discussions have ceased on leasing HCC property for an amateur sports facility. He explained that the Westshore Alliance joined with Goodsports and others on a proposal to develop the facility however the parties were unable to come to terms. Dr. Chunn did not anticipate any further activity on this project.

Dr. Chunn also advised that he does not anticipate any development of the vacant property along Dale Mabry. The state imposes certain requirements that would make it very difficult for future development.

Ms. Fenton informed the committee about the Tax Collector's plans to demolish the Motor Vehicle licensing facility on MLK and Lois and construct a new building to house the Tax Collector's west area service office. She advised that representatives from the Tax Collector's office will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the project and show renderings of the new building.

VII. Discussion/Questions

There was a question about whether Tampa International Airport plans to develop property along Air Cargo Rd next to Hillsborough Ave. Susan Collins stated there are no active development plans at this time.

VIII. Announcements

Ms. Astorquiza announced that her company, Drew Park based Coda Sound, is producing Fiesta Day on February 28 in Ybor City and the Variety Sound Stage at the Strawberry Festival.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Mr. Adams motioned to adjourn, Ms. Astorquiza seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.