

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2020
Virtual Call-In Meeting**

Attendees

Committee members: Joe Robinson, Chair; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Jeffrey Rhodes; Anthony Serrano, Walter Smith II; Bobby Wilson; Benjamin Buckley; Ken Perry

Excused: Dee Jackson; Marvin Knight; Tina Young;

Staff: Jesus Niño, West Tampa/Drew Park Manager, Shelia Jackson, OSSIV, Randy Goers, Planning & Development, Stewart Runion, Code Enforcement

Guests:

I. Opening Comments & Introductions

Chair Robinson convened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was reached.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rhodes moved for approval of the minutes of the August 25, 2020 meeting; seconded by Mr. Perry. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Tampa Police Update

Captain Fernandez provided a report of crime trends in the area. There was a shooting at Green and Rome. It was a road rage incident; they have good leads on the subject. Four individuals have been arrested for narcotics distribution on Main Street. There were 123 initiated calls in the past 22 days in the area, i.e. that is an average of six calls. There was also an issue about an individual living in their van on the other side of the park. Captain Fernandez got him in touch with the department's homeless liaison that assisted him with getting his van fixed, so that he could return to his home state.

Officer Lisa Bunn asked if the committee had been provided an update on the requested cameras. Per Mr. Niño, he is working with engineering to get a camera with access to power at Fremont and Main. They are working on getting an estimate together regarding the installation/connection of the camera to the power source. Per Mr. Perry, there are several utility type poles being installed in the area. Per Officer Bunn, it's a cellular pole.

IV. Staff Report

Stewart Runion Code Enforcement Officer for the city brought greetings and a report. Per Mr. Runion, on the northeast corner of Main and Albany there is a vacant structure that has been written up. They will be required to do some working cleaning and painting the building. There was also some illegal dumping behind the building that has been picked up by a lighting loader. We will continue to be proactive and get items picked up before having to be called. There are trashcans along Main Street that are overflowing. His suggestion is that the cans be removed, they are not emptied enough and has become a problem. Mr. Robinson asked the manager to check into what the frequency rate for pick up and who oversees the pick-up.

BUILD grant from USDOT

Jesus Niño reported that everyone is happy the area received the 24 million dollar Build Grant, which will help to extend the Riverwalk into the West Tampa area. His next step is to bring the manager of the grant to one of our meetings to discuss how we can be a part of the process/use the funds. Mr. Robinson, would like to formally request that Mr. Niño, get the CRA Chair and/or West Tampa Infrastructure Chair invited to sit in on the group that will oversee the Build Grant. Ken Perry made a motion to support that action item. Benjamin Buckley provided a second. Motion passed unanimously.

Rome Yard RFP

Per Mr. Robinson, he would like to make sure Mr. Niño is on the planning committee for the Rome Yard RFP. Per Mr. Niño, yes, he will increase his presence representing the committee and has already attended some discussions with the Housing Division.

Staffing Update

Per Mr. Niño the individual we selected to hire as the EDC Specialist that was supposed to start next week has accepted another position. We have decided to go back and review the resumes of the other candidates in order to make a new selection.

October 6th Community Meeting – Main Street Corridor Study

Randy Goers, shared a reminder about the upcoming Main Street Corridor Study meeting. A notice will go out this week via email to everyone on the contact list. Mr. Niño, also asked members to send the contact information for anyone they think would be good resources. Mr. Robinson, asked that staff make sure that individual property owners and business owners are reached. Also, please do not forget to contact the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce.

Freemont Linear Park Pole and Camera Estimate

Per Mr. Niño, all members received an estimate for the cost to install a camera at the Fremont Linear Park. If members are okay with that cost, we will move forward. Per Mr. Robinson, we made a motion to approve these costs at our last in person meeting at the MLK Center, if you need us to do a fresh motion, let's wait until after discussion. During discussion, Ken Perry asked the committee to consider taking the cameras all the way down to North Boulevard instead of stopping at Rome (i.e. additional cameras). A motion was made to ask staff to look at the cost of putting cameras along Oregon, Willow and Delaware to Rome. The motion was seconded by Walter Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued when Benjamin Buckley, asked that staff also find out what the value/effectiveness of cameras will be to the neighborhood. Per Mr. Robinson, how will cameras help, are they monitored etc. Per Captain Fernandez, the most important part of cameras is that they deter crime, the cameras will also record.

Mr. Bobby Wilson asked was there a decision made about the pole for the Fremont camera? We originally asked for a decorative pole. Jesus Niño, is not sure that was viable, but will check to see what type of pole has been quoted. After discussion, Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the final costs for the camera to be installed at the Fremont Linear Park but asks that a decorative pole be used instead of just a regular wooden pole. Mr. Rhodes provided a second. Motion passed unanimously.

Exterior Rehabilitation Grant Program

Per Mr. Niño, he has been in contact with the Housing Department. They are still working on the process/procedures for running this program and processing applications. Mr. Niño will notify us once they have more progress. This program may be able to encompass a tree trimming component.

Newsletter

Per Mr. Niño, the newsletter is complete and was sent to committee members for review. He asked committee members to provide a motion to proceed with distribution and to approve the 125 hard copies printed circulation. We were limited to four pages, the content that could not be added will be used as part of the next newsletter.

Howard and Armenia Right-of-Way Tree Trimming

Per Mr. Niño, city staff is working with county staff to facilitate getting the trees trimmed along the right of way of Howard and Armenia. Once we have the schedule, he will let the committee know. Main Street is still under review, Jesus is still confirming who has responsibility for the trimming.

Per Mr. Robinson, the CRA Board would like West Tampa CRA to come up with a tree trimming program in the area. They would like to do something different with a tree trimming program than East Tampa CRA and would like more time to discuss options.

Columbus Drive Resurfacing Project

Per Mr. Niño, Stephen Vincent will be invited to a later meeting to discuss the Road Diet Program Plans. They are trying to fix some of the traffic impediments. Committee members want to know if a round about is part of that plan, if it is, they have a problem with it.

Gateway Identification Signs and Beautification

Subcommittees discussed this item and would like to get the committee to approve wayfinding signs to beautify the community. Mr. Robinson wants to know if the subcommittees have come up with an identifier/brand for the wayfinding signs. Per Ms. Jones, Dee Jackson did come up with some design suggestions. Mr. Wilson, suggested the committee come up with a contest open to the public to see if we get some ideas. Mr. Robinson asked it to be flushed out in the next Special Events Sub-committee meeting and asked Mr. Serrano to ensure that the West Tampa Chamber weighs in on the discussion.

V. Request to Address the Committee

None

VI. General Discussion & Questions

West Tampa CAC Subcommittee Reports

- **Economic Development** – Walter Smith shared that they discussed what we need to do to make sure Main Street looks good. We want to discuss what it will take to make sure we have the proper ordinances are meeting the needs of the area. We need to start purchasing and leasing buildings to ensure we have valuable activity in our community. We also need to put money into marketing. The EMOJA Group also sat in on our meeting. They are looking to doing a co operative business incubator space in the area much like The Hall or Armature Works. Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Niño to check into inviting this group to a future meeting. Per Mr. Wilson, is there a process for purchasing buildings? There are several properties in the area that the committee would like to purchase. Per Mr. Niño, there is a process for acquiring land/property. Part of the process is to have a property appraisal completed to attain the value. Then of course the CRA Board would have to approve any purchases. The CRA Attorney, Morris Massey has been invited to the

next meeting and can go into further detail/answer questions. Mr. Niño asked committee members to forward the address of properties they would like the CRA to consider purchasing. Per Mr. Niño, a meeting is tentative with the school board about consolidating the two local schools Just and Stewart into a Pre K - 8th grade facility.

- **Special Events/Special Projects** – Joseph Robinson let the committee know that the Metropolitan Ministries tent has been secured up to January 31st (does not include Superbowl week) as a community tent.
- **Infrastructure** – Mr. Ramirez delivered the subcommittee report. At the last meeting we are asking for a density study to see what types of projects are being developed. We talked about an overlay content item regarding Historic Cigar Factories and about coming up with a grant program to ensure the buildings are redeveloped following historic guidelines. Planning contacted us and let us know they will start planning public meetings. There was another overlay change suggestion that was initiated by a private entity that would affect the frontage of our homes. Painting over graffiti is not efficient. The subcommittee would like to investigate better ways to restore brick buildings affected.
- **Housing** – Mr. Wilson reported that his committee met recently, and they reviewed their priorities such as the Proposed Rental Rehab Program, and New Homeowners Down Payment Assistance Program. He also mentioned scheduling a Homestead Exemption Presentation sometime during the first quarter. They are also working on getting an inventory of historic properties and open alleys.

VII. Announcements and Public Comment

Per Bobby Wilson There are some inconsistencies with how the rules are being enforced in Julian B. Lane Park and MacFarlane Park. Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Niño to get with the Parks Department and ask for written instructions about the use of the two parks.

Ms. Jones was concerned about a shooting at the park. Anthony Serrano suggested the CRA think about scheduling a cleanup along Main Street.

Ivan Rivera asked does West Tampa CRA have a down payment assistance program. Per Bobby Wilson, the subcommittee is working on coming up with that program.

Spencer Kass – He has many concerns about the Columbus Avenue Road Diet project. Slowing down traffic will force more traffic into the neighborhood. He thinks the plans are already written, and that the city is not looking to change their plan. The committee should insist on getting their concerns heard. Per Mr. Niño, he has reached out to Mr. Vincent (Hillsborough County) to talk about the project from Howard to Boulevard. Mr. Kass shared that the county only wants to pave the road, the city is the one trying to narrow the road and slow the traffic down.

Michael Randolph provided updates on the initiatives of the West Tampa CDC.

Mr. Robinson announced that at 9:00 am, September 24, 2020 the Tampa Housing Authority will host a ribbon cutting at the new North Boulevard Homes.

VIII. **Adjournment:**

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area
Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2020
Virtual Call-In Meeting**

Attendees

Committee members: Joe Robinson, Chair; Benjamin Buckley; Delphine Jones; Ken Perry; Bobby Wilson; Carlos Ramirez; Walter Smith; Tina Young; Anthony Serrano; Jeffrey Rhodes

Excused members: Marvin Knight

Staff: Jesus Niño, West Tampa/Drew Park Manager; Shelisia Jackson, OSSIV; Milton Martinez, Engineer; Stephen Benson; Karla Price; Tony Monk; Calvin Hardie; Morris Massey; City Legal Department

Guests Wade Reynolds, Hillsborough MPO

I. Opening Comments & Introductions

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. CRA Manager Jesus Niño opened the meeting with brief comments and took role call and provided public comment details. After role call it was established a quorum was present. Mr. Niño stated there was a change noted for the agenda. The Emoja Group will not be able to present at the meeting today. Their spot was moved to next month. The minutes for September 22, 2020 were reviewed. Ken Perry provided the motion to approve. Walter Smith provided the second. Motion passed unanimously. The October 13, 2020 Special Call Minutes were also reviewed for approval. Mr. Robinson wanted to make sure a correction was made there are two At-Large positions Marvin Knight and Jeffrey Rhodes that need to be advertised. The third At-Large position (Kenneth Perry) expires January 2021. Ken Perry provided the motion to approve. Carlos Ramirez provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Reports

I. CRA Legal Counsel – Item tabled to later in the meeting, Mr. Morris Massey could not attend during the first half of the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

II. Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant -

Milton Martinez, the City's Chief Transportation Engineer, provided a presentation to the CAC about the BUILD Grant Project. He serves as the project lead for the West River District Multimodal Improvements Project. This project is a collaboration between the City of Tampa Parks & Recreation Department and the Smart Mobility Department. He introduced the project team: Calvin Hardie, Stephen Benson, Catherine Hayes, Karla Price, Brad Suder, and Tony Monk. Per Mr. Martinez, the grant supports projects that have a significant impact on the mobility of the immediate areas in and surrounding the Downtown Riverwalk and West River Project. The project is a part of the Mayor's Transforming Tampa's Tomorrow (T3) Initiatives. The project will complete a 12.2 contiguous mile path separated from automobile traffic and build out enhanced crossing locations. There are numerous ADA and environmental improvements. There are several project components. The grant amount awarded and the required local match for each project was shared with the committee:

- Platt Street Bridge Underpass - BUILD Grant: \$6,000,000/Local Match: \$1,000,000
- Trail segment from Tony Janus Park - BUILD Grant: \$450,000/Local Match: \$50,000
- Brorien Bridge Underpass - BUILD Grant: \$3,500,000/Local Match: \$500,000
- Trail segment along Plant Park - BUILD Grant: \$900,000/Local Match: \$100,000
- Crossing – CSX Rail and Cass Street - BUILD Grant: \$150,000/Local Match: \$50,000
- Trail Segment -Tampa Prep School - BUILD Grant: \$1,350,000/Local Match: \$150,000
- Trail Segment - Blake High School - BUILD Grant: \$1,750,000/Local Match: \$250,000
- Trail Segment - Stewart Middle School - BUILD Grant: \$1,500,000/Local Match: \$500,000
- Pedestrian/Bike Crossing - Stewart Middle School - BUILD Grant: \$70,000/Local Match: \$30,000
- Pedestrian/Bike Crossing - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rec. Complex - - BUILD Grant: \$70,000/Local Match: \$30,000
- Trail Segment - Columbus Drive - BUILD Grant: \$1,200,000/Local Match: \$800,000
- Trail Segment –Riverwalk Connection - BUILD Grant: \$1,500,000/Local Match: \$500,000
- Complete Street Segment Platt St. (Willow Ave to Bayshore Blvd) - BUILD Grant: \$1,500,000/Local Match: \$500,000
- Complete Street Segment -Rome Ave (Platt St. to Columbus Dr) - BUILD Grant: \$2,000,000/Local Match: \$1,000,000
- Living Shoreline - Tony Jannus Park - BUILD Grant: \$180,000/Local Match: \$20,000
- Living Shoreline - Tampa Prep - BUILD Grant: \$80,000/Local Match: \$20,000
- Living Shoreline – Blake H.S.- BUILD Grant: \$1,600,000/Local Match: \$400,000

Timeline:

- Application Submittals (May 18, 2020)
- Award Announcement (Sep 16, 2020)
- Implementation Webinar (Oct 15, 2020)
- Implementation Kick-Off Meeting (Oct 28, 2020)
- Reporting Webinar (Nov 19, 2020)
- Direct Recipient Webinar (Dec 2020)
- FHWA Target for Execution of Grant Agrmt(Jun 30, 2022)
- Funds must be fully obligated by (i.e. –Grant Agrmtexecuted) (Sep 30, 2022)
- Project should not start until the Grant Agreement is executed
- BUILD 20 Fund Expenditure Deadline (Sep 30, 2027)

Next Steps:

- Negotiate Grant Agreement w/FHWA (6 –12 months)
- Program Local Match Funds
- Coordinate with Hillsborough MPO and FDOT on TIP/STIP/WP
- Public Engagement and Stakeholder Outreach
- Complete Property Acquisition
- Prepare Design-Build (DB) Contract Criteria Package
 - Scope of Work
 - Concept Plans & Refined Cost Estimates
- Execute Grant Agrmt(Oct 2021 -Jun 2022)
- DB Final Design & Construction (2021/22 –2024)

Committee Questions –

Question: Benjamin Buckley: Are there any drawings or specifications yet? We would like to make sure the project follows the West Tampa CRA Strategic Action Plan that needs to be followed and would like to have some input. If there is an opportunity, will we be able to upgrade anything, above what the planned specifications are? We would like to make sure you use sustainable materials.

Answer: Per Mr. Martinez - Yes, there is still an opportunity for public input.

Question: Carlos Ramirez – We are in talks about getting gateway markers to bring out the character of West Tampa. With this being so early, is there opportunity for us to combine projects on some of the segments within West Tampa?

Answer: Per Mr. Martinez – Yes, we have been having early conversations with City of Tampa Arts Department to identify what type of public art can be integrated into the project and what type of funding sources can be applied. There will be space to include those items as we go through our preliminary design and criteria package.

Question: Ken Perry – It appears to be a public/private partnership to complete this project. Will the funding from the grant and the private partnership pay for the grant in its entirety? What is the Cypress Street improvement?

Answer: Per Mr. Martinez – We are looking at an estimated cost of \$30 million dollars. \$24 million, is funded via the federal grant. We need to work on identifying various funding sources to meet the match portions of the funding for \$6 million dollars. This could also include asking the CRA to assist. The Cypress Complete Streets Project is a program to provide bike connectivity from Westshore through Boulevard to Downtown. The City will be developing the concept plans for those improvements, which will include Off street bike facilities and sidewalk improvements. This as well as (Borein St. Bridge Rehab; Cass St. Bridge Rehab; Columbus Dr. Resurfacing; Cypress St Complete Streets; Green Spine Cycle Track; Laurel St & Boulevard Traffic Signal; Main St Visioning; Ridgewood Park Imprvmnts; West Tampa Multi-Modal Plan) are not part of the BUILD grant, but part of complementary projects the city will be working on over the next eight years.

Question: Delphine Jones – inquired what are the specific shoreline enhancements along Blake High School.

Answer: Per Karla Price – We will be looking to do a living shoreline, similar to what we have done along Julian B. Lane Park.

Question: Walter Smith – The committee takes issue with CRA funds being used as the matching funds. We will want to make sure, that the expenditure is what the community wants/needs and the project is what will be useful to the community. How much will be asked?

Answer: The majority of the funds will come out of the City's general funds. It is still to be determined and under consideration as we complete the grant process. It would be a small amount, after other opportunities are sought.

Comment: Tina Young – in reference to the budget, when the budget was being developed for this project, was the grant match amount taken into consideration?

Answer: Per Mr. Martinez - Part of the requirements of the grant is that the receiving agency has to provide a portion of the costs.

Comment: Joseph Robinson – How much of the local match was considered to come from the West Tampa CRA? We have a lot more pressing needs than to beautify the river. If its not in the strategic plan, we won't even consider it. This project appears to be heavily skewed to non-commercial side of the river. The only commercial entity, I think pretty much is Ricks on the River. Will there be any land acquisition required on the west side of the river? Does the City have an easement from Oregon to the River? Be aware that connectivity is taken into consideration when it comes to the new West River Project. Are we going to have an opportunity to have a CAC member participate in the City's BUILD Grant project committee? A roundabout at the foot of the Columbus Drive Bridge is not something the community wants.

Answer: Per Mr. Martinez - none, at the time was earmarked in the grant request to come from the CRA. Nothing is committed to come from the CRA. All of the easements and property needed for the segments that are part of the project have been acquired, it is not a requirement to secure any land from them. We will take that under consideration and follow up with the CRA CAC committee about providing a seat on the Build Grant Project Committee.

Answer: Per Tony Monk - Yes, the City has access via the Yellow Jackets Field and the School District.

Per Jesus Niño – Staff plans to set up a meeting to discuss possible funding of the BUILD Project at a later time.

III. Columbus Drive from N. Howard to N. Boulevard – Safety & Mobility Improvements

Presentation - Stephen Benson, City of Tampa Mobility Department opened the presentation and turned over the first part of the section, to discuss the history of the project to Wade Reynolds of the MPO. Per Wade Reynolds, the West Tampa Multi-Modal Plan is a look at

walk/bike improvements in the area bounded by Lois on the West, Tampa Bay Boulevard on the North, Kennedy on the South and North Boulevard on the East. We are looking at enhancing cycling and pedestrian access as well as improving ADA requirements on Columbus Drive. Stephen Benson, then provided a view of what they are working on to be considered at this time and what is potential for the future. Columbus Drive has many facets. It is used as a transportation corridor, business district, transit route, connects parks and neighborhoods and a residential roadway. The existing conditions of the roadway are that it has deteriorated pavement, narrow sidewalks, the posted speed limit is not followed, no bike lanes, ADA issues, no crosswalks, no turn lanes, no buffers between sidewalks and cars. Columbus was identified in a 2010 study of roadways that need improvements. Columbus Drive is a county roadway, upkeep is taken care of by Hillsborough County. The county plans to repave Columbus Drive from Dale Mabry to N. Nebraska Avenue. The City is working with the county to develop additional modifications to improve the safety of the roadway. The segment east of Howard avenue to west of North Boulevard is the section the City is looking to modify past the repaving. Their recommendation is to do a road diet approach. Which will include narrowing travel lanes to 10', creating a two-way left turn lane, adding dedicated bike lanes, and adding areas for future landscaped medians, and enhanced bus stops as well as six new pedestrian crossings. More information about the proposed plan can be found at www.tampagov.net/tss/west-Columbus-drive. Committee members had comments about the proposed modifications. There were questions about the simulations and safety crash statistics as well as the analysis of the amount of crashes in specific areas and reiterated that the community has a problem with a roundabout as a potential modification. There was no crosswalk mentioned between Rome and Howard. Additionally, discussion has occurred with the neighborhoods to the East of Columbus Drive, not the West and that needs to occur. A request by the committee is to ask the county to be invited to discuss their design and the future buildout of the project because more community input is needed. Additionally, committee members requested specific data detailing the crash rate between Howard and Boulevard be provided to the committee.

IV. General Discussion & Questions

Per Jesus Niño after today's meeting he will be sending out notices to committee members who need to re-apply for CAC membership.

Per Morris Massey, CRA Attorney, he let the committee know that committee members serve until their appointment is replaced. He also confirmed that each entity that has an ex-officio seat does not have to be a certified organization with the state. It is not addressed in the CAC policy at this time. It doesn't automatically dissolve the organization or make them ineligible to participate. We will have to look into it and go back to the CRA Board to discuss developing a policy for that issue. The CRA Board at later dates will be asked to come up with the qualifications to be recognized as an ex-officio organization. Morris Massey will work with staff to bring it to their attention.

Per Joseph Robinson the committee would like to acquire land/property. Per Morris Massey, the state statute that governs CRAs says that all land acquisitions must be done voluntarily. Purchasing tax liens/condemned properties is not something the CRA can do. Purchasing properties that are for sale voluntarily is acceptable. Can we purchase tax certificates. Per Morris Massey, per 163, this goes back to the acquisition issue which has conservative investment requirements, the CRA is a dependent board subject to the City Charter and City investment requirements that will not allow us to do that.

Tina Young, Special Events Committee distributed a draft of the Special Events Grant Application. Mr. Robinson asked committee members to review the draft and come prepared to discuss/review it at the next meeting. The tent for Metropolitan Ministries has a lot of

requirements associated with its use. We are receiving requests to have an event there and need to start discussing the available dates, insurance andn permitting requirements.

Per Jesus Niño, the Economic Development Specialist II position was offered to an individual and she has accepted the position and passed the background checks. She should be in place by next month.

Per Anthony Serrano, Bay Cannon Brewery will be starting their West Tampa Market November 8th the 2nd Sunday of the month through to April from 9am – 1pm at the park across from the business.

Per Walter Smith, one of the things we talked about in the Economic Development Subcommittee are the beautification efforts that we push that through in our marketinig efforts. That means getting benches and garbage recepticles placed throughout the area. Per Mr. Robinson, if you have an idea, please put a budget together and present it to the committee.

V. Announcements & Public Comment

Michael Randolph announced upcoming activities of the West Tampa CDC and shared the ability of the organization to secure funds.

Spencer Kass – sent an email to Mr. Niño about the committee and the sunshine law about meaningful participation by the public and the committee. Additionally, he thought the City's presentation was very misleading in that the county only wants to repave the roadway. The City's proposed ideas will slow/back up the traffic flow along Columbus.

VI. Adjournment: Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area
Community Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

November 24, 2020

**David M. Barksdale Active Older Adult Center
1801 N. Lincoln Avenue**

Attendees

Committee Members: Joe Robinson, Chair; Delphine Jones; Jeffrey Rhodes; Anthony Serrano; Carlos Ramirez (virtual); Emanuel Wilson (virtual)

Excused: Dedrick Jackson; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair; Kenneth Perry; Marvin Knight; Benjamin Buckley; Tina Young

Staff: Jesus Niño, Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:41 p.m. on November 24, 2020. There was no quorum for this meeting. CAC members introduced themselves.

Mr. Robinson excused Dedrick Jackson, Walter Smith II, Kenneth Perry, Marvin Knight, Benjamin Buckley, and Tina Young.

II. Meeting Minutes October 27, 2020

The minutes were tabled due to a lack of quorum.

III. Public Comment

- A special projects grant program application currently being developed by the Special Events subcommittee.
 - Allocations for the special events and special projects programs increased from \$100,000 to \$200,000.
 - The special projects application will not be ready before the Super Bowl.
 - Submit special events applications to Mr. Niño, then it will go before the Special Events subcommittee. The special projects application process will be the same once developed.
 - There is no deadline for creating the special projects application since the board and subcommittees are volunteers.
- Spencer Kass expressed his concerns about the proposed Columbus Drive road construction project. New construction will increase commute time; and Mr. Kass says the community doesn't support increased commutes.
 - County wants to just repave Columbus Drive, while the City wants to add streetscaping and a road diet.
 - Information on the public meetings for the Columbus Drive improvements were sent to Mr. Niño, but were missed due to first days on the job.
- Radio show hosts Property Appraiser to inform homeowners on possible exemptions. Citizen interested in having Property Appraiser report back to the housing subcommittee in the future.
- Mr. Robinson moved the next CAC meeting to December 15, due to the Christmas

holiday.

- Safety and Mobility will give an update, to include visuals, on the proposed Columbus Drive improvements at the next CAC meeting.
- Mr. Niño to connect Mike Randolph to the Economic Development subcommittee due to concerns about violence and crime deterring entrepreneurs and new businesses.

IV. Tampa Police Department Update

Captain Fernandez, TPD.

- The department is aware of the issue in West Tampa on Palmetto Street and Albany involving motorcycles. Since the Police, per City policy, cannot provide chase, the department will be working with Air Service on Sunday of this week to record and catch the perpetrators.
- Shooting on November 9 at Main Street Car Wash. Victim not cooperating.
- Westshore Mall and International Mall increased police presence, and along Dale Mabry.
- Shooting on November 8 at Oakhurst. Victim not cooperating.
- Department believes shootings at Main Street Car Wash and Oakhurst are connected.
- Captain to meet with manager of Oakhurst to discourage people from parking there and having large gatherings, which can lead to increase in violence.
- TPD does not work with Sheriff's Department Gang Suppression unit as their focus is unincorporated areas.
- CAC members still have concern about prostitution at Salcines Park.

V. Staff Reports

Mr. Niño introduced himself and the new Economic Development Specialist II for West Tampa/Drew Park CRAs, Ashlyn Shrewsbury.

Main Street Camera Update – Mr. Niño stated that the cameras are up and running. A presentation will hopefully be provided to the CAC soon on findings.

- There is no camera at the Main Street Car Wash yet that could have helped with the shooting investigation, but one should be installed soon.

Main Street Corridor Study Update – Mr. Niño introduced Frank Hall from the City to provide an update on the Main Street Corridor Study.

- Currently conducting Main Street stakeholder meetings to listen to the community's perspective on Main Street's current image, ideas to improve, current assets, issues, and concerns.
- The public should reach out to Mr. Hall if they would like to be interviewed and give their input.
- A final meeting will be held sometime in December to recommend best design for the corridor, with help from the graduate students at University of South Florida.

Additional meeting to be held on December 14 at Bay Cannon Brewery at 10 a.m. to gather input from business owners along Main Street regarding issues.

Columbus Drive (from N. Howard to N. Boulevard) Safety and Mobility Improvements Requested Data Updates – Mr. Niño and Mr. Robinson received the requested data regarding traffic accident studies and public meeting notices as of yesterday. The information will be provided to the other CAC members and an update will be given at the December 15 CAC meeting.

V. General Discussion and Questions

Mr. Robinson provided the following updates:

- Currently scheduling for use of the Metropolitan Ministries tent at the Rome Yard.
- January 23-24: Black Business Bus Tours will be bringing businesses to use the tent.
- January 27-30: NFL Alumni Group will be using the tent to provide a West Tampa cultural event with food and music. Parking will be offsite.
- January 15-22, 25-26 are the only January dates open currently.
- Mr. Serrano to discuss with the West Tampa Chamber at their December 10 meeting about potentially using the tent.
- There is the potential to use grant funding on events hosted at the Rome Yard through the Special Events grant or co-sponsorship.
- If the Super Bowl gets pushed back due to COVID-19, a new lease on the tent will be through the end of March, allowing for more opportunities to book the tent.
- Rome Yard RFP currently out but may need to be readvertised.
- As part of the Rome Yard proposal, school consolidation of Dunbar, Stewart, and Just to allow for a more urban and updated school should be considered and included in the Rome Yard development plan.
- Mr. Robinson supports readvertising the RFP to include the school issue.
- Beginning in 2021, Chair Robinson will not be excusing absences of the CAC board members.

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- No update, subcommittee Chair absent.

Special Events:

- No update, subcommittee Chair absent.

Infrastructure:

- Meeting with Planning Commission postponed until January.
- Gateway improvement discussions have begun.
 - A joint meeting between the Infrastructure and Economic Development subcommittees is scheduled for December 7 at 5:30 p.m. to continue this discussion.

Housing:

- Subcommittee met on November 17.
 - Working on acquiring an alley inventory list and historic building inventory list.
 - Homestead Exemption workshop to occur in Q1 2021.
 - Rental rehab program and exterior housing update marketing targeted for Q1 2021.
 - Housing rehab working with nonprofits RFP to go out soon.
 - CAC Chair meeting on December 3 to discuss rental rehab program.
 - Residents interested in the tree trimming program like East Tampa.
 - Current exterior housing grant program can include tree trimming, but more specific program is being looked at based on East Tampa's model.
 - \$300,000 has been allocated for 20 homes for the CRA's to help with exterior repairs. Application currently be developed to address need to help senior homeowners.

VI. Announcements

- Bay Cannon Brewery is hosting its West Tampa Market on December 13, 2020 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned 7:24 p.m.

West Tampa Community Advisory Committee – Important Dates

Economic Development Committee:	December 7, 2020 5:30 p.m.	Virtual (Joint Meeting)
Infrastructure Committee:	December 7, 2020 5:30 p.m.	Virtual (Joint Meeting)
Housing Committee:	December 8, 2020 5:30 p.m.	Virtual
CRA Board meeting:	December 10, 2020, 9:00 a.m.	Tampa Convention Center
West Tampa CAC meeting:	December 15, 2020 5:30 p.m.	David Barksdale Senior Citizen Center
Special Events Committee:	December 28, 2020 4:00 p.m.	Virtual

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area
Community Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2020

**David M. Barksdale Active Older Adult Center
1801 N. Lincoln Avenue**

Attendees

Committee Members: Joe Robinson, Chair; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Tina Young; Emanuel Wilson (virtual); Kenneth Perry (virtual)

Excused: Dedrick Jackson; Jeffrey Rhodes; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair; Anthony Serrano; Marvin Knight; Benjamin Buckley

Staff: Jesus Niño, Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:35 p.m. on December 15, 2020. There was no quorum for this meeting. CAC members introduced themselves.

Mr. Robinson excused Dedrick Jackson, Jeffrey Rhodes, Walter Smith II, Anthony Serrano, Marvin Knight, and Benjamin Buckley.

II. Meeting Minutes October 27, 2020 and November 24, 2020

The minutes were tabled due to a lack of quorum.

III. Public Comment

- Michael Randolph, CEO of the West Tampa CDC, stated the CDC is pursuing several grants to address health issues, crime reduction, affordable housing, and social racism in the area. Mr. Randolph announced that anyone looking to start a business in West Tampa should contact the West Tampa CDC for assistance.
- Sandy Sanchez suggested having public announcements at the beginning of the meeting and public comment later in the meeting instead of public comment at the beginning. The issue is the public comment portion of the meeting is at the beginning of the agenda prior to items or presentations being heard by the public.
- The internet radio show with seven co-sponsors across the nation will be moving from Wednesdays at 7 p.m. to Thursdays at 7 p.m. With the Property Appraiser coming on the show to talk about how residents can reinvest in their community, the show could use help from the CAC.

IV. Staff Reports

Tampa Police Department (TPD) Update – Corporal Robin Penix, District I, was present at the meeting, but there was no update to provide. Mr. Robinson appreciates TPD's efforts on Main Street so far. The cameras are up, trash has been picked up, and the crime has decreased in the area. Salcines Park and the homeless are still points of concern.

Main Street Corridor Study Update – Mr. Niño stated Randy Goers and Frank Hall, both with the City of Tampa, are leading the effort on the Main Street Corridor study.

- Over 50 participants were on the December 8 virtual update meeting that included presentations from the University of South Florida students.
- Mr. Goers and Mr. Hall are still accepting interviews from anyone that would like to speak with them regarding the Main Street Corridor before the study is finalized.

Howard and Armenia Road Improvements Update - Cal Hardie with the City of Tampa's Mobility department provided an update on the road improvements to Howard and Armenia.

- Improvements include:
 - Speed limit reduction from 40 miles per hour to 35
 - Enhanced crosswalks
 - Brick removal at the end of curb returns to help improve drainage and more American's with Disabilities (ADA) accessible
 - Relocation of Tampa Electric Company (TECO) poles from curb ramps
 - Potential removal of abandoned driveways
- Armenia improvements estimated to cost around \$2.1 million.
- Howard improvements estimated to cost around \$1.3 million.
- Both Armenia and Howard improvements expected to be finished mid-to-late 2021
- Since this is a Hillsborough County project, there is not an opportunity for additional upgrades, such as benches, decorative lighting, landscaping, etc. as part of this project.
 - This is something to discuss for a future project
- There are no roundabouts planned.
- The planters on Howard and Armenia will not be removed.
- The bump outs on Howard will not be removed, but the ones on Armenia will be removed to accommodate for the bike lane.
- Questions about the palm trees that are dying and grown into the electric lines will be passed along to the County.
 - Mr. Niño to draft a letter to send to the County regarding the palm trees for Mr. Robinson to send.
- Mr. Hardie to check with the City and County to see if there have been any service complaints recently regarding the pipe collapse and granite curb that has sunken near Chestnut and Spruce Street on Howard.
- Mr. Hardie to reiterate with those in charge of the project that the community prefers the granite curbs instead of concrete.

Columbus Drive (from N. Howard to N. Boulevard) Safety and Mobility Improvements Requested Data Updates – Stephen Benson with the City of Tampa's Mobility department provided an update of the proposed improvements on Columbus Drive.

- Update to answer questions and address concerns from the October presentation to the CAC board.
- Planning for the project began in Spring 2020 with expected construction completion in Fall 2023.
- Proposed improvements:
 - Speed reduction from 40 miles per hour to 35
 - Lane reduction from two lanes each way to one
 - Addition of sidewalks and bike lanes to make the area more pedestrian-friendly
- Road diets are proven to reduce accidents by 30 percent.
- Other countermeasures being considered along with the road diet:
 - Reduced speeds
 - Left-turn lanes

- Buffered walkways
 - Flashing beacons
 - Refuge islands
- Road diet adds 31 seconds of delay during the afternoon rush hour in this area from Howard to Rome.
- Road diet adds 13 seconds of delay during the morning rush hour in the same area.
- Studies show that signalized intersections are the cause of chokepoints, not the road diet and reduction of lanes.
- Cutting through neighborhoods does not actually provide faster travel times.
 - City will look at additional traffic calming measures for the side streets in order to prevent cut throughs, including raised intersections and all way stops.
- Current traffic counts across the region are almost back to pre-COVID volumes.
 - Currently at about 10 percent below the volume, so an increase is expected and will be factored into the expected estimates.
- The recommendations for this project consider storage for cars queuing during peak hours, and there will be sufficient storage.
- Within 1 hour of the day only 2-3 buses travel through this area so they only have a minimal effect on the average delay.
- Citizen Spencer Kass requested that the CAC board send a letter to the City letting them know that the community does not support this project as they were not consulted in the design.
 - Mr. Kass would like the road to be repaved, but nothing more
 - Believes that the City doesn't care and that more cars on the road for longer times will lead to more pollution.
 - Said that the additional 44 seconds of delay for the day leads to four and a half more hours of delay per year approximately.
 - Mr. Benson said that is not true as the delay is only during rush hour, and not every car included in the total traffic count will be on that road during rush hour
 - Mr. Kass also stated that while it may be proven that cutting through neighborhoods does not lead to faster commutes, psychologically it feels faster so people will still do it.
- Mr. Robinson said that due to a lack of quorum at this meeting no votes could take place on this issue by the CAC board in support or against the improvements.
 - Mr. Robinson asked that the vote be added to next month's agenda.
- There have been road diets on roads with bridges in the City.
 - Mr. Robinson believes that moveable bridges affect the ability of road diets to work effectively.
- Reducing the speed alone does not provide a readily available percentage of crash reductions since it works in conjunction with the road diet, not separately.
- The Bay-to-Bay project in South Tampa involved a road diet but was stopped due to political pressures before it was built.
- Push button crosswalks are planned for the intersections at Columbus and Rome and Columbus and Albany.
- As part of the road diet, the signals will be reprogrammed to look at timing since it is the signalized intersections that choke traffic.
- There cannot be a secondary lane for turning during peak times like what was done in Channelside for the Port Authority since this was done in a roundabout not in the roadway.
- Mr. Ramirez urged the committee to look further into this project and consider that

roads need to be designed for everyone.

- While there is a 44 second delay that will be added during rush hour times, this is nothing compared to the amount of lives that could be saved.

V. General Discussion and Questions

- Mr. Robinson is having the CRA Attorney, Morris Massey, look into a potential show on WTMP to get information out to the community with the CAC participating in the show.
- Mr. Robinson is also looking into whether it is legal for the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to donate a building to a local radio station that provides Community updates and radio in the CRA.
- Mr. Niño is drafting a letter to the County to locate the African American Museum in West Tampa, per Mr. Robinson's request.
- Beginning in 2021, Mr. Robinson will not be excusing absences of the CAC board members.
- Mr. Ramirez urges the CAC board members to attend future meetings in person in order to move business along since legally votes cannot be taken without a physical quorum present.
- Mr. Niño is going to inquire about getting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the board members before the next meeting, per Ms. Young's request.

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- No update, subcommittee Chair absent.

Special Events:

- Ms. Young stated that the subcommittee is still working on the special projects application.
 - The current special events application has been approved by the CRA attorney, and will be made available online on the Community Redevelopment Department's website.
- Current special events planned for the tent at the Rome Yard include:
 - January 27-30: NFL Alumni event, special event application already submitted.
 - January 23-24: Black Business Bus Tour, application has not been submitted.
 - January 16-17: West Tampa Chamber of Commerce tentatively considering.
 - This leaves January 15, 18-22, and 25-26 available currently.
 - If the Super Bowl is delayed due to COVID-19, there may be additional dates available for use.

Infrastructure:

- Mr. Ramirez's subcommittee met virtually in a joint meeting with the Economic Development subcommittee on December 7 to discuss gateway improvement projects.
- Potential locations for the new gateway monuments included:
 - Columbus Avenue
 - N. Boulevard
 - Cass Street
 - Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park
 - Willow Avenue
 - Howard Avenue
 - Main Street

- Additional guide signs are being considered to point traffic coming off the interstate into the main business area of West Tampa.

Housing:

- No update to provide.

VI. Announcements

- Ed Johnson with the East Tampa CRA is retiring December 31, 2020 and Vanessa McCleary with the City of Tampa Housing Division has resigned.
- Any expired CAC board applications or new applications are due by December 21.
- Mr. Ramirez introduced Kandfry Kendrick, who will be the new CAC representative for the North Hyde Park Civic Association following appointment from the CRA Board in January 2021.
- The Martin Luther King parade was moved to June 19, 2021 due to COVID.

Meeting Adjourned 8:12 p.m.