

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

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2021

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

Attendees

Committee Members: Joe Robinson, Chair; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Sandy Sanchez; Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson; Tina Young; Matthew Juairé; Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick; Janice Williams; Michael Braccia; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair (Virtual)

Excused: Matthew Juairé; Dedrick Jackson

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury; Michelle Van Loan

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:35 p.m. on April 27, 2021. There was a quorum present. A roll call was held to introduce each CAC member.

Mr. Robinson gave Matthew Juairé and Dedrick Jackson excused absences.

II. Recognition of Past Members

Mr. Robinson presented plaques to each previous CAC member in recognition of their years of service to the CAC and the West Tampa community and photos were taken.

- Previous members present at the meeting were Marvin Knight, Kenneth Perry, Anthony Serrano, Benjamin Buckley, and Jeffrey Rhodes. Edwin Turanchik was not present at the meeting for the presentation of the plaques.

III. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2021

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Ramirez, with a second by Ms. Sanchez. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.

IV. Public Comment

- Michael Randolph, CEO of the West Tampa CDC, announced an event on May 20, 2021 at 6 p.m. to look at what works in high crime areas, such as New York City and Philadelphia, that can be used in the Tampa area. At this meeting, the Tampa Housing Authority will also discuss their upcoming project partnering with the West Tampa CDC.
- Jeanette Smith, Director of Cornerstone Family Ministries, discussed the meeting that happened today, April 27, 2020 with Mayor Caster, Councilman Citro, and members of the Tampa Police about the gunfire that endangered the students at the Rosa Valdez daycare. CAC member, Ms. Ocana-Hendrick was also in attendance at the meeting. From the meeting, there is a push to connect parents to the local neighborhood groups for more empowerment and invite the CAC members to visit the daycare property for a potential partnership.
 - Ms. Ocana-Hendrick also updated the CAC on this meeting and Mr. Niño will

invite Ms. Smith to a future CAC meeting to discuss a specific ask for assistance.

V. Reports

The Tampa Police Department (TPD) update was provided by Lieutenant Felts.

- There has been a reduction in crime overall in West Tampa, but an increase in violent crimes.
- In the last month, five guns were taken off the street, four of which were stolen.
 - Plain clothes units are working in the area on violent crimes.
 - Rome & Union, Oregon & Rome, Albany & St. John, and Pine & Fremont are the location of the arrests made for guns.
 - 25 years old and younger are the main ages of these arrests.
 - Two of the guns seized were connected to shootings, while the others were just carried for protection.
 - A trend of people crossing from the east side of the bridge to the west side of the bridge to commit the violent crimes has been a long running occurrence.
- Leadership from the elders to the younger people in the community has been missing; however, resident Andre Hill wants to work with TPD to talk to the younger offenders about life outside of the crime.

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative, District Supervisor Carlos Rios, was present. Mr. Rios provided the following updates:

- Once a code violation has been entered into the system, an inspector has seven days to check it. This is a change from the previous 22 days allowed.
- Within the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), there were 81 code inspections in March, 60 in February, and 50 in January.
- The department is actively working to clean up the Main Street area, and the on and off ramps of Interstate 275.
- Code is working with staff to hire a contractor to clean up the alleyways.
- Code violations and issues can be filed through an online complaint form located on the City's website.

VI. Staff Reports

Mr. Niño provided the following updates:

- Staff is working with Mr. Keith O'Connor in Code Enforcement to get an estimate from minority-owned contractor to clean up the Top 10 worst alleyways in West Tampa, as identified by CAC members.
 - Environmental herbicide will be put on the alleyways to keep the foliage from growing back.
- In two weeks, there will be a special called workshop for budget discussions for the upcoming fiscal year. A date for that will be send out this week.

Ms. Van Loan gave an overview of the approval processes for various programs and projects.

- With different programs and projects coming before the CAC for approvals, Ms. Van Loan provided the following clarification:
 - Not everything will be a program or a project. Programs are designed for repetitive projects.
 - Programs will go to the subcommittee for review, as well as the City's legal department, then to the CAC for approval, and finally to the Community Redevelopment Agency board for approval.

- For individual projects, the request comes to the CAC, the CAC sets project parameters and funding levels, then it goes to the Community Redevelopment Agency board for approval.
- For large project that the CAC wants to take on, such as street paving, staff will look into cost estimates, the CAC will set the parameters and approve the funding amount, then it will go to the Community Redevelopment Agency board for approval.
- When partnering with other City departments, there does not need to be a developed program guide.
- Individual projects will be approved on a case-by-case basis.
 - These can be enhanced city services, such as community policing efforts, land acquisition, etc.
 - Land acquisitions require staff to work with the Real Estate department for due diligence and appraisals, then negotiations occur with the property owner based on the appraisal, once an exact amount is determined, the CAC must approve before a contract is developed. Afterwards, it goes to the Community Redevelopment Agency board for approval.
 - Land acquisitions are usually done in the City's name, because if it is done in the CRA's name, confidentiality of the project is lost.
- The CAC can partner with nonprofits to acquire land for projects, but joint ownership has to be discussed with the City's legal department.
 - CRA's are not meant to replace non-profits, as CRA's focus more on the physical infrastructure, as opposed to more social services.

Ms. Van Loan provided the following additional updates:

- Staff will send out an email to all CAC members in the City to remind them of the Sunshine Laws, and not discussing CAC business with other CAC members, outside of a CAC meeting.
 - Any information that needs to be disseminated should go through Mr. Niño.
 - This also includes subcommittees and their members.
 - Since subcommittees and the CAC meeting are both publicly noticed meetings, matters can be discussed at those meetings only.
 - A copy of the new Florida state statutes for Chapter 163 will be sent out to the CAC members this week to note any changes from the previous statutes.
 - If due diligence needs to occur outside of a normal meeting, it must be publicly noticed, at least three days in advance, and a staff member must be present.
- Another Parliamentarian training will be held on Friday, April 30 and on Tuesday, May 4 for anyone who could not attend the training on Friday, April 23.

With the passed of the Neighborhood Groups Special Project Grant Program at the April Community Redevelopment Agency board meeting, staff recommends reprogramming \$75,000 to that line item for the rest of this fiscal year.

- All applications for this grant program will go before the Special Events subcommittee.
- A motion was made to allocate funding for this grant program in the amount of \$75,000 for the remainder of this fiscal year by Ms. Young. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ramirez. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Smith being absent from the vote.

V. Arts & Cultural Affairs Presentation

Ms. Robin Nigh was not able to make the meeting to provide an Arts & Cultural Affairs presentation to the board.

VI. Parks and Recreation Discussion

Ms. Sherisha Hills had to leave the meeting early and was not able to discuss Parks and Recreation with the board.

VII. Urban Progress Alliance Unity Garden Presentation

- Mr. Andre Hill and Mr. Danny Tulsiak were in attendance to present on the Unity Garden project.
 - This project came before the CAC for funding in January, but without a designated Special Projects application at the time, it was recommended to come back to the CAC at a later date and with more information.
 - With the new Neighborhood Groups Special Projects application, it does not allow for private properties to apply, so this project would have to be approved by the CAC on a case-by-case basis.
 - Mr. Hill and Mr. Tulsiak provided a package of the program to the CAC members, this time with a more scaled down approach to the hydroponic garden they proposed last time.
 - This time the project has standard grow beds, along with an alternate hydroponic system to reduce the funding needed.
- Since the new project package was not provided for review ahead of this meeting, Mr. Niño recommended that staff and the Special Events subcommittee review the package before the CAC decides to fund.
 - The City's Planning and Zoning departments will also be included in the special review meeting.
 - A project management plan was requested by Mr. Robinson at the last meeting, but this has not been received yet.
- This is not the same group that did the Meecham Urban Farms project at Encore.
- The community and school systems will get involved in the growing process for this project and learn about nutritional education.
- Security of the facility will be important and should also comply with the Overlay requirements. A soil contamination test will also need to be done.
- Cannabis will not be grown at this facility.

VIII. General Discussion and Questions

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- Mr. Smith provided the following updates from the last subcommittee meeting:
 - A home weatherization program was discussed to help residents save on their electric bills and have the opportunity to get the solar microgrids for their homes.
 - A similar project was done years ago, and the subcommittee would like to do it again.
 - A consensus was received to move forward to the CAC with the Business Enhancement Micro Grant program.
 - This program is similar to the current façade grant program, but on a smaller scale, and would be administratively approved.
 - Staff recommended a grant of up to \$5,000 with a 50/50 match for exterior improvements only, and only for local businesses.
 - A motion was made to approve this Business Enhancement Micro Grant

- program by Mr. Smith, with a second by Mr. Wilson.
- The CAC members opened discussion on the motion.
 - This program is different from the current façade grant due to being quicker, easier, administratively approved, and with more use flexibility.
 - There is nothing to prevent someone from using this grant with another CAC grant program, but there will be a maximum grant funding amount developed by staff to be approved by the CAC.
 - Mr. Niño recommends a maximum amount of \$100,000 for funding for this program for the remainder of this fiscal year.
 - There was no public comment on this matter.
 - An amendment was made to the original motion by Mr. Wilson to increase the grant amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
 - Mr. Smith was fine with the amendment.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
- A second motion as made to allocate a total of \$100,000 for this program for this fiscal year by Mr. Ramirez. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Events:

- Special Events subcommittee did not meet this month; however, Ms. Young made the following comments:
 - A West Tampa newsletter is supposed to be done quarterly. Ms. Young would like the next newsletter to be completed by June 2021.
 - Applications are open for special events and special projects.
 - A description of each subcommittee and a list of their active members should be placed on the department website before the May CAC meeting.
 - A timing clock should be brought to the May CAC meeting.

Infrastructure:

- Mr. Ramirez gave the following updates for Infrastructure:
 - Mr. Ramirez and staff met with Mr. Carlos Rios and Mr. Keith O'Connor from Code Enforcement to discuss the clothing donation boxes popping up around the City.
 - If there are any found, contact Code Enforcement and they will determine if they were permitted or not.
 - Ms. Karla Price was on the last subcommittee call too.
 - The subcommittee provided recommendations for improvements to Salcines Park, Rey Park, and Freemont Linear Park.
 - Ms. Price is working on a cost estimate for the improvements, based on a catalog bid they currently have out.
 - Mr. Eric Cotton discussed overlay amendments with the subcommittee too.
 - While the subcommittee wanted a form-based code for the residential section, Mr. Cotton did not think this was the best option. Mr. Cotton will present alternative options to the subcommittee at the next meeting.
 - In order to extend the business core district, letters have to be sent to the business owners.
 - Mr. Ramirez prepared the letter, and Mr. Niño will mail out the letters to

- the business owners, with an option for owners to attend the next subcommittee meeting if any concerns or questions arise.
 - Mr. Ramirez and staff met with other City staff to discuss a parking study for West Tampa.
 - Work will likely need to be done by an outside consultant, and Mr. Niño will work with existing contracts on this.
 - Upcoming subcommittee meetings have been changed to the third Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting being May 18th at 5:30 p.m.
 - CAC members were upset with the appearance of the wooden 5G poles that have been placed throughout the community, while other areas of the City have gotten more decorative poles.
 - Mr. Niño will check with the City to see if the subcommittee can provide comments anytime a pole is submitted for permitting prior to installation.
 - A Clean Team has been discussed to increase cleaning and pickup in the Main Street corridor area.
 - Staff will continue to work on this and develop a program more similar to what the Downtown area does, as opposed to the one in East Tampa.
 - Specific streets and scope of work will need to be developed for this project.
 - Adding more trash receptacles is an option for the immediate future while the Clean Team is being developed.
 - Some improvements have been delayed until the Main Street Corridor Study is complete.

Housing:

- Mr. Wilson provided the following updates:
 - Mr. Wilson met with internal City staff in the Housing Department on March 25.
 - Housing will look into the current applications that they have to see if a West Tampa Exterior Rehabilitation program can be used to double up on the assistance for those.
 - An additional meeting will be set up to discuss tailoring the City's current programs to fit West Tampa.
 - Mr. Robinson recommends tailoring a program towards repairs instead of a full rehabilitation.
 - Ms. Monica Ammann also spoke to the group on the land acquisition process.
 - A property on Freemont Ave was identified by the group, and the real estate department is providing a preliminary due diligence report on the property.
 - A future use of affordable housing is being considered for this property.
 - Mr. Niño has also drafted some additional housing programs which are being reviewed by internal staff currently.
 - Programs from the CRA, without City involvement, is a preferred program as well, due to the limitations that come from using federal funding.
 - Funds have already been allocated for a Rental Rehabilitation program and a Down Payment Assistance program.
 - The subcommittee is also looking into the FHA 203K program that renovates historic homes.
 - Mr. Niño will invite someone from the United States Treasury Department to a future CAC meeting to discussed fund generation.

Arts:

- Ms. Sanchez provided the following updates:
 - Ms. Robin Nigh attended the last subcommittee meeting from the City's Arts and Cultural Affairs Division and was very positive on working together on future projects.
- A motion was made to allow staff to find out the cost of doing a feasibility study to find a historic building to locate an arts center at the last meeting.
 - Centro Español is one of the only historic buildings available in the area, but it is currently being used by the Hillsborough Education Foundation.
 - Ms. Sanchez believes the building could be shared and used more for a community center, not just an art studio.
 - Some members think pursuing the Centro Español could be an issue with the Hillsborough Education Foundation already using it.
 - The Rome Yard project does include an arts and cultural center in the plans already.
 - Since there have been some dispute on this project and the consultants selected, Mr. Robinson tabled any discussion of the Rome Yard.

Other General Discussion

- Staff is already looking into potential acquisition of Freedom Park that is currently for sale.
 - For future land acquisitions, Mr. Robinson wants to make sure the CAC has an end-use in mind before purchasing the properties.

IX. Announcements

There were no announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area
Community Advisory Committee
Special Budget Workshop**

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021

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

Attendees

Committee Members: Joe Robinson, Chair; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Sandy Sanchez; Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson; Tina Young; Matthew Juaire; Janice Williams; Michael Braccia; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair

Excused: Carlos Ramirez; Dedrick Jackson; Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick; Michael Braccia

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Robinson opened the special budget workshop of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:46 p.m. on May 19, 2021. There was a quorum present. A roll call was held to introduce each CAC member.

Mr. Robinson gave Dedrick Jackson, Carlos Ramirez, Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick, and Michael Braccia excused absences.

A new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected by the CAC at the June 2021 meeting. Mr. Robinson will continue to serve as Chair until someone else takes that position.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Staff Reports

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Discussion:

- The goal of this meeting was to budget the new projected revenues for fiscal year (FY) 2022.
 - Any money left over from fiscal year 2021 will be carried over and funds can be reprogrammed for different projects at a later date.
 - Any line items that have a zero-dollar amount for FY 2022 are due to their being enough funds left in the current fiscal year to be carried over.
 - Staff presented a proposed budget as a recommendation, which the CAC went through line by line and approved by consensus to move forward.
 - The proposed budget was based on a conservative 5 percent budget increase, but it will likely be more.
 - The actual increase will not be known until after the Property Appraiser provides final numbers in June.
 - The Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements line item is more of a holding line that can be reprogrammed for specific projects.
 - Staff is not sure of the percent of interest earned at this time, but every

- Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) earned its own interest on its own funds.
- The interest goes directly into the Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements line item.
- The COVID-19 Assistance to Businesses line item was not used, even though funds were reprogrammed as the City was unsure it was legal to use the funds in that way.
 - The businesses that received COVID grants had funds come from the City directly.
 - The money in this line item will be reprogrammed for another project in the near future.
 - West Tampa became a CRA in 2015 but didn't start capturing revenues until 2017.
 - New line items created in the proposed budget for specific projects included:
 - Street repaving
 - Main Street revitalization
 - Parks improvements
 - West Tampa Clean Team
 - Parking study
 - The CAC reached a consensus on the items presented in the Operations and Administration line items.
 - The salary line item is a fully loaded rate, which covers 50 percent of the CRA manager's rate, 65% of the economic development specialist ii's rate, 5% of the office support specialist rate, and 6% of the department director's rate.
 - Employee training covers staff's certifications and travel and per diem covers CAC board training and training and hotel for the CAC Chair and Vice Chair.
 - The CAC reached a consensus on the items presented in the Contractual and Professional Services line items.
 - District maintenance and improvements added \$100,000, which can be used for proposed alley cleanups.
 - Clean Team added \$75,000, which will go with an additional \$75,000 to be reprogrammed at the next CAC meeting.
 - Overlay amendments added \$40,000.
 - Parking study was a zero as money will be reprogrammed for that at the next CAC meeting.
 - Special Events added \$100,000.
 - The CAC reached a consensus on the Redevelopment Investment line items.
 - Façade Grants added \$50,000.
 - Business Enhancement Micro Grants added \$150,000 as a smaller version of the current façade grant program.
 - Neighborhood Group Special Projects Grants added \$125,000.
 - Land Assemblage added \$1,250,000 for the acquisition of new properties for projects, and more funds can be reprogrammed later.
 - The housing programs already have money in them that will be

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

Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2021

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

Attendees

Committee Members: Joe Robinson, Chair; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Sandy Sanchez; Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson; Janice Williams; Michael Braccia; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Excused: Tina Young; Matthew Juairé; Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick; Dedrick (Dee) Jackson

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury;

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:36 p.m. on May 25, 2021. There was a quorum present. A roll call was held to introduce each CAC member.

Mr. Robinson gave Matthew Juairé, Dedrick Jackson, Tina Young, and Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick excused absences.

II. Public Comment

- Michael Randolph, CEO of the West Tampa CDC, announced an event on June 3, 2021 to look at what works in high crime areas, such as New York City and Philadelphia, that can be used in the Tampa area. The CDC's of West and East Tampa have been working together as well. There is also an event planned for June 20, 2021 to address this issue of Black Merchants in West Tampa and making sure they are able to stay in the area.

III. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for April 27, 2021 and May 19, 2021 workshop

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Ramirez, with a second by Ms. Sanchez. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.

FY22 Budget Approval

- A motion to approve the budget as presented in the special workshop was made by Mr. Wilson, with a second by Mr. Ramirez. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Smith absent from the vote. Any funds in excess of the estimated five percent increase will be put into the Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvement line item to be reprogrammed at a later time.

FY21 Budget Reprogramming of Funds

- Parking Study of West Tampa: a motion was made to reprogram \$100,000 from the Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvement line item to fund a parking study in West Tampa by Mr. Ramirez. A second was made by Ms. Sanchez. The motion passed

unanimously with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.

- Public Art: A motion was made to reprogram \$200,000 to fund local public art projects from the Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvement line item by Ms. Sanchez, with a second by Mr. Wilson. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.
- Clean Team: A motion was made to reprogram \$75,000 to start a West Tampa Clean Team from the Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvement line item by Mr. Ramirez, with a second by Mr. Braccia. Additional funds are already in the budget for next fiscal year too. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.
- Residential Exterior Improvement grant: Staff recommended reprogramming \$200,000 for this program, and the application will go before the Housing subcommittee to review once the legal department has finished with edits.
 - A motion was made to reprogram the \$200,000 from the Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements line item by Mr. Ramirez, with a second from Ms. Sanchez.
 - Mr. Wilson, Chair of the Housing subcommittee, requested that the motion be delayed until the June CAC meeting, as the subcommittee has not seen the grant program yet.
 - Mr. Ramirez withdrew his motion, and Ms. Sanchez withdrew her second.

Phase I of Alley Clean-Up

- A copy of the proposed alleyways for clean-up was provided to the CAC, which includes alleyways both north and south of interstate 275.
 - The original request was for the CAC to provide the top 10 alleyways in need of clean-up, but Code Enforcement has added some others as well to the list.
 - This project is a one-time clean-up, herbicide will be used, and Code Enforcement will provide education for keeping the alleyways clear to the adjacent property owners.
 - Phase I of this project is estimated to cost \$20,000, and by doing this in a phased approach, the project does not have to go out for Requests for Proposals (RFP).
 - Future phases of the clean-up will look to utilize a local minority firm to complete the work, but that was not feasible for this phase.
 - This is a separate project, not in conjunction with the neighborhood group clean-ups occurring.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Ramirez to reprogram \$20,000 and approve phase I of the alley clean-up, with a second by Ms. Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

Urban Progress Alliance – Unity Community Garden

- Mr. Andre Hill, Jr. with the Tampa Heritage Initiative, a subsidiary of the Urban Progress Alliance, has been working with the CAC to provide a full package request for funding for a unity garden in West Tampa.
 - The project will support an interactive community garden aimed at urban agriculture.
 - The project will be managed by Mr. Hill, Jr. and five other long-term volunteers, and will be accessible to the general public and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.
 - Mr. Hill, Jr. let the CAC know that the group will meet all City rules, will defend, hold harmless, and indemnify the City and the Community Redevelopment

- Agency, and will have liability insurance.
- The project does have neighborhood support, with the exception of a few property owners who have not be able to be reached at this time (although the leasers of those properties have been supportive).
- Funding is being requested in the amount of \$45,011 and will be used only on hard costs.
- A motion was made to approve the one-time funding request in the amount of \$45,011 for this special project for the unity garden, with the amendment that the City’s legal department will review the project and staff will determine how funds are dispersed, by Mr. Wilson. A second was made by Mr. Smith.
 - This funding will completely construct the garden, while operational funds will come from donations, in-kind and volunteer contributions, and other grants.
 - The lease on the property is currently for one-year, but once funding has been confirmed, it will become a five-year lease.
 - This project does not fall under the Neighborhood Groups Special Projects Grant program because it is on private property.
 - This motion passed unanimously.

Letter of Support – Metropolitan Ministries

- Metropolitan Ministries is looking to apply for a \$2 million neighborhood investment grant through Fifth Third Bank to provide services to low-income families looking to re-enter the West River district.
- Metropolitan Ministries is requesting a letter of support from the CAC for their grant application.
 - A motion was made to agree to the letter of support request by Mr. Smith, with a second by Mr. Wilson.
 - In discussion by the CAC, it is unsure which non-profits in West Tampa that Metropolitan Ministries would be working with on this project if they received the grant.
 - While some CAC members felt that the wording of the letter should be changed from saying “low-income, predominantly African American” families, due to not being perceived as all-inclusive, it was made apparent that this grant is specifically targeting African American families.
 - A roll call vote was held, and this motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

IV. Reports

The Tampa Police Department (TPD) had to leave the meeting early.

- Resident Andre Hill, Sr. let the CAC know that he had met with Lieutenant Felts and discussed the intervention initiative for kids in the community that was discussed at last month’s meeting.
 - TPD will work to develop a program to address this issue.

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative was not present.

V. Presentations

Parks and Recreation Discussion

- Ms. Sherisha Hills, Interim Director of the Parks and Recreation department was present to provide the following updates.
 - While the CAC is interested in three parks in West Tampa, Rey Park, Salcines

- Park, and Fremont Linear Park, the focus for today was on Rey Park.
- The Parks department is currently working on a Master Plan for all of the City, and a feedback program for the community will be launched in two weeks.
 - The final Master Plan is estimated to be finished by March of 2022.
 - In response to the updates the CAC is looking for immediately, Ms. Hills said that some improvements that can occur at Rey Park ahead of the Master Plan completion would be:
 - New concrete paved routes and ramps to allow for more accessibility to the play equipment.
 - Replace the fencing with new ornamental fencing.
 - Basketball court improvements (resurfacing the court, which could include a public art component).
 - New irrigation and plantings.
 - Refurbish the Community Center mural, which needs the colors touched-up.
 - The CAC felt that these improvements were not enough and did not include all that they and the subcommittees felt was necessary to make an immediate improvement, especially while utilizing their funds.
 - The CAC requested a rendering of these proposed improvements from Ms. Hills for the next meeting and tabled any decisions at this time.
 - Plans are requested for the upcoming Infrastructure, Housing, and Arts subcommittees to review.
 - An accelerated schedule for improvements to the three parks in West Tampa is possible, but neighborhood feedback and input is necessary still.

Rosa Valdez Daycare

- Ms. Jeanette Hordge-Smith, the Director of Community Engagement at Cornerstone, was present to provide some updates.
 - Cornerstone operates 125 childcare centers all around, and Rosa Valdez is one of them.
 - 1 year ago, today there was the first shooting near Rosa Valdez due to a road rage incident.
 - On March 12, 2021 another shooting occurred.
 - There is a petition going around that currently has 242 signatures aimed at keeping the children safe.
 - On April 27, 2021, Cornerstone held a Round Table event with the Mayor, and CAC member Ms. Ocana-Hendrick was present for that.
 - At this event, an action plan and goals were developed for keeping the children safe.
 - \$10,000 has already been spent on security cameras on the property, but if action items are not completed, a wall will have to be building around the playground just to provide added safety for the children.
 - Ms. Horde-Smith is requesting that CAC's help with the following items:
 - Invest in the installation of surveillance cameras on city property along Union Street and Albany Ave.
 - Support the efforts to designate Union Street (between Howard Ave. and Albany Ave.) as a school zone.
 - Build a barrier along the back of the Main Street park to keep foot and car traffic from driving through the open parking lot.
 - Serve as community police and report any criminal activity observed in that area.

- Mr. Niño will discuss with the City's legal department on what the CAC can do to help with these items, and the items will also be looked at by the Infrastructure subcommittee.
 - In the meantime, Mr. Wilson made a motion to look at adding two cameras on the corners of Howard and Union and Union and Albany to cover the whole block. A second was made by Ms. Sanchez.
 - The West Tampa CDC is also looking to add more cameras through grants to address public safety and will be happy to work with the CAC on this item.
 - The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Ramirez being absent from the vote.

Community Building Block by Block

- Ms. Chloe Coney and Mr. Ernest Coney have been working in the South St. Petersburg area to decrease poverty and increase employment.
 - Through a grant, they received \$100,000 to do a comprehensive development plan, along with the help of many local partners.
 - The Coney's are looking to replicate these efforts in areas of Tampa.
 - With the goal of eliminating poverty in poor areas of the City, but East Tampa and West Tampa would be good areas to start.
 - In South St. Petersburg, the CRA's focus was on:
 - People-based: human capital
 - House-based: single and multi-family
 - Place-based: commercial space.
 - While Tampa's Community Redevelopment Areas have focused on the house and place aspect, Mr. Coney feels that they need to do better on the human capital aspect.
 - In South St. Petersburg, they observed a 52.1 percent decrease in the African American poverty rate through their efforts.
 - A community benefit agreement will be taking place as part of the Rome Yard project.
- Mr. Niño reminded the CAC that every locality has a different legal opinion when it comes to Community Redevelopment Areas and St. Petersburg's is very different from Tampa's.
 - The City Attorney in Tampa interpret the law to be more infrastructure focused, and not focused on social services.
 - The Coney's feel that focusing solely on brick-and-mortar will lead to gentrification.
 - Mr. Niño is going to present these ideas to the legal department to see what can be done.

Due to a loss of quorum at 7:47 p.m. the meeting was adjourned immediately, and staff report, general discussion and questions, and announcements were tabled until the next meeting.

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

Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2021

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

Attendees

Committee Members: Joe Robinson, Chair; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Sandy Sanchez; Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson; Janice Williams; Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick; Tina Young; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:35 p.m.) Michael Braccia (virtual); Matthew Juairé (virtual)

Excused: Dedrick (Dee) Jackson

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury; Michelle Van Loan

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:39 p.m. on June 22, 2021. There was a quorum present. A roll call was held to introduce each CAC member.

Mr. Robinson gave Dedrick Jackson an excused absence.

II. Public Comment

- Michael Randolph, CEO of the West Tampa CDC, discussed an event on June 3, 2021 that looked at what works in high crime areas, such as New York City and Philadelphia, that can be used in the Tampa area. The CDC has been working with local black merchants on Main Street, helping with business plans and other needs. Public transportation is a necessity in West Tampa, and Mr. Randolph recommends working with the HART line to address that issue. Mr. Randolph also requested that he be able to come speak to the CAC on potential future funding partnerships.

III. African American Art Museum

- The CAC sent a letter to Hillsborough County, signed by Mr. Robinson, in January 2021, requesting that an African American Art Museum be located in West Tampa, but the County never responded.
- In a recent news article, Hillsborough County announced that they will be putting this museum in West Tampa and are considering a location at 2103 N. Rome Avenue, despite looking at another location owned by the Tampa Housing Authority.
- The 2103 N. Rome Ave. site is currently a head start and community service center, so that CAC does not feel that this would be the best location.
 - Members prefer a site closer to the core of the area, potentially on or near Main Street.
 - In addition, this site also has a deed with a reverter clause that if the property is not used for a medical use, the property will revert back to the City.
- The CAC requests that Ms. Gwen Myers, with the Hillsborough County Commission, come to the next CAC meeting and provide an update on this project.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Sanchez to invite Ms.

Myers to speak at the next CAC meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.

IV. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for May 25, 2021 minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Wilson, with a second by Ms. Young. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.

West Tampa Grant Programs

- Both grant programs being presented tonight went through the Economic Development subcommittee for comments and consensus before coming to the CAC.
 - The first program is the Restaurant and Food Services Grant Program.
 - The program is for new and existing local restaurants, not large franchises.
 - Applicant would be the owner of the property.
 - Eligible projects include interior permanent fixtures, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, grease traps, etc.
 - Grant would require matching funds and would be for up to \$25,000.
 - In-kind services are not eligible to be considered for the matching portion, nor can other City funds be used to meet that requirement.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Wilson to approve the grant program and amend the language to include the grant being up to \$75,000 and a time frame of one year, instead of 180 days to complete the work. This motion was seconded by Ms. Sanchez.
 - Due to the amount of the grant funding, this program will now require application approval by the Community Redevelopment Agency, but a CAC representative can be present on the Underwriting Committee that reviews that applications before they go to the Community Redevelopment Agency.
 - Any appeals to the denial of an application will require the City's legal department to take the lead.
 - The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Smith being absent from the vote.
 - The second program is the Vanilla Shell Grant Program.
 - This program is designed to reduce vacancy in existing commercial or mixed-use properties by renovating the interior to allow for a quick tenant move-in.
 - Grant would be for up to \$10,000 per unit for up to two units in the same building and would be administratively approved by staff.
 - The building must be at least 10 years old to qualify.
 - Applicant would be the owner of the property.
 - Eligible projects include interior permanent improvements, electrical, plumbing, grease traps, sprinkler systems, interior walls and paint, insulation, etc.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Smith to approve the program, with a second made by Mr. Wilson.
 - An amendment was made to the original motion to approve the program with an increased grant amount of up to \$25,000 per unit for up to two units, allowing projects that include interior historic restoration, increasing the time frame to one year instead of 180

days to complete the work, making the application approval from the Community Redevelopment Agency instead of administratively approved, and changing the wording requiring a Certificate of Occupancy to instead be a completion of work stated in the scope.

- The motion passed unanimously.
- Future grant programs will add language for an appeal's process.
 - Administratively approved grants will be appealed with the Community Redevelopment Agency, and grants approved by the Community Redevelopment Agency will be appealed through the City's legal department.

Reprogramming of Funds for Grant Programs

- Staff recommends reprogramming funds from the neighborhood infrastructure improvements line item for \$300,000 each for the two approved grant programs.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Ramirez to reprogram funds from the neighborhood infrastructure improvements line item for \$300,000 for the Restaurant and Food Services grant program. A second was made by Ms. Young. The motion passed unanimously.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Wilson to reprogram funds from the neighborhood infrastructure improvements line item for \$300,000 for the Vanilla Shell grant program. A second was made by Mr. Ramirez. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports

The Tampa Police Department (TPD) representative Lieutenant Felts was online and provided the following updates.

- There was a shooting recently at Rome and Main that resulted in a homicide. The shooter was apprehended quickly, thanks in part to the cameras at Rome and Main.
- There were five burglaries recently, with four occurring in unlocked cars.
- Other crime numbers have been decreasing.

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative was not present.

- There is an issue of potential illegal dumping on W. Spruce Street in front of the baseball fields that will be reported to Carlos Rios with the City's Code Enforcement department.
- During the neighborhood cleanups the other week, a homeless encampment was found on the roof of a building, but Code Enforcement has already been notified.

VI. Presentations

Mobility Department Project Updates

- Mr. Milton Martinez was present from the City's Mobility Department to provide updates on some of the projects they are working on.
 - The County is working with the City on three road resurfacing projects: Howard Ave, Armenia Ave, and Columbus Dr.
 - All three projects are at 100 percent design plans.
 - Construction on the Howard and Armenia projects are set to take place in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, while construction on the Columbus project to take place in FY 2023.
 - The CAC had requested a flashing beacon crosswalk be added to the Howard Ave project at Union Street, but it was too late in the design

- phase to be added.
 - The City plans to go back and add this once the County finishes its project.
 - All project timelines are tentative and subject to funding availability.
 - Mr. Martinez is going to look into addressing the tree issue along Howard where the trees need to be cut back.
 - The Columbus project still includes a change to the light sequencing to keep traffic from backing up.
- The BUILD Grant – West Riverwalk Expansion project is being worked on.
 - Coordination meetings have occurred, and the City’s legal department is currently reviewing the grant agreement before it is executed.
 - The dock that detached at Julian B. Lane Park is not part of the BUILD grant project.
 - A CAC representative will be added to the oversight committee for this project.

VII. Staff Reports

Mr. Niño provided the following updates:

- Phase I of the alleyway cleanup project is underway, with African American owned company, TCC Enterprises Inc. doing the work.
 - Currently only have four alleyways out of eighteen left to clean.
 - Code Enforcement is monitoring the work and herbicide will be put down once the alleyways have been cleaned.
 - Code Enforcement will be notified to check out the alleyway between Howard and Albany and Union and Chestnut.
 - Staff continues to ask that other alleyways be sent in for Phase II of the cleanup.
 - The ultimate goal is to have all of the alleyways within the Community Redevelopment Area cleaned up.
 - Phase II will require staff to get three bids for the work, just like Phase I.
 - Staff will look into getting signs put out at the alleyways that have been cleaned showcasing the work that the Community Redevelopment Agency is funding.
 - Before and after photos are being taken by TCC.

V. General Discussion and Questions

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- Mr. Smith provided the following updates from the last subcommittee meeting:
 - A home weatherization program is being discussed to help residents save on their electric bills and have the opportunity to get the solar microgrids for their homes.
 - This subcommittee will work with the Housing subcommittee to develop a program for this.
 - Both grant programs presented tonight were reviewed by this subcommittee.

Special Events:

- Special Events subcommittee meeting occurs after the CAC this month; however, Ms. Young made the following comments:
 - A request has been received from Jennifer that helped the CAC with their annual event two years ago, asking for a letter of recommendation for helping with that event.

- Staff will work with Ms. Young to draft this letter.

Infrastructure:

- Mr. Ramirez gave the following updates for Infrastructure:
 - The CAC reprogrammed funds last month for a Clean Team, Parking Study, and Main Street Revitalization project, and they will go to the Community Redevelopment Agency for approval at the July meeting.
 - The City's Planning department approached Mr. Ramirez for comments on allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the area.
 - Most CAC members are against allowing ADUs and comments will be compiled and provided back to Planning.

Housing:

- Mr. Wilson provided the following updates:
 - The Housing Department mentioned that they do not have the capacity to process applications for programs that have been mentioned and they requested a staff person be added in their department but funded by the Community Redevelopment Area.
 - Ms. Van Loan will discuss the programs and staff needs with appropriate City staff.
 - Two new housing program grants have been drafted by staff and are being reviewed by the Housing subcommittee currently.

Arts:

- Ms. Sanchez provided the following updates:
 - Ms. Robin Nigh from the City's Arts and Cultural Affairs Division would like this CAC to work with the Tampa Heights Riverfront CAC on the lighting of the under bridge at N. Boulevard.
 - Once details have been ironed out, staff will ask Ms. Nigh to give an update to the CAC.
 - Project is estimated to cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000 total.
 - Ms. Nigh also gave the update that the City did not get the asphalt mural grant they applied for at the intersection of Main and Albany.
 - Ms. Nigh also stated that she already discussed the refinishing of the art mural at Rey Park with Park's staff and was total that the wall needed to be repaired as well, but Parks has not moved forward with that.
 - There are many local artists available to partner with for street murals and logo designs.
 - Mr. Brad Suder from the City's Parks and Recreation department spoke at the last subcommittee meeting.
 - Inter-department communication has been an issue, so Mr. Suder could not provide an update on the park improvement requests.
 - The Parks department is updating their Master Plan currently, and it should be finished in early 2022.
 - Mr. Robinson is meeting with Interim Parks Director, Ms. Sherisha Hills, on June 30, 2021 and will go over the requested improvements from the CAC.
 - Parks needs community input before they will do any large-scale improvements and would like to focus on Rey Park improvements first out of the three parks in West Tampa.

- Ms. Sanchez would like to have a community charette to garner public input on parks and arts projects, potentially at Rey Park.

Other General Discussion

- Any items that need to be disseminated amongst CAC members should be sent to staff to send out in order to not violate the sunshine laws.
- At any point that there are more items to discuss, whether it be from subcommittees or other projects, special called meetings can be scheduled, but will still require in-person quorums and must be publicly noticed.
- CAC would like to move the subcommittee reports up on the CAC agenda for future meetings.

VI. Election of Officers

Elections of Chair and Vice Chair occurred through two separate votes through written ballot.

- New officers will be in that position for a two-year term.
- Mr. Robinson would like to be considered for the Vice Chair position.
- CAC members will cast their vote via text message to Ms. Shrewsbury.
- Voting will continue until one nominee receives a majority of the votes.
- Chair election:
 - Ms. Young nominated Mr. Smith
 - Mr. Braccia nominated Mr. Ramirez.
 - Mr. Ramirez nominated Mr. Wilson, but Mr. Wilson declined the nomination.
 - After the written ballot votes were counted, a majority was reached on the first vote and Mr. Ramirez is the new CAC Chair.
- Vice Chair election:
 - Ms. Jones nominated Mr. Robinson
 - Ms. Sanchez nominated Mr. Wilson.
 - After the written ballot votes were counted, a majority was reached on the first vote and Mr. Robinson is the new CAC Vice Chair.

VII. Announcements

- The City Attorney will be issuing a legal memo soon that states that due to sunshine laws, the subcommittees will only be allowed to have one CAC member on them, with the rest being community members.
 - Meetings will continue as is until the memo is issued.
- Once allowed back at the West Tampa Library, the CAC meetings will occur there.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2021

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

Attendees

Committee Members: Carlos Ramirez, Chair; Joe Robinson, Vice Chair; Delphine Jones; Sandy Sanchez; Janice Williams; Tina Young; Walter Smith II, Michael Braccia (virtual, then in-person at 6:07 p.m.); Matthew Juare (virtual)

Excused: Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson; Dedrick (Dee) Jackson; Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury; Brad Suder

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Ramirez opened the special workshop meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:54 p.m. on July 20, 2021. There was a quorum present.

Mr. Ramirez gave Bobby Wilson, Dedrick Jackson, and Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick excused absences.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Parks & Recreation Department Discussion

- Brad Suder, the City's Superintendent of Planning Design and Natural Resources for the Parks and Recreation Department, was present at the meeting to discuss the City's parks improvement process.
 - The Parks Department has a very limited capital improvements budget for all City parks of only \$1.9 million.
 - By partnering with the West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area there is extra opportunity for improvements that wouldn't normally be able to be done.
 - Usually the Department looks at the community parks and recreation needs and develops a project list from that, with a draft coming out in the spring of each year to develop priorities from.
 - There are record high bids coming in currently on all projects for parks.
 - The Department is currently doing a Department-wide Master Plan that should be finished in spring of 2022 that will also come with a recommended financial plan.
 - AECOM is the consultant on this project.
 - Currently the process is in the information gathering phase.
 - Virtual public meetings are being held to gain community input, with the next two scheduled for July 20 and 22.
 - There is also a virtual open house where residents can go to give

their input.

- Staff submitted near-term improvements for Rey Park to the Parks department and Parks responded with some preliminary cost estimates.
 - Mr. Suder did not provide cost estimates for Salcines Park and Fremont Linear Park as he was unsure of what the CAC was looking for with improvements at those parks yet.
- The Department operates on the process of gaining community input then developing a park design instead of presenting a design to the public first.
- Once a working budget is given to the Department from the CAC for the park improvements, Mr. Suder can move forward with developing a design.
- Mr. Suder has been involved with the discussions on the improvements at the Infrastructure subcommittee meetings.
- This year, unlike previous years, the Department did not base their maintenance and improvement budgets on each individual City park, but instead on different elements of all parks, such as Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility improvements, small neighborhood parks, security lights and cameras, etc.
- The invite to the virtual public input meeting for District 5 only named East Tampa, when it does actually include a large portion of West Tampa.
 - This could cause an issue with not getting enough input from West Tampa for that area.

IV. West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area Parks Revitalization

- Having done the research for the subcommittees on the parks, Ms. Sanchez presented the CAC's list of improvements for the three parks.
 - Improvements to Rey Park include:
 - New fencing
 - Refurbish mural
 - Trim trees
 - Add game tables
 - Repaint playground equipment
 - Add sunshades
 - Update lighting and landscaping
 - Add water fountain
 - Update community center, including better Wi-Fi connectivity, which has been a long-time concern of the community.
 - Cost estimate provided by the Parks Department should include all of these items for consideration, not just basic maintenance items.
 - Improvements to Fremont Linear Park:
 - Improved lighting
 - Small playground
 - Additional benches
 - Repair and widen sidewalk
 - Small dog park
 - Add fencing
 - While the streets through this park were originally closed to help with crime issues, it now appears it may be more beneficial to open the streets back up.
 - If this happens, the park could become a pocket park still for the community.
 - Further discussions with the affected City departments are needed to explore to open or keep the street closed.

- Improvements to Salcines Park:
 - Homelessness is the main problem to address at this park.
 - The CAC is divided on whether park improvements should include moving the bus stop, making the benches into planters to prevent sitting or laying down, adding bumpers to the steps to prevent sleeping, or adding a glass front enclosure to the area.
 - The CAC does agree that a fence around the park and improving the lighting would help and enforcing park hours is important.
 - Potential lighting from the top of the mural is a possibility.
 - There is a potential to partner with the West Tampa CDC who can apply for grants to help with some of the social service issues at this park.
 - With the Main Street Corridor Study being completed it is important to improve this park in a way that is cohesive with this plan.
 - Ms. Young stated shade trees, and shade in general, should not be avoided just because of the homeless situation.
- The CAC wants to make sure any money they invest in improvements is maintained by the Department for the future.
- The CAC also wants the Department to tell the CAC what is feasible out of the list provided, and other potential options for improvements.
- There are no minimum requirements for shelters or gazebos at City parks, so this addition will also be added to the wanted improvements list for the parks.
- The Martin Luther King Community Center will also be discussed for improvements and will start in the Infrastructure subcommittee meeting on July 20, 2021.
- Mr. Suder is going to take all of the input from this meeting and start working on design concepts to bring back to the CAC at the August meeting.
- There is a park void in the North Hyde Park area of the West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area.
- The CAC will also discuss writing a letter to the Mayor about the neglect of Rey Park over the years and necessary improvements at their next CAC meeting in July.

V. Announcements

- The next regular CAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at the Barksdale Active Older Adult Center for 5:30 p.m.
 - An Environmental Detective is on the agenda to discuss potentially working in the West Tampa area.
- Staff has started to engage other outside agencies to help address the homeless issue in West Tampa.
- Several of the programs that the CAC has approved at meetings in recent months will be approved by the Community Redevelopment Agency board at their meeting on July 22, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.