

**East Tampa Community Redevelopment Area
Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2023

Ragan Park Community Center
1200 E. Lake Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605

Community Advisory Committee

*Clinton Paris
Connie Burton
Norene Copeland Miller*

*Jeffery Johnson
Grace Glenn
Cynthia Donnell*

Attendees

Committee Members: Connie Burton, Norene Copeland Miller, Clinton Paris, Dr. Jeffery Johnson,
Virtual: Grace Glenn

City Staff: Cedric McCray, Brett Burks, Detective Andrew Washington, Alis Drumgo, Steven Lopez and
Chris Ullian

Other Attendees: Fran Tate, Rhonda Billups, Cynthia Few, Bobby Jean Curry, Chloe Coney, Mimi
Martinez, Cynthia Few, Mike Burch, Joseph Stokes, Rhonda Billups, Bobby Creighton, Ernest Coney, Jr.,
Craig Fox, Toinette Gaines, Rhonda Ellis, Joy Dew, Lena Young Green, Aidza Antonio Thomas, Wilbert
Malphus, Joseph Stokes, Lanita Brown, Albert Cook Desmond P Key, Dee, Lanita Brown

6:13 p.m. Meeting Called to Order

Invocation:

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, CAC

Member

Introductions/Roll Call

Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2023

**MOTION: Clinton Paris moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by
Jeffery Johnson. Motion carried.**

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS - IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL (3 minutes per speaker)

The following individuals made public comments:

- Chloe Coney FDOT Hiring
- Mida "Mimi" Martinez – TPD Night Out Event
- Kella McCaskill – TECO Weatherization Program

II. Election of New Chair and Vice Chair for East Tampa CAC

- Postponed to November 7, 2023, meeting.

III. New East Tampa Environmental Detective – Andrew Washington

- Listed workday schedule, hours available and phone number.
- Jackson Heights residents fearful of filling out complaints online. (F. Tate).
- Residents can contact Detective directly (A. Washington).
- Dumping on 29th & Cayuga. (C. Few)
- Cameras are posted to catch dumpers in hot spot areas. (Det. Washington)
- Questions about Environmental Detective uniform. (C. Burton)

IV. Solita's House – 1029 E. Hillsborough Avenue – Aidza Antonio Thomas

- Presentation on Solita's House and services provided to assist homebuyers through workshops, consumer lending products and financial capability workshops.
- Assisted 16 homeowners in East Tampa in 2022 -23
- Future headquarters is located at 1029 E. Hillsborough Avenue.
- Will be used for meeting space for homebuyer education, meeting space for local businesses and non-profits.
- The building was purchased with CDBG funding from Hillsborough County.
- Requesting \$440,900 to complete the rehabilitation project.
- Are there limitations on the ability to sell the property before a certain period of time? (C. Paris)
- Solita's House must maintain a nonprofit public building for public use. (A. Thomas)
- Solita's House will own the building outright and will be in the community for 30 years. (J. Johnson)
- Where are you presently operating from? (C. Burton)
- CDC of Tampa for 3 years (A. Thomas)
- Concerned about relationships with the CDC of Tampa. (C. Burton)
- We have other serious issues (N. C. Miller)
- Funds were set aside two years ago to assist organizations like this. (J. Johnson)
- I came through a program just like Solita's House and appreciate the work they do. (F. Tate)
- The East Tampa CRA is toting water too. Have you secured any funding from 5/3 Bank? (C. Burton)
- We did receive funds to do homebuyer education courses and housing counseling. (A. Thomas)
- Home ownership is the cornerstone of having access to benefits and we should do all we can to assist. (C. Paris)
- Motion to approve Solita's House request for the amount of \$440,900 from the Business Assistance budget line item by Jeffery Johnson. Motion second by Clinton Paris. Motion failed with N.C. Miller abstaining and C. Burton voting no.

V. Neighborhood Enhancement Request – Cedric McCray

- Request for new Bobcat MT-100 Mini Skid Loader with sweep and gripper at the price of \$39,203.36
- The CRA has purchased street sweepers in the past and do not know where they are located. (N.C. Miller)
- An inventory and staffing update has been supplied by Neighborhood Enhancement. ETCRA equipment is stationed at Lowry Park yard and at N. 26th and 40th Street. (C. McCray)
- I cannot support the purchase of items if they are not housed within E. Tampa. (J. Johnson)
- Request ground space to store East Tampa equipment. We need to give them equipment to do the job if requested. (C. Paris)
- Motion to table discussion until the November 7th ETCAC Meeting and invite a representative from the Neighborhood Enhancement Department to be in attendance by Jeffery Johnson. Second by Clinton Paris.

VI. East Tampa CRA Staffing Updates

- All CRA Managers are currently housed in the East Tampa Office.
- All Economic Development Specialist housed in the Ybor City Office.
- Updates to the CRA website.
- More updates to follow.
- What happened to the public relations and marketing firm? (R. Billups)
- We would like to find out more about the restructuring. (J. Johnson)
- Will we have designated staff for East Tampa? (J. Johnson)
- Mrs. Travis broke down this restructuring during the City Council workshops. What is happening with the Summer Youth Program?
- There are discussions about having the students placed in various departments within the City of Tampa similar to an internship. (C. McCray)

VII. East Tampa CRA Manager's Update – Cedric McCray

- ETCAC Appointments process and timeline
- Concerns about the level of transparency and democracy within the process (C. Paris)
- CRA Board members should attend more ETCAC members (J. Johnson)
- East Tampa CAC and the East Tampa Partnership meetings will be held when that body decides they will meet. (C. McCray)
- How are applications being advertised to the neighborhoods? (N. C. Miller)
- Website, Florida Sentinel, and direct emails to neighborhood associations. (C. McCray)
- Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program Update
- East Tampa Down Payment Assistants Update
- Tree Grant Update
- East Tampa Roofing Grant
- CRA Board motions
- Land Assemblage Update
- Calendar Updates
- Community Land Trust and available lots in East Tampa (A. Drumgo)

- FRA Conference and CRA Board travel and training policy. (A. Drumgo)
- East Tampa Community Redevelopment Partnership Elections Results (C. McCray)

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Next meeting: November 7, 2023, at 9 AM

Minutes prepared by Cedric McCray, City of Tampa East Tampa Development