

**WEST TAMPA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

January 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.  
Hillsborough Education Foundation  
2306 North Howard Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33607

**MINUTES**

**Attendees**

**Committee Members:** Carlos Ramirez, Chair; Joe Robinson, Vice-Chair; Heem Baisden; Delphine Jones; Sandy Sanchez; Janice Williams; Michael Braccia; Jeanette LaRussa Fenton; Tina Young; Bobby Wilson

**Excused:** Walter Smith II

**Staff:** Jesus Niño; Andrea Roshaven

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

Mr. Ramirez opened the meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee at 5:31 p.m.

**II. Opening Comments & Roll Call**

Mr. Niño completed the roll call and indicated a quorum was present.

**III. Public Comment**

Mr. Michael Randolph spoke virtually.

A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Fenton, to add an item by Mr. Matthew Juaire to the agenda under the presentations section after the Salcines Park item. The motion passed 9-0.

**Presentations**

**IV. FDOT On Bound Job Fair and Business Expo**

- Ms. Chloe Coney, CEO of Community Enterprise Group, LLC, and Ms. Alice Price, Florida Department of Transportation, spoke about an upcoming job fair and business expo on February 21 at Julian B. Lane Park and provided flyers.

**V. Salcines Park**

- Mr. Niño, Mr. Thomas Hester with Contract Administration, and Mr. Tony Monk with Parks and Recreation answered questions about the proposed scope of services and Agreement for Design-Build Services for Salcines Park Improvements provided from Phinazee Construction & Consulting Services, Inc. and discussed next steps for the project.
- A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Sanchez, to accept the Scope of Services and Agreement for Design-Build Initial Services to go for approval before the CRA Board on February 9. The motion passed 8-1, with Mr. Baisden voting no.

**VI. Memo Proposal from Matthew Juaire – Intent to Sale and Leaseback Property**

- Mr. Juaire presented a proposal from Bay Cannon Beer Company for the West Tampa CRA that included, among other activities, for the CRA to purchase the property and

**Important Dates**

CRA Board meeting:  
West Tampa CAC meeting:

February 9, 2023  
February 28, 2023

Tampa City Hall  
Hillsborough Education Foundation

physical assets at 2106 W. Main Street to provide a low-cost leaseback for an alternative business at that location and to lease Freedom Park to Bay Cannon for the development of a pet friendly beer garden.

- Mr. Niño explained the general statutory requirements for CRA-funded activities, the CRA and City of Tampa property purchase process, and reminded the CAC that under Florida Statute 163.380 any property sale or lease must go through an RFP and approval by the CRA Board.
- A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Sanchez, to move Mr. Juaire's proposal to the Infrastructure Subcommittee for review and analysis and for the subcommittee to come back to the CAC with a resolution. The motion passed 9-0.

## **Action Items**

### **VII. December 13, 2022, WTCRA CAC Meeting Minutes**

- A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Young, to approve the December 13, 2022 West Tampa CRA CAC minutes with no comments or additions. The motion passed 9-0.

### **VIII. Acquisition of Properties**

- Mr. Niño provided details on two residential parcels for potential acquisition by the CRA: 1940 W. Spruce Street contains an existing single-family home, and 1948 W. Spruce Street contains four vacant buildings: 1942, 1946, and 1948 W. Spruce Street are worker houses that are considered contributing to the West Tampa National Register Historic District; 1909 N. Albany Avenue is a small commercial structure and is also considered contributing.
- A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Mr. Wilson, to move forward to acquire 1940 W. Spruce Street (valued at \$405,000) with the contingency that we also have to get 1948 W. Spruce Street (valued at \$360,000). The motion passed 6-4, with Mr. Baisden, Mr. Ramirez, Mr. Braccia, and Ms. Fenton voting no.

### **IX. Renaming Arts Subcommittee**

- A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Fenton, to rename the Arts Subcommittee to Arts & Cultural Preservation Subcommittee. The motion passed 10-0.

## **Reports**

### **X. Community Policing Update**

- Major Ruth Cate with Tampa Police announced Capt. David Fernandez will serve on the new Public Safety Subcommittee, with Lt. Doug Groves acting as an alternate. Major Cate provided a verbal update on area crime statistics, changes to police staffing in District 1 and the West Tampa CRA, responded to multiple law enforcement topics previously requested by Mr. Robinson, and provide an overview of how the community can engage with the Tampa Police Department.

### **XI. Code Enforcement Update**

- Code Enforcement Officer Chris Freeman with Neighborhood Enhancement provided a verbal update on the status and numbers of Code cases and compliance activities in the West Tampa CRA.

### **XII. Staff Report**

- Mr. Niño announced the scheduling of a recognition ceremony for the first completed Residential Exterior Improvement Grant with the recipient Mr. Rolando Bardaji on February 10, 2023, at 10 a.m. Invitations will be sent to the CAC.

#### **Important Dates**

CRA Board meeting:  
West Tampa CAC meeting:

February 9, 2023  
February 28, 2023

Tampa City Hall  
Hillsborough Education Foundation

- Mr. Nino discussed the intention to add Stephen Benson with Planning Administration to the next Infrastructure Subcommittee agenda to discuss the Alleyway Pilot Project and the CAC ideas to hire a planning professional to tie together West Tampa CRA activities.

### **XIII. General Discussion & CAC Subcommittees - Reports**

- **Special Events & Special Projects**
  - Ms. Young announced the draft newsletter should be ready for review later in the week. Mr. Niño said Be Parks would send the draft to the whole CAC for review. She also discussed current work with CRA staff and plans to support the signature community event scheduled for Sunday, May 7, 2023, at Julian B. Lane Park.
- **Infrastructure**
  - Mr. Ramirez mentioned the importance of developing benchmarks for projects.
- **Housing**
  - Mr. Wilson said they hope to discuss the draft Downpayment Assistance Program at the February subcommittee meeting.
- **Arts & Cultural Preservation**
  - Ms. Sanchez provided status updates and discussed challenges for the West Tampa Alliance's Legacy Mural and traffic boxes wraps grants.
  - Ms. Sanchez reminded the CAC that the next meeting will be a workshop for the subcommittees.
- **Public Safety**
  - Mr. Robinson provided an update on the formation of the subcommittee membership and plan to hold first meeting in February. Ms. Roshaven will provide Mr. Robinson the compiled list of individuals who have volunteered to participate in the subcommittee this week.
- **Other Items of Discussion**
  - A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Mr. Wilson, for the CAC Chair to send a letter to the Florida Legislature, including the heads of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives and copy elected leaders representing the CRA boundary, to request funding collected from the 2018 Hillsborough County Transportation Tax be used to complete the Howard Avenue Improvement, Armenia Avenue Improvement, and Columbus Drive Road Diet. The motion passed 10-0.
  - A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Jones, for CRA staff to coordinate with City of Tampa and Hillsborough County to diamond cut hurricane trim all the palm trees, trim other trees, and remove trees as needed along the commercial corridors north of I-275 in the West Tampa CRA (Howard Avenue and Main Street) at West Tampa CRA expense, if needed. The motion passed 10-0.
  - Ms. Jones inquired about how the CAC could help support grand opening events for new small business. Ms. Young and Mr. Ramirez recommended the Special Events & Projects subcommittee work on ideas. CAC members discussed possible grants for Chamber membership or whether the CAC can be a member of the Chamber to extend benefits to new businesses.
    - Ms. Fenton will check on if the CAC is a full member of the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce.

### **XIV. Announcements**

#### **Important Dates**

CRA Board meeting:  
West Tampa CAC meeting:

February 9, 2023  
February 28, 2023

Tampa City Hall  
Hillsborough Education Foundation

- Ms. Jones announced that WURK 96.3 FM is having their first annual Stop the Violence Movement on Feb. 4 at the David Barksdale Center, 1801 N Lincoln Ave., and are looking for artists to showcase.
- Ms. Young brought an advocate flyer for the potential repurpose of Just Elementary.
  - i. A motion was made by Ms. Jones, with a second by Ms. Young, for the CAC Chair to send a letter to the Hillsborough County School Board to request a new pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade school be built in the West Tampa CRA boundary as a response to the Hillsborough County Public Schools proposed plan to repurpose Just Elementary School. The motion passed 9-0, with Mr. Baisden absent.
    1. Mr. Ramirez stated the letter needs to say that this community is going through a lot of growth and there is a lot of housing coming back to West Tampa and will need a school to go to, and they just can't repurpose Just and not have somewhere.
    2. Mr. Robinson requested copying chairs and district representatives at the City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, and Tampa Housing Authority.

## **XV.** Adjournment

- Mr. Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.