

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

March 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
Hillsborough Education Foundation
2306 North Howard Avenue
Tampa, FL 33607

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Committee Members: Carlos Ramirez, Chair; Joe Robinson, Vice-Chair; Heem Baisden; Delphine Jones; Sandy Sanchez; Janice Williams; Michael Braccia; Jeanette LaRussa Fenton; Bobby Wilson; Walter Smith II (7:14 p.m.)

Absent: Tina Young

Staff: Jesus Niño; Andrea Roshaven; Be Parks (virtual); Alis Drumgo; Rugina Castillo

I. Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Ramirez opened the meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee at 5:36 p.m.

II. Opening Comments & Roll Call

- Ms. Roshaven completed the roll call and indicated a quorum was present.

III. Public Comment

- Michael Randolph (virtual)
- Cheryl Patterson

Presentations

IV. African American Arts & Cultural Center

County Commissioner Gwen Myers provided an update on the plans for a new 50,000 square foot, \$30 million African American Arts & Cultural Center where the existing Hillsborough County West Tampa Community Resource Center and Head Start is located, 2103 N. Rome Avenue.

- Commissioner Myers provided draft renderings and floor plan layout (attached to meeting minutes).
- The center is expected to break ground in 2024 and be completed by 2026.
- The new board for the African American Arts & Cultural Center and prospective funders will be introduced to the public at an event on June 19, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the West Tampa Community Resource Center.

Action Items

V. Approval of Minutes

- August 23, 2022 Minutes
- October 25, 2022 Minutes
- November 22, 2022 Minutes
- December 13, 2022 Minutes
- January 24, 2023 Minutes
- February 28, 2023 Minutes

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the above minutes. Seconded by Ms. Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Subcommittee Member Changes

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the proposed 23 March 2023 West Tampa CAC Subcommittee Members as presented by staff. Seconded by Mr. Braccia. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sanchez made a motion to change the Chair for the Economic Development Subcommittee from Walter Smith to Ms. Jeanette Fenton. Seconded by Mr. Robinson. Motion passed 8-0, with Ms. Fenton abstaining.

- Ms. Fenton announced she has a standing conflict on Mondays and announced the Economic Development Subcommittee meetings will be changed to a Wednesday night to be determined with staff.

Mr. Robinson questioned the need to appoint vice chairs for subcommittees. Mr. Niño clarified the CAC would approve vice chairs, not subcommittees themselves. This topic will be added to the next CAC agenda for appointing vice chairs.

VII. Approval to Move Forward with Drafting Innovative Policing Plan/Scope

Mr. Wilson made a motion to move forward with CRA staff drafting an innovative policing plan. Seconded by Ms. Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

VIII. Community Policing Update

No representative present.

IX. Code Enforcement Update

No representative present.

X. Staff Report

Staff provided an update on the planning activities for the West Tampa CRA Unity & Cultural Event on May 7, 2023.

- Mr. Niño stated they already have approval to budget towards an event planner for next year's event.
- Ms. Fenton requested a list of event items and activities still needing sponsors so she could share with West Tampa Chamber.
- Ms. Parks discussed event logistics and the marketing plan. She stated the flyer would be available and sent to the CAC members by the end of the week, so they could assist in promoting the event to the community.

XI. General Discussion & CAC Subcommittees

Mr. Niño provided a written staff report for review.

- Instructions from the CRA Attorney to stop all co-sponsorship and sponsorships, including the Special Event Grant Program, effective immediately.
- Budget season is starting. Mr. Ramirez stated a preference for special workshops to discuss the budget.
- Salcines Park Initial Design-Build Services Agreement is going to City Council on April 6.
- Pressure washing of the park and Main Street public areas being scheduled.
- Working with Contract Administration on vendor for site remediation of 2101 W. Main Street.

- Staff will work with nearby business owners to let them know about the impacts of planned work on Main Street. A meeting is being scheduled for April.
 - Mr. Robinson requested benches from Freedom Park be put into storage for potential future use.
- Mr. Niño discussed the Ybor City CRA Block by Block clean team and ambassador program and potential to use something similar in West Tampa. Multiple members remarked the area is not ready for this type of service yet.
- Pond and Co. are scheduled to provide Parking Study updates at the April 18 Infrastructure Subcommittee and May 23 CAC meetings.
- Mr. Niño provided an update on internal discussions on implementing the Main Street Corridor Study recommendations.
- Discussion on how information is provided to the community about the CAC and CRA activities.
- Mr. Niño introduced Ruginio Castillo, Community Engagement and Diversity Coordinator.
 - Ms. Castillo spoke about employment opportunities with the City of Tampa.
- Rey Park Initial Design-Build Services Agreement is going to CRA Board on April 13; will be scheduled for City Council, if approved.
- Staff had a kickoff meeting with City departments on Fremont Linear Park improvements. Will work with Infrastructure Subcommittee to plan community engagement.
- Working with Procurement on CRA-wide alley clean up RFQ. Will coordinate with SWEEP.
 - Mr. Wilson asked to expedite notification to residents on their responsibility to maintain alleys. Mr. Ramirez suggested sending out something every 6 months.
- Kayon Henderson scheduled to attend the next Housing Subcommittee meeting to discuss downpayment assistance program.
- Ms. Roshaven provided a written report on CRA all past and current West Tampa CRA grants.
 - Mr. Robinson requested funded amounts be added to the report and it include all grants, not just those under grant programs.
- Alleyway Pilot Project update will be provided at a future Infrastructure Subcommittee.
- Mr. Nino reminded members that there is a moratorium on new programs being created in any of the CRA areas, per the CRA Board.
- A special proposal is in development for a funding request to improve the Walter L. Smith Museum.
- Mr. Niño reminded members that if a subcommittee meeting does not have an in-person quorum it cannot be held, and members must disperse.
- The closing on 1940 W. Spruce Street is scheduled for April 24.
- Ms. Roshaven announced a directed outreach event with Hillsborough County, City of Tampa, MetroMin and TPD is being planned along Main Street to address homelessness with help from Robert Parkinson, Hillsborough County's Criminal Justice Liaison and a Public Safety Subcommittee member.
- Staff is working with Real Estate on a decorative gate for the Dress for Success building next to Salcines Park.
- Mr. Wilson suggested completing a review to see if AMI levels should be adjusted once we have a number of Residential Exterior Improvement Grants completed.
- Mr. Niño spoke about the plans to increase outreach on available grants. Requested any feedback on the website updates.
- Mr. Ramirez reiterated the need to explore providing Wi-Fi service in the district to improve the ability to communicate with residents. Mr. Niño updated that the issue is pending legal review.
- Ms. Sanchez spoke about the potential to source community art from Related.
- Mr. Robinson discussed the history of Soul Walk.

- Ms. Jones made a motion to have Robin Nigh come before the West Tampa CAC and give an update on what the plans are for Soul Walk. Seconded by Ms. Sanchez. Amended by Mr. Robinson to have her include in the presentation on Soul Walk how she is going to include the West Tampa CRA Community Advisory Committee. Motion passed 8-0, with Ms. Fenton and Mr. Baisden absent.
- Mr. Robinson spoke about the history of the property at 2103 N. Rome Avenue.
- Mr. Robinson spoke about the positive impacts of the Rome Yard and Riverwalk expansion on the community and affordable housing in the West Tampa CRA.
- Mr. Ramirez reminded the members that all the CRA Board and City Council meetings are available on YouTube.

XII. Announcements

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.