

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area  
Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

January 9, 2020

**West Tampa Free Public Library  
2312 W. Union Street**

**Attendees**

**Committee Members:** Joe Robinson, Chair; Benjamin Buckley; Dedrick Jackson; Delphine Jones; Marvin Knight; Kenneth Perry; Carlos Ramirez; Jeffrey Rhodes; Anthony Serrano; Walter Smith II; Emanuel Wilson; Tina Young

**Excused:**

**Staff:** Malcolm Kiner, Urban Development Manager  
Michelle Van Loan, Interim CRA Manager

**I. Welcome / Introductions**

Mr. Robinson opened the Special Call Meeting of the West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee at 5:40 p.m. on January 9, 2020 to discuss the West Tampa Overlay. CAC members introduced themselves.

The regular CAC meeting will be held on 1/28/2020.

**II. Infrastructure Subcommittee Presentation**

Mr. Ramirez presented and overview of the work of the committee and a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed changes. The PowerPoint will be posted online.

- The subcommittee has been working on the overlay district text for the past year.
- Looking at amending the Residential and Commercial criteria.
- Commercial:
  - Addendum for cigar factories
  - Fences and signage
  - Business districts
  - Parking and exterior building standards
- Residential:
  - Carports and fencing
  - Alley access
  - Form-based codes
  - Exterior elevation of accessory structures
- Process
  - Add an ombudsman position to assist property owners in understanding the code and getting through zoning/permitting process.
- Goal is to keep West Tampa West Tampa.
- The amendment process includes public meetings, drafts and revisions of the proposed amendments text, public hearings at Council. Planning and Development staff will put the final proposed text language in final, legal form and verbiage.
- The final text would go to Council in July for a vote.

Discussion:

- Community members want to make sure that they understand the proposed amendments and have an opportunity for input.
- Concern for property owners on fixed income to be able to afford to meet new standards.
  - Housing Subcommittee is looking at incentives and programs to assist property owners and land lords.
- Our goal should be to lift up our community. Better to provide assistance than lower standards.

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to move forward with the text amendment application to update the West Tampa Overlay District. Motion seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Announcements & Public Comment**

- Good Neighbor Notices:
  - Chair Robinson presented staff with notices
- CRAs need to be marketed and the housing programs will need to be well marketed..
- Trim the trees on Howard.
- Mr. Robinson is working on getting the Opportunity Zone to cover all of West Tampa.
- Mr. Robinson is working on the tent.
- First Jaz festival at Julian B. Lane Park.

**West Tampa Community Advisory Committee – Subcommittees**

**Special Events** – Tina Young, Chair

Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 4 pm at Project Link Office.

**Economic Development** – Walter Smith II, Chair

Meets the 1st Monday of each month at 6 pm at the Walter Smith Library.

**Infrastructure** – Carlos Ramirez, Chair

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at JCC.

**Housing** – Bobby Wilson, Chair

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm at the West Tampa Free Public Library.

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area  
Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

January 28, 2020

**West Tampa Free Public Library  
2312 W. Union Street**

**Attendees**

**Committee Members:** Joe Robinson, Chair; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair; Benjamin Buckley; Dedrick Jackson; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Jeffrey Rhodes; Anthony Serrano; Emanuel Wilson; Tina Young

**Excused:** Marvin Knight and Kenneth Perry

**Staff:** Malcolm Kiner, Urban Development Manager  
Michelle Van Loan, Interim CRA Manager

**I. Welcome / Introductions**

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee at 5:34 p.m. on January 28, 2020. CAC members introduced themselves.

Mr. Robinson excused Mr. Knight and Mr. Perry.

**II. Meeting Minutes September 24, 2019**

Mr. Rhodes moved to approve the November 26, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Mr. Ramirez. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Tampa Police Department Update**

Major Mills and Captain Cate presented the TPD Update.

- Recent shooting is being investigated
- Officer Barnes is out talking to property owners regarding Teco private security lights
- Teco should have all LED lights in by March 31

**IV. Staff Reports**

Safety cameras are being bid out. They will be located in the areas of Armenia, Howard, Albany, and Rome.

**V. Request to Address the Committee**

FDOT: Kirk Bogen presented an overview of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and the latest iteration of I-275/I-4 interchange plans, the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

- Reconfiguration of 60 at Westshore. Reo will connect to Kennedy
- Howard Franklin to Downtown: 2 toll lanes
- Bring roadway/interchanges to modern standards and improve through lanes
- Provide direct connection to Veterans and TIA
- Improved connection from Ashley to Tampa

- Widen Flyover from southbound 275 to I-4
  - Eastbound exit lane to Ybor will be relocated to 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Streets to reduce the number of cars crossing traffic
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be widened to assist flow to 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>
- Floribraska ramp will remain open
- 275 MLK exit widened to 2 lanes
- Westbound I-4 to northbound 275 will be widened to 2 lanes.
- Westbound I-4 merge with 275 through downtown will be widened to 3 lanes
- Relocation of downtown exit to improve flow

Construction on 275, between Howard Franklin and Hillsborough River will start 2023/2024. Seeking funding for downtown interchange.

February 25: Public meeting at HCC Dale Mabry Campus, 5-7:30. 6 pm presentation.

February 27: Public meeting at Port Tampa Cruise terminal #6, 5-7:30. 6 pm presentation.

#### Discussion:

- Concern regarding: no buffer walls/sound, existing noise barriers do not work, light bleed into community, Stormwater runoff
  - Noise barriers will be constructed as part of project
- Stormwater ponds are unsightly with trash
  - Hired local minority vendors for pond maintenance
  - Cleanliness has been a little improved, trimmed trees
- There will be no property acquisition in West Tampa
- Issue is where the roadway comes down into the community. Dual left turns are not being used correctly. Signage is not helpful.
- Need better lighting and beautification at the underpasses.
- Need pedestrian friendly and connectivity
- Pendants lights should not be used
  - Lights will be mounted on the walls of the underpasses

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC): Lisa Ann Mifflin provided an overview of the Community Reinvestment Act, requirements of banks and how they are regulated.

- Overview of OCC roles.
- Overview of the CRAAct requirements.
- Partnering with banks so they can meet their CRAAct requirements.
- Layering of funding options to make projects happen.
- Bank supported CDFI.
- Land Trusts and how they assist with affordability.
- All reports on a bank's compliance are posted publically, including their rating. See FDIC website.
- Overview of how banks are doing business and the assistance they can provide in your community, both financial and financial literacy education.
- The UCC publication on historic tax credit is very informative.
- Grants are more challenging than loan products because the money does not come back to be recycled to the next applicant. Larger banks may have foundations that can assist with resident grants.

Discussion:

- Buy up land when feasible
- Bad grades for a bank affect their ability to merge/expand
- Banks, including online, is how a bank reaches out to community
  - Branches at non-profits
  - Mobile branches
  - Show how you are reaching low income in online resources

Please send a copy of the presentation to the CAC.

## VI. General Discussion and Questions

### Sub-Committees:

#### **Special Events: Tina Young**

- Discussion of draft newsletter layout
  - What's Happening
  - Special Events
  - Highlight businesses
- Will be online and electronically distributed in churches, businesses, library, etc...
- Not senior friendly, need better sized-font and better contrast between font and page color

#### **Housing: Bobby Wilson**

- Next housing program will focus on homeowners on the bubble.
- Issue: Code Enforcement put a notice on the wrong house.

#### **Infrastructure: Carlos Ramirez**

Met the deadline for the text amendment application. There will be public meetings to obtain the input from the community.

- Partnering to look at parking issues for WT.

Wednesday, 2/21 at 5:30 pm at JCC: First half of the Infrastructure/Economic Development subcommittee meeting will focus on Parking issues, parking study, and land acquisition for parking.

#### **Economic Development: Walter Smith**

- Ms. Mifflin came to the sub-committee meeting. Lots of discussion of how the CRA can and can't help, received many good ideas for funding opportunities and accessibility of funding.
- Sustainability and resiliency issues:
  - Tampa needs to catch up on clean energy
  - Small business loans to address vacant/dormant buildings, retrofit
  - Programs and partnerships to leverage WT CRA TIF dollars
- Ms. Mifflin will assist us in organizing workshops to assist businesses reach banks
- Marketing campaign so that community is aware of the resources available and being developed

Mr. Serrano moved to reprogram \$55,000 into the marketing budget to help in the effort to inform the community of the resources available and to market our WT CAC programs and partnerships. Motion seconded by Ms. Young. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of micro-grids for community sustainability.

## **VII. Announcements & Public Comment**

- Good Neighbor Notices:
  - Chair Robinson presented staff with notices
- 2/9 West Tampa Market, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in March and April at Freedom Park.
- We need to look at spending CAC money, we need to think of it in terms of “investing” our funds.
  - Our dividends from our investments should be financial and social.
  - The SAP is the criteria by which we decide to make those investments.
- The Mayor is working towards issuing a new RFP for the 18 acres and will be coming to the CAC for their input.
- Opportunity Zone needs to include all the census tracts in West Tampa.
- Marketing for the CAC is a priority.
- Next year the Metropolitan Ministries will leave their tent for additional events.
- Should start working on the next festival.
- New family owned dentist will be moving into 302 N. Howard. They will be going for their zoning hearing. Audience welcomed them.
- Trees on Howard need to be trimmed.

Meeting Adjourned 8:09 p.m.

## **West Tampa Community Advisory Committee – Subcommittees**

**Special Events** – Tina Young, Chair

Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 4 pm at Project Link Office.

**Economic Development** – Walter Smith II, Chair

Meets the 1st Monday of each month at 6 pm at the Walter Smith Library.

**Infrastructure** – Carlos Ramirez, Chair

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at JCC.

**Housing** – Bobby Wilson, Chair

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm at the West Tampa Free Public Library.

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area  
Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

February 25, 2020

**Martin Luther King Community Center  
2200 N Oregon Avenue**

**Attendees**

**Committee Members:** Joe Robinson, Chair; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair;;; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Jeffrey Rhodes; Anthony Serrano; Emanuel Wilson; Tina Young Marvin Knight; Kenneth Perry

**Excused:** Benjamin Buckley

**Staff:** Malcolm Kiner, Urban Development Manager  
Michelle Van Loan, CRA Director  
Shelisia Jackson, OSSIV

**I. Welcome / Introductions**

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee at 5:39 p.m. on February 25, 2020.

Mr. Robinson excused members that could not be in attendance. Mr. Robinson requested that staff reports be held off until after Vanessa McCleary's presentation. Carlos Ramirez made a motion to approve the change to the agenda. Marvin Knight made a second to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

**I. Meeting Minutes January 20, 2020**

After review, Jeffrey Rhodes moved to approve the January 20, 2020 meeting minutes with no revisions. Motion seconded by Kenneth Perry. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Minutes January 9, 2020 (Special Call Meeting)**

After review, Tina Young moved to approve the January 09, 2020 special call meeting minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Jeffrey Rhodes. The motion passed unanimously.

**I. Tampa Police Department Update**

(Officer Lisa Bunn) presented the TPD Update.

- Crimes TPD are getting calls about in the area are car burglaries. Ofc. Bunn advised attendees to please remember to lock your car doors and do not leave valuables in plain view.
- Ofc. Bunn mentioned that they are trying to address crime around the Fremont Linear Park. Suggested it may be helpful to increase lighting and

possibly have a camera installed. A solar light has been installed at the park.

After additional discussion about the Fremont Linear Park by committee members Bobby Wilson made a motion to ask staff to look into the costs of adding a camera at the Fremont Linear Park. Motion seconded by Carlos Ramirez and passed unanimously.

#### **I. Request to Address the Committee**

City of Tampa Housing & Community Department (HCD): Vanessa McCleary, HCD Manager presented an overview of the RFP being prepared regarding the redevelopment of the city owned land within the West Tampa CRA. Per Ms. McCleary, on February 12th the Mayor unveiled the recommendations from the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (it is 1 of 5 committees she put together to look at five issues regarding initiatives important to moving Tampa forward). One of the goals is to add over 10,000 units of affordable housing. When she made that announcement, she also discussed the 15 acres of the Rome property and the three acres at the Baseball Field site. The advisory committees' final recommendation reports and meeting minutes are available at [www.tampagov.net/T3](http://www.tampagov.net/T3). The presentation tonight is just about developing an RFP of the 15-acre property. She is looking for feedback from the committee regarding RFP particulars. Housing resilience, affordability and sustainability are very important. The goal is to:

- Encourage a development that is built using local resources.
- Incentivize developers to use local workforce, and WMBE.
- Create a development that is 40% workforce housing, 20% affordable housing and 40% market.
- Make sure the project fits with West Tampa aesthetic.
- Requiring the developer to have community input throughout the process.
- The RFP will require over 10,000 square feet of office/retail space.

Ms. McCleary explained the review process and let the community know that there will be another public input session.

Many committee members were concerned about what is considered affordable housing. They were not happy when they got clarification about the definition of what is considered affordable housing and workforce housing. Some of the ranges shared were up to \$1200 is considered affordable. 1600 - \$2400 a month is considered workforce housing.

There is not a date for putting the RFP out. It will go out only after the public input process is complete. Ms. McCleary then asked committee members to share their thoughts about what needs to be included in the RFP:

- Job Center on site
- Land Banking for West Tampa CRA



- Promote job training to West Tampa residents
- Add incentive to developer for offering bonus points for selecting existing West Tampa business retail spaces.
- Affordable housing should be to purchase affordable housing versus renting.
- Six foot sidewalks
- Public garden
- Shade trees throughout development
- Other transit options beside HART
- Docking stations needed
- The process should be an (RFQ) Request for Qualifications then we move on to trying to get a RFP.
- Make sure development on this site is compatible to the West River development.
- Existing underground utilities need to be accessible.
- Require the WMBE ordinance required from conception to future operations.
- Require workforce development plan.
- Take advantage of Opportunity Zone to maximize funding of development.
- Include historical requirements.
- Incorporate West Tampa Overlay design guidelines.
- Community Benefit Clause needed.
- Reference the West Tampa Strategic Plan.
- Microgrid should be considered - Solar Powered Energy.
- No development until after SuperBowl 2021.
- Development should have LED Street Lighting.
- Buffer the residential area from main traffic pattern.
- Advocate for the West Tampa Community to have a K-8 school
- Add someone from the CRA CAC to the RFP selection committee.
- Ensure the city monitors the development agreement
- Include the redevelopment of Kid Mason into the development plan.

## **I. Staff Reports**

Per Malcolm Kiner, the purchase of safety cameras has been approved. The installation should begin in the next couple of months.

Malcolm shared that his last day is this Friday. Michelle Van Loan, CRA Director is available if anyone has any questions until his replacement is hired.

## **I. General Discussion and Questions**

Sub-Committees:

**Special Events: Tina Young**

- Newsletter draft distributed for review. It is set to be created/distributed quarterly, distributed via mailings, on the website, and located at local businesses.  
After review, there were no additional revisions needed. Ken Perry made a motion to approve the layout. Motion seconded by Walter Smith and passed unanimously.
- A motion was began by Anthony Serrano to ask staff to work with the Special Events Sub-Committee to consider preparing an RFP to hire an event planner to organize the Unify Festival. Jeffrey Rhodes provided a second. Staff mentioned that hiring an event planner is not something that can be paid for by CRA funds. Additional discussion will take place at the next sub-committee meeting to discuss the issue.

**Infrastructure: Carlos Ramirez**

- Public meeting with City of Tampa Transportation in attendance to discuss parking issues.
- Met the deadline for the text amendment application. City staff has questions and will work to come up with a schedule. Once, it is established Mr. Ramirez will provide an update.
- Code Enforcement has agreed to do quarterly clean-ups.
- Discussing the resurfacing of Howard and Armenia.

**Housing: Bobby Wilson**

- Proposed having a combined sub-committee of Housing, Infrastructure and Economic Development. There is a lot of overlap going on right now. There will still be chairs for each division.
- Next meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Bryan Glazer JCC.
- The committee is working to create the framework for a three programs to address affordable housing assistance for current homeowners, renters and potential homeowners. They will come back to the April meeting with more details.
- Mr. Wilson made a motion to earmark \$1 million in funds for three potential housing programs (affordable housing, rental rehab, and current homeowner assistance). The sub-committee will get together to flesh out program particulars and criteria. Walter Smith seconded the motion. After discussion, a vote was called and passed unanimously.
- Mr. Wilson made a motion to ask Dennis Fernandez to inventory historic buildings within the CRA. The motion was seconded by Tina Young and passed unanimously.

**Economic Development: Walter Smith**

- Looking at conducting a parking study.
- The sub-committee is talking about a potential parking garage location on Green and Ysolina Streets.

**I. Announcements & Public Comment**

- Trees along Howard Avenue - when will they be removed/trimmed. Per Michelle, she was informed that the City is not responsible for the trees, they belong to the County. We will work with the County to begin discussions.
- There was discussion from the public about alley vacating and closing alleys.
- There was discussion about bump outs along Howard.
- The Early Learning Childcare Center asked committee members to consider providing support to the school by funding security cameras and potentially funding a facade grant. Michelle Van Loan will talk to the schools representative offline to confirm their eligibility. The group is also sponsoring a Fresh Market Food Giveaway this upcoming Saturday. Flyers were distributed.

Meeting Adjourned 7:55 p.m.

## **West Tampa Community Advisory Committee – Subcommittees**

### **Special Events** – Tina Young, Chair

Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 4 pm at Project Link Office.

### **Economic Development** – Walter Smith II, Chair

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6 pm at the Walter Smith Library.

### **Infrastructure** – Carlos Ramirez, Chair

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at JCC.

### **Housing** – Bobby Wilson, Chair

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm at the West Tampa Free Public Library.

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area  
Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

April 21, 2020

**Virtual Meeting**

**Attendees**

**Committee Members:** Joe Robinson, Chair; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Jeffrey Rhodes; Anthony Serrano; Emanuel Wilson; Tina Young, Marvin Knight; Kenneth Perry, Benjamin Buckley

**Staff:** Jeanette LaRussa Fenton, Urban Development Manager  
Michelle Van Loan, CRA Director  
Shelisia Jackson, OSSIV

**I. Welcome / Introductions**

Mr. Robinson opened the special call meeting of the West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee at 5:30 p.m.

**II. Meeting Minutes**

None.

**III. Purpose**

Per Mr. Robinson, this meeting was called to discuss a possible grant program for small businesses in the Community Redevelopment Areas impacted by the COVID-19 Emergency and if the West Tampa CRA wishes to participate in the One Tampa Business grant program in order to further assist small businesses in West Tampa.

**One Tampa Presentation**

(Michelle Van Loan) presented information about the proposed grant. After receiving calls for assistance and fielding calls of concern about the lack of availability for a majority of our local small businesses to participate in the federal program we started to try and look at assist. The City of Tampa is now launching a new program called, One Tampa in response to the COVID-19 emergency. It is a Rent, Mortgage & Utility Relief plan that will provide critical support to individuals and small businesses that have been impacted. The City of Tampa has partnered with two trusted organizations, the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and the Tampa Chamber of Commerce, to connect critical resources with those who need them most. The ability to fund and operate such a program is not viable for the CRA's which is how the partnership with the City came about.

This program could be a lifeline for small businesses located in the city's designated low income census tracts and Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs). The plan is to pay up to \$4,000 for a past-due or future-due rent or

mortgage and up to \$1,000 for utilities. For qualified recipients, the City will remit rent or mortgage payments directly to landlords and mortgagors, and directly to TECO and the City of Tampa, on behalf of eligible relief recipients.

The Small Business Relief Plan qualifying criteria currently is that a business must:

- Have been continuously operating for 5 years prior to February 1, 2020.
- Be one of the designated 'critically impacted' business sectors
- Have a physical location in one of the City's designated Low Income Census Tracts or in one of its Community Redevelopment Areas.
- Have business annual revenue less than \$250,000
- Have no more than five (5) employees at the time of application
- Experienced at least 50% reduction in revenue as a result of the COVID crisis
- Have applied for the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan, if eligible.
- Have paid 2019 City business taxes and 2018 property taxes
- Have no outstanding property code enforcement issues.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling cycle and payouts will continue until funds are exhausted. West Tampa CRAs TIF interest is an estimated \$100,000. The City would like to use West Tampa CRAs accrued interest funds to assist in providing matching grants for the payments to businesses that are located in a CRA district (50/50). This will enable the use of CDBG and philanthropic funds to stretch further across individuals / families and businesses not located in a CRA. The interest money is not tied to any of the CRA's programs.

After additional discussion about the OneTampa Plan by committee members Benjamin Buckley made a motion to approve the use of \$100,000 from the interest account towards the grant program. Ken Perry provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. General Discussion and Questions**

Joe Robinson directed the Economic Development Subcommittee to review a standalone program for West Tampa businesses that do not qualify for One Tampa that would be usable for assistance in case of future hurricanes or unnamed disasters.

#### **V. Announcements & Public Comment**

There was one comment from the public asking to make sure West Tampa is defined better and small businesses that do not qualify for this assistance are helped in some way.

Meeting Adjourned 6:45 p.m.

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 26, 2020  
Virtual Call-In Meeting**

**Attendees**

**Committee members:** Joe Robinson, Chair; Benjamin Buckley; Dee Jackson; Delphine Jones; Ken Perry; Carlos Ramirez; Walter Smith II; Bobby Wilson; Tina Young

**Excused:** Marvin Knight; Jeffrey Rhodes; Anthony Serrano

**Staff:** Jeanette LaRussa Fenton, Interim West Tampa/Drew Park Manager

Shelisia Jackson, OSSIV

**I. Opening Comments & Introductions**

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

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Perry moved for approval of the minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting; seconded by Mr. Ramirez. Motion passed unanimously.** It was noted that the February 25 meeting minutes were corrected to show the meeting was held at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center.

**III. Tampa Police Update**

Captain Bryan Hill introduced himself as new to District I. He came from District II and prior to that was stationed at District III. He is anxious to meet everyone, hear any concerns and build relationships. He works Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and can be reached at 863-412-9752.

Officer Lisa Bunn reported that she has been working with the Transportation Dept. to have “No Parking” signs installed on Fremont Ave. along the linear park. She is also working to get the intersecting streets opened to alleviate problems there. She would like to keep the linear park with raised crosswalks. That would be the responsibility of the Transportation Dept.

Chair Robinson requested another security camera to be installed at the Fremont Ave. linear park. Ms. Jackson stated that funding was approved at the February meeting; we are awaiting the exact amount.

#### **IV. Staff Report**

- One Tampa Update – Ms. Fenton reported on the business participation in the One Tampa relief program. As of May 15, 2020, 138 businesses had completed applications; 90 were not eligible; 50 applications are pending or have been paid.

Applications for a second round of funding will be accepted between June 1 and June 5. Program eligibility requirements have been relaxed to allow greater participation.

Ms. Fenton was requested to provide information on West Tampa businesses that participated.

- CRA Manager Hiring - Ms. Fenton reported that interviews for the West Tampa/Drew Park Manager, and the Economic Development Specialist are almost complete. The top candidates have been identified to advance in the process. The goal is to have both positions filled by mid-July.

#### **V. Request to Address the Committee**

Vanessa McCleary, COT Housing & Community Development Manager, made a Power Point presentation concerning the Request for Proposals being prepared for the City owned property on Rome Ave.

Ms. McCleary responded to points and questions raised by WTCAC members and the public:

- Make sure all points made by the WTCAC at the February 25 meeting are included in the final RFP.
- The City is trying to make it a walkable site with mobility options to reduce car traffic. The developer must provide a traffic study consistent with their proposal.
- Need review of traffic impacts on the east side of the project in combination with the West River project.
- The developer would need to purchase the property; it would not be donated. Current value is approximately \$1 million per acre.
- Public art will be included to celebrate West Tampa's history.
- The site should have an urban feel with increased density and provide a mix of rental and homeownership.

- There will be coordination with the Tampa Housing Authority and their Master Plan for the West River development.
- The project will provide 20% of the units as affordable housing (80% area median income); 40% workforce housing (120% area median income); 40% market rate. Affordable units are also part of the West River development.
- Job creation will be part of the project.
- RFP will be out in Fall 2020. Once the draft RFP developed it will be provided to WTCAC for review and comment. A workshop for developers will then be scheduled.
- Someone from WTCAC should sit on the RFP Review Committee.
- City W/MBE office should review MBE participation

### **RFP Public Comment:**

Sam Harris

- Must have opportunity for Black developers and City should assure Black owned firm is in the lead.
- Developers are concerned about length of time for permitting.
- Developers should make a larger commitment to affordable/workforce housing.
- Need transportation models from other successful projects.

Spencer Kass

- Is City prepared to contribute some of the property sales price to the CRA or reinvest in the CRA?
- Ms. McCleary responded that additional tax revenue would go to the CRA through the TIF process.
- Mr. Robinson requested that City respond to contribution of a portion of the sales price to the CRA or reinvestment back into the CRA. He also requested to know which parts of the project would be taxable and which would not. He state that the project should go vertical and that density is needed.

## **VI. General Discussion & Questions**

### **West Tampa CAC Subcommittee Reports**

**Economic Development** – No report.

**Special Events** – Ms. Young delivered the subcommittee report. Next meeting will be June 22. She suggests postponing the Unity West Tampa event until next year to a date to be determined. **Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve her recommendation, seconded by Mr. Perry and it passed unanimously.**



It was suggested that perhaps the event could be held as part of the Super Bowl festivities.

**Infrastructure** – Mr. Ramirez delivered the subcommittee report. Some revisions to the West Tampa Overlay are moving forward, others need more work and will be pursued in the next cycle. There will be a full report on the revisions at the next WTCAC meeting.

Mr. Wilson stated that the alleys behind the library and the post office have been cleaned.

**Housing** – Mr. Wilson reported that the committee has not met for several months and will resume meeting.

### **Other Discussion**

- Chair Robinson referred to Mr. Wilson's approved motion at the February meeting to fund \$1 million for 3 housing programs. Ms. Fenton advised that would be accomplished through the FY 21 budget process.
- Request to inventory historic buildings within the CRA. Dennis Fernandez will be contacted to provide this information.
- The WTCRA will be developing a stand-alone program with no federal funding to address emergency needs after disasters.
- Chair Robinson and Ms. Fenton to continue discussions with the President of Metropolitan Ministries on use of their tent during the Super Bowl.
- Chair Robinson inquired if the WTCRA is covered by 5G technology and whether there is a map showing coverage areas. Ms. Fenton to research and report back.
- Chair Robinson advised that he wants to discuss consolidation of Just, Stewart and Dunbar schools into a single modern campus. He stated that School Superintendent Davis is open to listening to a proposal and that Leroy Moore of the Tampa Housing Authority would also participate. The consolidation would free up land for redevelopment. **Mr. Perry moved and Mr. Jackson seconded to authorize Chair Robinson to pursue discussions to demolish Just, Stewart, and Dunbar consolidate and build a new school. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Chair Robinson observed that the trees along Howard and Armenia look bad. These are Hillsborough County roads so they are responsible for maintenance. He wants to know when the trees will be trimmed and the roads paved. Ms. Van Loan has already initiated the inquiry.

- Chair Robinson announced several “Good Neighbor” notices he received concerning developments within the WTCRA.
- Mr. Smith announced that he is coordinating disaster relief for front line communities on behalf of Organize Florida. Mr. Whit Remer, the City’s new Sustainability Coordinator, will be invited to address the WTCRA.
- Mr. Smith reported that attorney Stacy Yates is heading a nonprofit to provide 5G services to underserved communities.
- A mock funeral procession is being held on May 27 starting at Williams Funeral Home going through East Tampa and ending at the Unemployment Office on Busch Blvd.
- Mr. Buckley stated that the WTCAC needs to oppose the removal of brick streets and support installation of brick streets. He also believes there should be advanced notice of plans to remove existing brick streets.
- Mr. Jackson stated that he wants to request funding for WURK Radio. Mr. Smith stated that will be reviewed by the Economic Development Committee.

**VII. Announcements and Public Comment**

Spencer Kass thanked the committee for the virtual meeting. He stated there is a tremendous amount of graffiti that has occurred and the new Code Enforcement Director wants to bring back the city’s Graffiti Abatement Program but needs funding from the CRA.

Mr. Kass also stated that he has had conversations with 5G providers and they are looking for financial commitments. Chair Robinson assigned the 5G issue to the Infrastructure Subcommittee.

Sam Harris reiterated that the City must get zoning and permitting done correctly for 5G and that the WTCAC needs to push for streamlined permitting.

**Adjournment:** Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

**WEST TAMPA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
July 28, 2020, 5:30 p.m.  
Virtual Call-In Meeting**

**AGENDA**

- I. Opening Comments & Introductions Joe Robinson, Chairman

**Action Items**

- II. Approval of Minutes Advisory Committee

**Reports**

- III. Tampa Police Department Update Tampa Police Department

- IV. Staff Report Jeanette LaRussa Fenton
- One Tampa Update
  - CRA Staff Hiring

- V. Request to Address the Committee
- Main St. – Commercial District & Corridor Plan Randy Goers, City of Tampa  
Planning Department
  - West Tampa Issues Michael Randolph

- VI. General Discussion & Questions Advisory Committee & Staff

West Tampa CAC Subcommittee's Report

- i. Sub-Committee Report
- a. Economic Development Walter Smith Jr., Subcommittee Chair
  - b. Special Events Tina Young, Subcommittee Chair
  - c. Infrastructure Carlos Ramirez, Subcommittee Chair
    - West Tampa Overlay Revisions
  - d. Housing Bobby Wilson, Subcommittee Chair

- VII. Announcements & Public Comment

**Important Dates – all meetings are virtual unless noted**

CRA Board meeting:	Thursday, August 13, 2020 @ 9:00 am @ Tampa Convention Center
West Tampa CAC meeting:	Tuesday, August 25, 2020 @ 5:30 pm
Special Events Committee:	Monday, August 24, 2020 @4:00 pm
Housing Committee:	Tuesday, August 11, 2020 @ 5:00 pm
Economic Development Committee:	To Be Determined
Infrastructure Committee	Wednesday, August 12, 2020 @ 5:30 pm

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 23, 2020, 5:30 p.m.  
Virtual Call-In Meeting**

**Attendees**

**Committee members:** Joe Robinson, Chairman; Benjamin Buckley; Marvin Knight; Delphine Jones; Ken Perry; Carlos Ramirez; Jeffrey Rhodes; Bobby Wilson; Tina Young

**Staff:** Jeanette LaRussa Fenton, Interim West Tampa/Drew Park Manager

Shelisia Jackson, OSSIV

**I. Opening Comments & Introductions**

Chairman Robinson convened the meeting at 5:39 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was announced.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Rhodes moved for approval of the minutes of the May 26, 2020 meeting as submitted; seconded by Mr. Ramirez. Motion passed unanimously.**

**III. Tampa Police Update**

No report.

**IV. Staff Report**

- **FY 21 Budget** – Ms. Fenton presented the proposed FY 21 Budget which had also been emailed to the WTCAC members. She described the various line items of the \$3,421,615 budget and advised that the budget is subject to change based on final personnel costs and any adjustments would be reflected by adjusting the Neighborhood Infrastructure line item.

The WTCAC directed the following revisions to the proposed budget:

- **West Tampa Overlay Code Revision – change to \$40,000 by motion of Infrastructure Subcommittee Chair Ramirez, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and passed.**

- **Special Events/Projects – change to \$200,000 as recommended by Subcommittee Chair Young and approved by her motion, seconded by Mr. Knight.**
  - Allocate \$325,000 to Homeowner Exterior Rehabilitation as previously approved.
  - Allocate a total of \$1 million to divided by 3 other programs: Housing Down Payment Assistance, Rental Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing Initiatives, as previously approved.
  - Adjustments to be reflected by reducing the Neighborhood Infrastructure line item to balance the budget.
- **One Tampa Update** – Ms. Fenton reported West Tampa business participation in Phase 1 of the One Tampa relief program. She stated that 8 West Tampa businesses had participated for a total of \$14,804 in funding provided with the WTCRA responsible for 50% (\$7,402) of the cost. The City is now proceeding with Phase 2 which will have more lenient criteria to assist more businesses.
  - **CRA Manager Hiring** - Ms. Fenton reported that interviews for the West Tampa/Drew Park Manager and the Economic Development Specialist II have been completed. The top candidates have been identified and offers will be extended shortly. The goal is to have both positions filled by late July.

Ms. Fenton announced that the Economic Development Specialist II position will now be fully dedicated to the West Tampa & Drew Park CRAs and not shared with the East Tampa CRA. She advised that this would result in better service and projects/programs accomplished more quickly.

#### **V. Request to Address the Committee**

Alan Denham of TECO requested to address the committee about an upcoming project to provide power to the West River development. He stated that letters will be sent to the community in the project areas and to community associations describing the projects. A contact number will be in the letter for anyone having questions or concerns.

Phase 1 entails underground distribution lines along Rome and Nassau to West River and will begin in July.

Phase 2 will start in September and replace existing lines starting at Habana Ave. to Chestnut St. and Rome Ave. 40 power poles will be replaced with similar wooden poles.

Projects will cause minimal traffic disruption.

## **VI. General Discussion & Questions**

### **West Tampa CAC Subcommittee Reports**

**Economic Development** – No report.

**Special Events** – Subcommittee Chair Young reported that work is beginning on the first WTCRA newsletter which should be completed by September 2020. She also reported that the contract with the consultant is expiring in July and Ms. Fenton is to follow-up on renewal.

Ms. Young also reported that the Unity West Tampa event is cancelled for 2020 and will be moved to 2021. She advised of the need for an Event Planner to assist and Ms. Fenton is researching process to secure.

**Infrastructure** – Subcommittee Chair Ramirez reported on the West Tampa Overlay text amendments. He relayed the desire to preserve community and historical assets. He advised that some of the subcommittee's proposed amendments are moving forward and some need further work. The final language will be presented to the WTCAC for approval then the amendments will go through public workshop and public hearings.

Subcommittee Chair Ramirez referenced the desire to keep brick streets. He stated that while brick streets are labor intensive to install they last a very long time.

Subcommittee Chair Ramirez stated that the graffiti abatement team lost funding however removal 6 graffiti incidents is occurring.

**Housing** – Subcommittee Chair Wilson reported that the committee has not met and that staff is working on finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding with Housing and Community Development for the Exterior Housing Rehabilitation program.

## VII. **Announcements and Public Comment**

### **Announcements**

Mr. Rhodes announced that the NARAB is hosting a virtual workshop for homeowners on Sunday, June 28, 3-5 p.m.

Mr. Buckley stated that we need to make sure brick streets do not disappear. We also need to work on parking issues as that is one of West Tampa's biggest problems.

Chairman Robinson stated that the countdown has begun as his term as Chair is coming to an end. He wants to leave a legacy of 4-4 projects. He has enjoyed working with the WTCAC and wants to have a strong year.

Chairman Robinson asked staff to check on the status of the grant for the trail and enhancements to the west side of the Hillsborough River.

Chairman Robinson reported on a virtual meeting with Addison Davis, Hillsborough County Schools Superintendent and Leroy Moore and Jerome Ryans, Tampa Housing Authority concerning consolidation of Stewart, Just and Dunbar schools. Mr. Moore reported that 921 units are under construction in West River. The parcels that had been set aside for potential school development are now committed for development. He suggested that the School District could Master Plan their site and free up riverfront property and that he would be happy to assist.

Chairman Robinson advised that he received a request to address the committee from Michael Randolph. He will allow Mr. Randolph to speak for 15 minutes at the July meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Michael Braccia stated that in the past when the graffiti program was operating that graffiti was just painted over. He suggested that if the program is funded again that it should be done right and that graffiti should be removed, not just painted over.

Mr. Braccia also state that parking is critical and that it needs to be addressed either in the West Tampa Overlay or general city code.

Spencer Kass stated people want a meeting about what can and cannot be done in the West Tampa Overlay.

Mr. Kass asked if it was possible for TECO improvements to be underground.

Mr. Kass state that according to Code Enforcement \$100,000 would be needed for the graffiti program. This may need to be added to the budget.

Mr. Kass stated that a community market is needed and also a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration for kids.

Mr. Kass stated his concern that there is not a focus on creating jobs.

Andre Hill asked what format will be created for Special Projects funding requests. Chairman Robinson responded that the process will be developed and Ms. Young sated the application would be similar to the Special Events process.

**Adjournment:** Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.



**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2020  
Virtual Call-In Meeting**

**Attendees**

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

**Excused:** Jeffrey Rhodes, Dee Jackson; Tina Young

**Staff:** Jeanette LaRussa Fenton, Interim West Tampa/Drew Park Manager, Carole Post, Economic Opportunity Administrator, Rob Rosner, Economic Opportunity Director, Officer Lisa Bunn, TPD, Michelle Van Loan  
  
Shelisia Jackson, OSSIV

**I. Opening Comments & Introductions**

Chair Robinson convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was announced. Carole Post, Administrator of Development & Economic Opportunity provided greetings and a brief overview of her goals as they affect the West Tampa Community.

Rob Rosner, Economic Opportunity Director provide greetings. He also answered questions about the Opportunity Zone and shared that their may be an opportunity in the future from the federal government to extend the application date and census tracks in the program. He vowed to make it a priority to address adding all West Tampa census tracks to the program as requested by the CRA CAC if the opportunity arises.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Perry moved for approval of the minutes of the June 23, 2020 meeting; seconded by Mr. Ramirez. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Tampa Police Update**

Officer Lisa Bunn reported that she has been working with the Transportation Department to have “No Stopping/Standing Signs” installed around the Fremont Avenue linear park. She created flyers to update the residents of the area and distributed ninety-nine in the immediate area so that residents don’t

get penalized for parking there. Per Officer Bunn, there is only one street (Pine between Freemont and Albany where homes do not have driveways and will need a residential parking permit. The link to request the permit is listed in the flyer. Parking Division approves such requests.



### Community Awareness Notification

Florida State Statute 316.003 definitions for the newly installed parking signs within your neighborhood as follows:

**STOP OR STOPPING.**—When prohibited, any halting, even momentarily, of a vehicle, whether occupied or not occupied, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to comply with the directions of a law enforcement officer or traffic control sign or signal.

**STAND OR STANDING.**—The halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not occupied, otherwise than temporarily, for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in, receiving or discharging passengers, as may be permitted by law under this chapter.

**PARK OR PARKING.**—The standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not occupied, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passengers as may be permitted by law under this chapter.



Please note that the double arrow does not apply for both sides of the roadway. It is only enforceable on the side of the street that the sign is located.

If you are interested in obtaining a *Parking by Permit* placard for your residence, please make a request to:

<https://www.tampagov.net/parking/contact-us>

If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out to MPO L. Bunn with the Tampa Police Department at (813) 354-6623.

Officer Bunn also shared her progress in securing a camera in the Freemont Linear Park. There is a hiccup, we must install a pole owned by the city because we cannot use the TECO pole in the park, plus the location of that pole is not feasible since it does not provide a good line of site. She will be meeting with City of Tampa Parks Department to discuss getting them to install a pole in that location. There may be a charge, if so, the committee may be asked to handle the costs. Chair Robinson

also wanted to know the status of the other requested cameras to be installed in the area. Mr. Wilson asked Officer Bunn to confirm if the pole could be a decorative pole instead of a wooden pole. Additionally, there was inquiry asking for confirmation of the legality of putting up a sign stating the video surveillance. If we are required or not to put up a sign, we should get an opinion from City Legal Department one way or another.

#### IV. Staff Report

- One Tampa Update – Ms. Fenton reported that twenty West Tampa businesses have been approved to receive a grant via the One Tampa relief program. Currently, we are in Phase II. The detailed financial report has not been distributed yet, but when it is, we will know how much of the funds will be distributed from the CRA's portion of the matching grant.

- CRA Manager Hiring - Ms. Fenton reported that the new West Tampa/Drew Park Manager has been hired. His name is Jesus Niño. He is currently the CRA Manager in Bradenton, Florida. He has a long track record of CRA Management and is a long time Tampa native who is AICP certified. His tentative start date is August 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be her last meeting as manager. Mr. Niño will be in place by your next meeting. The professional position for Economic Development Specialist is almost filled, an offer has been extended and the city's HR division is in negotiations. The position should be filled by late August.
- There was a question about the status of the School Consolidation Task Force (for Just and Stewart schools). Per Ms. Fenton, we are waiting for the name of the county representative, once we get that we will move forward with scheduling the meetings.

## **V. Request to Address the Committee**

**Randy Goers**, COT Planning Department made a presentation concerning his work on the Neighborhood Commercial District Plan for Main Street. The project was started in response to a City Council motion:

*Motion (Carlson – Citro), September 12, 2019* - That the Planning Commission be requested to work collaboratively with the City of Tampa staff for the purpose of developing an approach toward the establishment of neighborhood commercial district plans; further, that this approach be brought to Council for consideration, with the goal of the Planning Commission, City staff and potential assistance of partner agencies, to develop a district plan in each Council district, each year, over the next four years, in an order to be determined by Council. Motion carried.

In response to the motion, the City of Tampa Planning and Development Department, Mobility Department, The Planning Commission and the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization agreed to a joint planning approach to complete Neighborhood District Plans. Main Street and the West Tampa Business District was the first area selected to receive this service.

The study area boundary still needs to be defined, but generally, the focus will be Main Street from North Armenia to North Boulevard and Howard Avenue from Green Street to Beach Street and includes 1-2 blocks from the Howard/Main Intersection. We need the support and opinions of the various neighborhood groups and CAC to develop work and public engagement plans.

Chair Robinson called for someone to voice a motion of support to move forward with participation in the study. Ken Perry made a motion to approve the CRA Community Advisory Committee accept the invitation to participate in the study but called for an

addition of the boundary by asking that it extend all the way to Boulevard instead of stopping at Rome. Walter Smith provided a second. In discussion, Mr. Wilson asked that the motion be amended to include a discussion of the Main Street alleyways be added as part of the study. Ken Perry and Walter Smith agreed with the amending of their original motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Michael Randolph** of the West Tampa Community Development Corporation made a presentation concerning gentrification. There was a technical issue with the slide presentation, so it was distributed to attendees via email to review independently.

## **VI. General Discussion & Questions**

Ms. Jones, would like to know about the opening dates of the new facilities on Main and Rome, more specially, what is the progress of the Bethune Hi Rise build out?

David Ilonya of the Tampa Housing Authority responded that because of the pandemic, in terms of a grand opening an actual ceremony may not happen (except maybe on social media). The completion date of Bethune Hi Rise is set for the end of September. The Renaissance Building should be completed by late August. 3 of 4 phases of the multi-family housing have already started

Boulevard Tower 1 (100 units), Boulevard Tower II (119 units), Boulevard Tower III (133 units) are set to be completed by June, July and August consecutively. The only delays we encountered so far has been in securing the kitchen counters in the current projects because of timing and availability of the product and getting them on site Boulevard Tower IV (112 units) is in design. Construction of should begin next year.

## **West Tampa CAC Subcommittee Reports**

- **Economic Development** – Walter Smith shared that there is no report today. A meeting will be scheduled for next month.
- **Special Events** – Jeanette Fenton delivered the subcommittee report. The committee is working on the West Tampa CRA Newsletter with a consultant. The subcommittee agreed on the various topics to be included in the issue. It is set to be published and distributed in September 2020. In addition of the electronic dissemination the usual would be to distribute at the libraries and other public spots. Unfortunately, because of COVID most of those avenues is unavailable. We will look at mailing newsletters to residents directly via mail to every address in West Tampa. We plan to look into that possibility CAC members are asked to supply a thumbnail picture and brief description so that they can be profiled in the newsletter. We will also have articles profiling City of Tampa Solid Waste Department, a local business, a local West Tampa resident and information detailing exactly what a CRA is. Please recall the committee has funded special

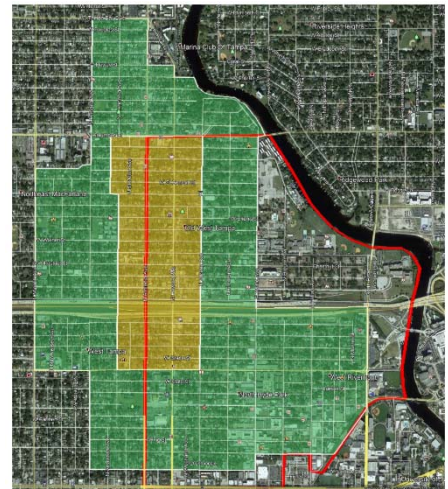
projects. The committee will be working on an application detailing that process and bring it back to the committee.

- **Housing** – Mr. Wilson reported that he met with Vanessa McCleary about hosting a Homebuying Assistance Grant again this year. We are also discussing highlighting a Home of the Year/Quarter activity and giving gift cards. Per Ms. Fenton, (upon questioning by Chair Robinson who asked to check on the legality of the CRA giving gift cards) shared that is not something that we can do, but instead how about approaching West Tampa businesses to do a donation for something like that.

Ms. Fenton brought it to the committees' attention that there is now a new program tree trimming program in the East Tampa CRA for residential properties. She let committee members know that a component of that type of program is already written into the West Tampa Façade Grant Program and that the CRA could put a similar program in place in a matter of time (estimated 60 days) by approving the guidelines and application process. Michelle Van Loan clarified that for commercial properties tree trimming cannot be the only request of the Façade Grant, it must be part of the upgrade to the front of property as part of landscaping updates.

- **Infrastructure** – Chair Robinson assigned the Main Street Study presented by Randy Goers to the Economic Development Sub-Committee and the Infrastructure Sub-Committee.

- Mr. Ramirez delivered the subcommittee report with a map detailing the overlay district as it pertains to the CRA boundaries. The overlay boundary is in green. The CRA boundaries are redlined. The West Tampa Central Business District is in yellow. Mr. Ramirez went over each suggested revision. (see attachment for full report). They would like to plan a public meeting next, if the committee approves the changes the subcommittee has suggested. Ken Perry made a motion to proceed with the committee's amendments. Anthony Serrano provided the second. In discussion, Chair Robinson had a concern about the chain length fencing amendment changes and suggested that the committee think about creating a fencing grant to address the costs that residents might incur. Under pitch changes did the committee look at flat roof requirements. Per Mr. Ramirez, they are already in the overlay. Chair Robinson wanted to know if the West Tampa Chamber has looked at these proposed changes. Per Jeanette Fenton, representatives from the Chamber were invited and participated in the process. Their input was reflected in its entirety. A vote on the motion was then conducted. Motion passed unanimously.



## **VII. Announcements and Public Comment**

Committee members expressed their commitment to the CRA and cannot wait to get back to in person meetings. Carlos Ramirez asked if there is anything the committee could do to purchase PPE for the schools to donate to West Tampa schools. Chair Robinson asked can funds be used on that kind of project. Per Ms. Fenton, that is not likely, but she will confirm. Chair Robinson also shared that David Jones with the CDC of Tampa reached out to him recently to see if he knows of any organization that could coordinate with them to get masks donated to West Tampa schools. Chair Robinson asked Ms. Fenton to check into it and coordinate if possible.

Spencer Kass expressed his concerns about the numbers of unemployed people we are starting to see in the West Tampa area. He would like to see some change the committee could help with in some way to assist. There is still a hard time to get answers from the City Building Department, they have tightened up many of their rules recently. We are still waiting on the committee regarding funding for graffiti removal. With TECO the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the undergrounding was not participated in by the CRA, it would be good for the CRA to act quicker with programs like that. Per Chair Robinson, he asked for confirmation about which committee that was placed under. Per Ms. Fenton she will have to reach out to Mr. O'Connor about the status of that and the funding. Mr. Chair asked Ms. Fenton to confirm from the City what the building Department is doing to expedite the building permitting process. Per Carole Post, she appreciates the comments and hopes to schedule some time for a member of her team to address the committee on some of the work they have done to improve the permitting process.

Andre Hill asked for an update on the application for Special Projects. Per Ms. Fenton the application is still under development. It will be similar to the Special Events process and have a similar application.

Michael Randolph shared information about upcoming efforts by the CDC and grants they are putting together to mobilize the community.

Chair Robinson asked for an update of the Rome Avenue Project. Per Carole Post, they are reviewing the RFP and hope to have it ready by September/October. The committee will get an opportunity to see the final once it is completed.

Ms. Bruce Revive Church of Tampa shared they are having a Fully Stuffed Backpack Event and offering dinner and haircuts this upcoming weekend.

**Adjournment:** Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

**West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area  
Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2020  
Virtual Call-In Meeting**

**Attendees**

- Committee members:** Joe Robinson, Chair; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Jeffrey Rhodes; Anthony Serrano, Walter Smith II; Bobby Wilson; Tina Young
- Excused:** Dee Jackson; Benjamin Buckley; Ken Perry; Marvin Knight;
- Staff:** Jesus Niño, West Tampa/Drew Park Manager, Shelisia Jackson, OSSIV, Randy Goers
- Guests:** David Iloyna, Tampa Housing Authority

**I. Opening Comments & Introductions**

Chair Robinson convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was not available until further into the meeting.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Rhodes moved for approval of the minutes of the July 27, 2020 meeting; seconded by Ms. Young. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Tampa Police Update**

No update available currently.

**IV. Staff Report**

The new Drew Park/West Tampa CRA Manager, Jesus Niño brought introductions to the committee. He is looking forward to getting items detailed on the West Tampa Projects Wish List accomplished. He shared his past redevelopment experience and expressed his willingness to help facilitate and support the committee in their efforts.

- CRA EDC Specialist Hiring – Per Mr. Niño, the offer has been made and a background is being conducted on the chosen candidate. She is expected to start October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- West Tampa Overlay –
- School Consolidation Initiative Task Force – Working on scheduling a meeting with all the stakeholders to continue the discussion. If this project is found to have merit and moves forward, we will work to get a new site

chosen and work closely with the community to meet its needs. We are waiting for the Hillsborough County representative to be appointed to the task force.

A technical issue occurred. Mr. Niño's connection lost for a while. Mr. Robinson continued the update and shared an update on the School Consolidation Plan - The development that is being done in the West River area is going to need to include a plan for the two schools (Just and Stewart) to be updated. They are currently suburban centered and need to be updated to be urban centric school(s), doing so will mean less land is required for its use. 20 acres is required for a suburban school property versus 4.5-5 acres for an urban school space. The conversation is going to be about what it will cost to consolidate them from two separate schools to one Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade school.

**V. Request to Address the Committee**

None

**VI. General Discussion & Questions**

a. Main Street Corridor Project - Mr. Niño called on Randy Goers, City of Tampa Planning & Development Department to provide the update. Per Mr. Goers, he shared that he has met with the Infrastructure Sub-committee and met with the Economic Development Subcommittee chair to brief both groups about their plans. The USF School of Architecture has taken this topic on as a class project. They will be conducting a site visit in the next couple of weeks. It is a twelve-week class and they will be looking at Main Street as it relates to the area in its entirety. It is good that we will be able to take advantage of their expertise in conducting the study. We will also be scheduling some webinars and public meetings by late September to make sure we have public input.

**b. West Tampa CAC Subcommittee Reports**

- **Economic Development** – Walter Smith shared that he has been working with Jesus Niño about coordinating the next meeting date of the subcommittee. There is no report today.
- **Special Events/Special Projects** – Tina Young delivered the subcommittee report. We will not be coordinating the Unity Tampa event at the park this year due to the pandemic; we will be planning for next October. We want to hire an event coordinator to plan the event. The CRA manager will let us know if this is an approved expenditure. If so, he will let us know the process for getting an RFP/bid started. We are planning to have the first newsletter ready for distribution at the



end of September. There was a delay with the company to produce the newsletter. Committee members were asked to submit their photo headshot and send it to Jesus Niño if they haven't already done so.

- **Housing** – Mr. Wilson reported that he does not have an update at this time. The next Housing meeting is still to be scheduled.
  
  - **Infrastructure** – Mr. Ramirez delivered the subcommittee report. At the last meeting Alan Denham of TECO shared information about upcoming projects and undergrounding of utilities in the area. We told him we would like to talk about beautifying Main Street and will appreciate being updated. Randy Goers met with us to talk about the Main Street Study. Mr. Ramirez also shared that there was discussion about delaying the verbiage change they requested be made in the overlay document about historic cigar factory buildings. If there is a building that was used as a cigar factory, the sub committee's overlay suggestions are that there be restrictions like don't paint over the brick, if a building has a brick façade, keep it a brick façade. If windows are updated in renovation, keep the same look and feel by keeping the same type of design etc. Legal has some problems with the verbiage. It was recommended we try to approach it a different way and hold off on adding that change to the overlay until we can look at the verbiage and what we are expecting later. We may want to think about creating program to incentivize the owners to want to make the kind of changes we would like to see. Carlos Ramirez made a motion to remove the current verbiage change to the West Tampa Overlay. A second was provided by Walter Smith. Per Mr. Smith, the goal should be to investigate creating a Barrio Latino type structure in West Tampa. Per Bobby Wilson, what we did approve was to work with Dennis Fernandez to do an inventory of all historic buildings in the West Tampa CRA area.
- c. Mr. Robinson shared that he sat in on the virtual meetings of the most recent City Council meetings and saw that the 2609 N. Rome Avenue property has been approved to be host location of the Metropolitan Ministries Holiday tent. Per Mr. Robinson, he is working on getting approval to utilize the tent as a West Tampa Community Tent after they complete program. This will give an opportunity for various organizations to coordinate MLK and Super Bowl activities.
- d. Mr. Robinson shared with the committee that the East Tampa CRA Community Advisory Committee has instituted a Tree Trimming Grant Program. There have been some delays and missteps that are currently being addressed. The CRA Board has requested that West Tampa CRA

consider a similar program. He asked Mr. Niño, to add the item to the agenda for discussion.

**VII. Announcements and Public Comment**

Michael Randolph with the West Tampa CDC announced that they are offering business classes on building economic wealth. He asked Jesus Niño, shared his work experience.

Spencer Kass commented that at the last meeting they were promised that Carole Post, the head of Parks & Rec Department, Code Enforcement would be invited to attend in response to graffiti abatement, tree trimming and pressure washing. Jobs in the neighborhood needs to reconsider the plans for the waterfront property. There is potential for weekend market, technical incubator jobs etc. Please consider what you all plan to use that property for.

Mr. Robinson would like to invite TOBA to one our upcoming meetings to discuss their groups findings about a West Tampa Hub idea. The West Tampa Hub is a job center etc. He will share the information for the invite with Mr. Niño.

**Adjournment:** Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

**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 Freemont 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 - 8<sup>th</sup> grade facility.

- **Special Events/Special Projects** – Joseph Robinson let the committee know that the Metropolitan Ministries tent has been secured up to January 31<sup>st</sup> (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 Special Call Meeting Minutes October 13, 2020 Virtual Call-In Meeting

## Attendees

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

**Staff:** Jesus Niño, West Tampa/Drew Park Manager, Rob Rosner, Economic Opportunity Director, Vanessa McCleary, Shelisia Jackson, OSSIV

**Guests** Leroy Moore, Michael Randolph, Spencer Kass

### I. Opening Comments & Introductions

Chair Robinson convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

CRA Manager Jesus Niño opened the meeting with brief comments and took role call and provided public comment details.

### II. Presentation

Rob Rosner, Director of Economic Opportunity provided greetings and introductions of staff, then he offered a brief explanation of the purpose for the meeting, which is to preview the Rome Yard Mixed Use Development Request for Proposal with the West Tampa CAC. Per Mr. Rosner, the property encompasses approximately 18 acres and is near Ricks on the River.

The slide features a purple header with the text 'Housing Affordability Site Location' and a house icon. Below the header, the address '2609 N. Rome Ave' is listed. To the right is an aerial photograph of the site, with a pink outline highlighting the property boundaries and a blue outline highlighting a nearby area. A list of bullet points is provided below the address.

Address: 2609 N. Rome Ave

- Approximately eighteen (18) acres
- Located immediately west of the Hillsborough River, south of Columbus Drive and north of Spruce Street in Tampa, Florida.
- Potentially eligible for Brownfield Tax Credits.

The West Tampa CAC provided their input regarding their desires for the project. So far it does look like we were able to accommodate all those requests.

The slide features a purple header with the text 'Housing Affordability Community Request/Information Meeting' and a house icon.

West Tampa CRA Advisory Committee provided input regarding their desires for development of the property:

- 8 foot sidewalks on the property to improve walkability
- Single Family homes
- High Rises for higher density
- Maintain the current look of the neighborhood
- Mirror the West River project that is currently being built
- Use of LED lighting in and around the property



Continued from previous slide

- Include the playground and MLK Center into plans
- Include a workforce training center
- Connect to the Downtown Riverwalk
- HART Bus Stop
- West Tampa Cultural Center

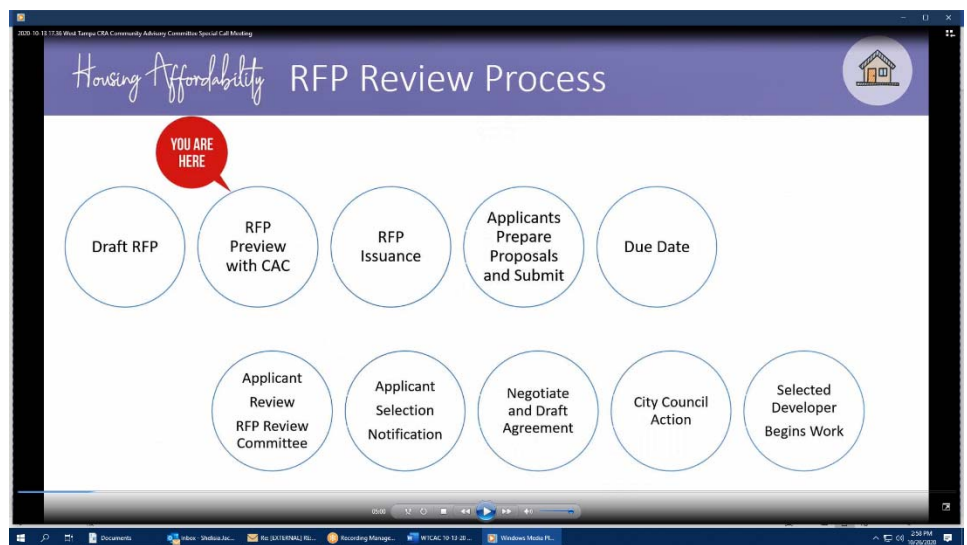
- The Riverwalk has been a focal point of the revitalization efforts as it ties neighborhoods, recreation, restaurants and the business center together into a walkable community that promotes sustainability while enhancing and preserving the beauty of the river.
- City was recently awarded a grant to continue the Riverwalk project on the West side of the river allowing more neighborhoods to take advantage of this community asset.

Additional discussion is needed about the playground and MLK Center inclusion request.

Some of the ways we can incorporate this is that the Riverwalk is a focal point of the revitalization efforts.

Where are we now in the RFP process? The next step after the current RFP Preview with CAC is portion is to issue the RFP.

Members received the RFP for review before the meeting and were asked during this meeting to share their questions, comments, concerns etc.....



### CAC Member Comments/Questions

**Bobby Wilson** – Based on the early on feedback, we wanted to have a transit hub that could be tied to water taxis, light rail multiple things (not just limited to HART bus stops) i.e. connection to transit should be more general and not specific.

**Ken Perry** – Would like more information about the RFP Review Committee. Who will that consist of and is it possible for the CRA CAC to have a representative as part of the committee? Per Mr. Rosner, yes, we would like to have a CAC representative on the RFP Review Committee. Per Mr. Perry, is the committee selected yet? Per Mr. Rosner, no, we have not formulated that committee yet, the City departments are still coordinating and will be working right up to issuance to put the make-up of the review committee together. One of the processes the CRA CAC should think about is to select a representative for the RFP Review Committee.

**Delphine Jones** – Who can we contact if we have additional questions? Per Mr. Robinson, Jesus Niño as our West Tampa Manager should be the point of contact. Is there anything in there about Minority participation, is there a percentage? Per Mr. Rosner, our equal business opportunity office is one of the last departments working on their section now, the RFP will be heavily weighted towards WMBE and SBLE and potentially have some bonus in there for those who go the extra mile to include it. Per Ms. McCleary it will be monitored by a community benefit agreement and there will be penalties for non-compliance.

**Benjamin Buckley** – How many developers at this point are qualified to put in a proposal? Per Mr. Rosner, the qualification process is not part of the RFP process. You do not have to be pre-qualified to submit. The specific requirements are being cleaned up by City Departments. This is supposed to allow different types of markets to participate and not over prescribe it but to allow the different kinds of markets to come in and make creative proposals. Per Mr. Buckley, what is the timeline? Per Mr. Rosner, we are looking at a general timeline of 30-60 days for developers to ask questions and submit their proposals. There will be 30-45 days for review after submittal for the review process. Per Mr. Buckley, our strategic action plan will be provided to the developers as parameters? Per Mr. Rosner, yes. Per Mr. Buckley, some of our term limits are coming up. How will this affect committee members, do you know the date of that happening, this might happen in the middle of this process? Per Jesus Niño, the ex-officio organizations with representatives on the committee will be notified that it is time to re-appoint their reps and the three at-large positions will be advertised. Additionally, the topic is on our next CAC agenda for discussion. Mr. Buckley is concerned that new board members would be thrown into the decision-making process, not knowing what is going on. Per Rob Rosner, the entire community are a part of the process and we will try to keep everyone fully involved and informed as a part of the process.

**Jeffrey Rhodes** – had a concern about the Housing portion of the RFP what is the range of the Affordable Housing referred to? Per Mr. Rosner, it is too early to describe that at this time, there are parameters that we will want to make sure that is included further down the line. Per Vanessa McCleary, we did put in the RFP that a certain percentage of Affordable Housing and a certain percentage of Workforce Housing must be included based on member comments.

**Bobby Wilson** –pointed out a typo in the residential mix parameters of section five. The section reads 60% Affordable Housing and doesn't make mention to Workforce Housing. Per Rob Rosner and confirmed by Vanessa McCleary, that is a typo and should read 20% Affordable and 40% Workforce, the correction will be made. Per Rob Rosner, the intention is to make the development mixed use.

**Carlos Ramirez** - Is the developer also going to be responsible for bringing in the company that will be maintaining the development? Per Rob Rosner, yes, the developer is expected to be responsible. Per Mr. Ramirez, will the workforce and affordable housing be interspersed throughout the development instead of all on one side? Per Mr. Rosner, yes, we plan to encourage that. We do want mixed income throughout the development and no single income based.

**Joe Robinson** – The preview doesn't have the equal opportunity clauses or WMBE statements. He would like to see the totality of the document once that information is added before the document is released. He also shared that he went back and reviewed previous notes from past CAC meetings regarding the things we asked to be considered. There are some things that have still not been addressed. On the photo, my understanding is that the RFP is for 12 acres, is it 12 or 18, the three acres of the ball field, is it included? Per Vanessa McCleary, yes, it is included, it is 18 acres. We assessed the value the 18 acres at \$18 million the last time we were given information, is that correct. Per Vanessa McCleary, yes that is correct. Per Mr. Robinson, he did not see anything telling the potential developer that the community would like to have community input throughout the entire process (design, layout etc.). Per Vanessa McCleary and Rob Rosner, yes that is in there we are still committed to that. Land banking by the West Tampa CRA is not included, we wanted to buy an acre for our own West Tampa CRA use. Where is that at? Per Vanessa McCleary that was not included. Per Robinson, we would like to bank an acre for \$1 million dollars that the committee can do a project of their own selection. Please figure it out, that is something on the table for us and we are saying we would like to purchase an acre that we

can deal with as a committee to do something on (maybe at the ball field location, we don't care). Per Mr. Robinson, single family homes do you mean a condo, what does that mean? Per Ms. McCleary, single family home can be a condo, townhouse or single-family home, we are waiting to hear from the developers. It can be anything the developers propose. Per Mr. Robinson, there is no mention of a public garden or shade trees. Per Vanessa McCleary that is already required via zoning. Per Mr. Robinson, now that we have the Build Project, we would like to have some mobility choices. Per Ms. McCleary, yes, we have added a mobility option. Per Mr. Robinson, I didn't see anything about docking stations (electric vehicle charging stations), is that there? Per Ms. McCleary, she didn't recall that was part of the input. Per Rob Rosner, on the charging stations, that technology is changing rapidly. If we want to have stations that address those modes, he agrees that is the future, but even some of the older cars that are doing electric, are becoming hard to fix because their batteries have become obsolete. Instead of being overly prescriptive we should provide for facilities that support that kind of station/type of future technology. Per Ms. McCleary, we addressed this by having a Silver Leed portion. Per Mr. Robinson, he did not see a development agreement for s WMBE requirement and would like to see it codified. Per Ms. McCleary, it will be a part of the community benefit agreement. Per Mr. Robinson, he wants to make sure that black contractors and businesses are used throughout the process and built in the operations of the finished development for maintenance of the site, not just for the bricks and mortar. Once we get a development agreement it needs to be tracked, there are at least two agreements that are not being tracked or reported. He would like to make sure it is tracked annually and submitted to the CAC for review. He feels that a workforce development plan is important, we want to make sure that there is a required plan. We want to make sure there are historical requirements. We are a historical area. Per Ms. McCleary, that is represented in the RFP. We talked about a micro grid on this site, so that if a hurricane comes through at least we will still have some power. TECO has started doing them, and we think it is something that should be part of this development. LED lighting is important. One of the concerns of the committee is to do buffering of the residential area to the west of Rome typically like they buffer in expensive neighborhoods that looks nice. Per Ms. McCleary, this project is supposed to add resources to the rest of the community that doesn't keep people out are you talking about how it goes from the residential to the commercial? Rob Rosner, also asked some clarifying questions, do you mean like not putting up a 20-story tower across the street from a home, but maybe something 4-6 stories the first few blocks in, and then go high rise after that? Per Mr. Robinson, yes that sounds about right. What about the traffic pattern/traffic plan? Per Mr. Rosner, we require that as part of the process. Per Mr. Robinson the developer needs to purchase the property and it is not donated. Per Mr. Rosner, the disposition portion of it is not out there, we are going to leave that open, so that we can look at options for lease, buy etc., different developers' kind of financing is in play. In some cases, the city might want to stay in the game to assist in developing the direction. Per Mr. Robinson, one of the issues is there is no access to the river for the Tampa Housing Authority development we want to make sure that this site has some access to the river. We want an urban feel for this site. The developer needs to have market rate and commercial. We get taxes from that to go back into our community. Per Ms. McCleary, one thing I didn't hear you talk about was minority equity, we have included that too. Per Mr. Robinson, one of the things that came up is a West Hub Center Project via TOBA, he hopes that whoever the developer is, they work with that type of concept he would be happy to provide a link to their presentation. Under the selection process criteria, I didn't see a WMBE participation portion, including operations as part of the weighted points. Gregory Harts department must be able to track these agreements so that even 10 – 20 years down the line, it is monitored. Per Ms. McCleary, we do monitor our projects in Housing. Mr. Robinson also stated that the city should encourage developers to work with smaller black development companies.

## **RFP Selection Committee – CAC Representative**

Benjamin Buckley made a motion to nominate Walter Smith to represent the CAC on the RFP selection committee. There was not a second. Jeffrey Rhodes made a motion to nominate the West Tampa Chair Joe Robinson to represent the committee on the selection committee. Delphine Jones provided the second. Seven members agreed unanimously to support the motion. Per Mr. Robinson, there will be more opportunity to have a representative to be on the committee being put together on the Build Grant.

Per Mr. Robinson, can this recording be made available to developers. Per Mr. Niño and Mr. Rosner yes, it can if requested. Mr. Niño, asked the CAC to come up with an alternate for the RFP selection committee. Mr. Rhodes made a motion that Bobby Wilson be the alternate to represent the committee on the RFP Selection Committee. Benjamin Buckley provided a second to the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

Michael Randolph wanted to share a project the West Tampa Technology and Wealth Center. The center is in response to community members who want to fight against gentrification. They want to increase the number of residents going into the math and sciences careers. The second project we have going online is a Video Production & Media Center Project. It will provide incentives to increasing marketing in the West Tampa area. He will email the committee with more details.

Spencer Kass had two questions. 1. The \$18 million the city will get for this plan, is the city willing to give those funds back to the CRA and spent within the community? 2. There needs to be a more general discussion about incubator space. At the next meeting, we will have a presentation from a group. Maybe, this land would be better served as a park or community market instead of selling it off to the highest bidder. A special request, is that at the next meeting with the CRA lawyer Morris Massey public comment be offered after each topic before motions are made instead of at the end. Per Ms. McCleary we don't know what the proposals will look like. Any decisions about what to do with the funds that come in is with City Council, not with us. In terms of the incubator space, there is something in the RFP requiring the developer to provide space for new emerging businesses and some free space for workforce development. They are not requirements, but suggestions. Once we get the proposals that is when we go into negotiations.

**Adjournment:** Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 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](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.