

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

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2021

**Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center
2200 N Oregon Avenue**

Attendees

Committee Members: Joe Robinson, Chair; Delphine Jones; Carlos Ramirez; Sandy Sanchez; Kenneth Perry; Walter Smith II, Vice-Chair; Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick

Excused: Tina Young; Jeffrey Rhodes;

Unexcused: Dedrick Jackson; Anthony Serrano; Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson

Staff: Jesus Niño, Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:40 p.m. on January 26, 2021. Quorum was established at 6:08 p.m. CAC members introduced themselves, including new members Ms. Sandy Sanchez and Ms. Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick.

Mr. Robinson excused Tina Young and Jeffrey Rhodes.

Mr. Robinson gave unexcused absences to Dedrick Jackson, Anthony Serrano, and Bobby Wilson. He has stated at the last two meetings that starting January 2021, there would be no more excused absences unless members contact the Chair directly with a legitimate excuse.

II. Action Items

Meeting Minutes October 27, 2020, November 24, 2020, and December 15, 2020

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Perry, with a second by Mr. Ramirez. The motion passed unanimously.

Columbus Drive Improvements

- Once the quorum was reached, this item was revisited.
 - Mobility Department presented proposed improvements on Columbus Drive from N. Howard to N. Boulevard to the CAC twice.
 - City recommends going from 4 lanes to two lanes, with two turn lanes. Also adding bikes lanes and more pedestrian crossings.
 - Signals will be improved to keep the queue of traffic from baking up.
 - Speed limit will be reduced from 40 to 35 miles per hour.
 - County will be repaving the road, and the City would like to add this road diet along with other beautification efforts.
 - This project will not require any money from the CAC.
 - Mr. Robinson let the committee know that when the bridge closed the other day, people did not cut through the neighborhoods. Road diet would likely have the same effect.

- Mr. Robinson also noted that if there becomes a problem in the future, they can always revisit the issue.
- There is no roundabout proposed with these improvements.
- After a roll call vote, the CAC voted unanimously with 7 votes to 0 in support of the proposed improvements by the City.
- Mr. Niño will pass this consensus along to the City.

III. Public Comment

- Michael Randolph, CEO of the West Tampa CDC, expressed concerns that the CAC needs to maintain its African American presence on the board, as that population represents the majority of the community.
- Mr. Spencer Kass asked to speak to the CAC regarding the proposed improvements to Columbus Drive. Mr. Kass would like the CAC to send a letter from the Chair to the City and County telling them to stop the proposed improvements because the community does not support the proposed road diet.
 - Improvements would add four and a half hours per year to the commute time.
 - Businesses in the area need this group's support to terminate the project.
 - At the time of speaking, there was no quorum, so Mr. Kass said that the CAC needs new members in order to finally get a quorum to vote on this issue before it is too late.

IV. Staff Reports

The Tampa Police Department and Tampa Code Enforcement Department were not able to attend this meeting to provide an update. Both are currently very busy preparing for the Super Bowl.

- Carlos Rios with the City's Code Enforcement Department did provide the following update via email prior to the meeting:
 - From September to December 2020, in the area of West Columbus and West Kennedy between North Armenia to West of the River there are:
 - 288 new cases open
 - 223 were closed
 - 65 in process for review

Ms. Robin Nigh with the City's Arts and Cultural Affairs Department could not be present at their meeting either, due to the upcoming Super Bowl. Ms. Nigh's presentation will be rescheduled.

- Mr. Robinson reminded the CAC that the African American community in West Tampa would like to see more culture in the area.
 - Because of this, a letter was written from the Chair to Ms. Pat Kemp, Hillsborough County Commission Chair requesting an African American Art Museum be located in West Tampa.
 - The proposed location for the museum would be the West River area on property owned by the Housing Authority.
 - The County previously requested bids for a consultant on a new African American art museum in 2019.
 - Now, the CAC is asking this museum to be located in West Tampa.
 - This is not the same as the African American History Museum being located at the Encore! Development.

Mr. Niño provided a Main Street Camera update to the CAC.

- Staff met with Tampa Electric Company (TECO) and the Tampa Police Department (TPD) to discuss adding cameras at the intersection of Main and Fremont Street, at the Fremont Linear Park, and anywhere along Main where there are gaps in coverage currently.
 - A proposal was not sent to staff in time for this meeting, so the update on cost estimate will be provided at the next CAC meeting.

February 25, 2021, the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser and Tax Collector will provide a free webinar at 10 AM.

- Webinar will cover possible exemptions available and any other questions the public may have.
- Mr. Niño will send out the information on how to join once it is available.

TIF Budget updates will be discussed at the February CAC meeting.

Potential Grant Programs for the Community Redevelopment Areas

- Mr. Niño presented a slate of potential grant programs for the CAC to consider that he has worked on in the past. Once vetted and approved by the CAC, all programs would go to the Community Redevelopment Agency board (CRA) for the final approvals.
 - Grant programs included:
 - Upstairs Residential Conversion Grant Program
 - Vanilla Shell Grant Program
 - Restaurant and Food Services Grant Program
 - Ready Use Site Infrastructure Grant Program
 - Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program, which would be a smaller version of the Special Projects Grant Program
 - Business Enhancement Micro Grant Program, which would be a smaller version of the current Façade Grant Program
 - Residential Improvement Grant Program
 - Programs can be stackable, so a budget cap would need to be considered for those instances.
 - All budget numbers mentioned in the presentation are just fillers, and the budget would need to be considered before assigning grant amount caps to these programs.
 - Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program should be worded so that neighborhood groups represented on the CAC should still be eligible to apply. Budget cap for this grant should also be more than \$5,000 as presented, per Mr. Robinson.
 - Mr. Robinson requests that the budget for these programs be discussed at the next CAC meeting. CAC is trying to get away from tying money in with City money for programs.
 - Staff will also look into which subcommittees each of these grant approvals should fall under.
- A motion was made by Mr. Smith II to direct staff to move forward with drafting applications and guidelines for these grant programs to be reviewed by the CAC. Mr. Perry seconded this motion. Motion approved unanimously by the CAC with a 7-0 vote.

V. Urban Progress Alliance, Inc. Presentation

- Representatives from the Urban Progress Alliance, Inc., including Brenda Allen, Andre Hills, Jr. and Danny Tulsiak, were present to present on the Tampa Heritage Initiative.
 - The goal of the initiative is to encourage the community to be healthy and self-sufficient. The proposal includes a community garden.
 - Presentation to the CAC is a prelude to their Special Projects application, once that process has been clarified.
 - Community garden looking to eliminate the food deserts and food insecure areas of the community.
 - Planned for unity garden to be designed at 2307 W Beach Street, which is based on a hydroponic system housed in one shipping container.
 - Will provide a platform to educate the public and allow for hands on learning.
 - Potential collaborations including: Coco Frios, Meacham Urban Farms, St. Peter Claver Elementary, MacFarlane Park, and West Tampa Elementary.
 - Budget for starting costs is \$154,281, which is the amount the group is looking for funding to support.
 - Additional yearly costs are estimated to be around \$15,000 annually.
 - Some produce will be sold, others will be given away through delivery, food drives, etc.
 - Includes going through the community and delivering produce to citizens without transportation.
 - This will be the first of its kind in this community.
- Mr. Niño will discuss this project with the City's legal department to find out if Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds can be used for this type of project.
- Once a Special Projects application and process has been finalized, this group will need to go through that process to request potential grant funds.
- Cash flow and potential revenue should also be considered and shown to prove that this project is sustainable.
- A motion was made by Mr. Perry to allow staff to explore if funds can be used for special projects, with Mr. Smith II seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

VI. General Discussion and Questions

- First meeting on the Rome Yard proposals will be held Monday, February 1, via zoom for the selection committee.
- CAC should submit any available properties for sale to staff.
 - Ms. Shrewsbury already sent out a slate of several available properties to the CAC for consideration.
- Ms. Sanchez would like to be the Chair for the newly created Arts Subcommittee. Mr. Robinson approves that request.
 - Creation of the new subcommittee will be finalized at the February CAC meeting.

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- No update was provided.

Special Events:

- No update was provided, subcommittee chair was absent.

Infrastructure:

- No update was provided

Housing:

- No update was provided, subcommittee chair was absent.

VII. Announcements

- This Thursday, January 28 at 9 a.m. City Council will host a workshop on the Equal Business Opportunity Program to go over study findings.
- NFL Alumni event planned for the Rome Yard has been moved to the first week of March due to COVID. Subcommittee already approved their \$5,000 special events grant request.
- All new board members will have training and orientation, and the legal department will host a Robert's Rules training for all board members. No dates have been set yet.

Meeting Adjourned 7:40 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2021

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

Attendees

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

Unexcused: Michael Braccia; Dedrick Jackson

Staff: Jesus Niño, Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:37 p.m. on February 23, 2021. There was a quorum present. CAC members introduced themselves.

Mr. Robinson excused Kenneth Perry and Michael Braccia.

Mr. Robinson requested that Staff have plaques prepared for all CAC members who are no longer on the board thanking them for their service to the community.

II. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2021

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Wilson, with a second by Mr. Ramirez, with the amendment that Mr. Wilson had an excused absence at the January CAC meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.

III. Public Comment

- Michael Randolph, CEO of the West Tampa CDC, expressed concerns regarding public safety, especially with the summer season coming in Tampa. Mr. Randolph sited other public safety programs from Baltimore and California that involve getting people off the street and even paying people not to commit crimes. Mr. Randolph will forward this program information to Mr. Niño.
- Commissioner Gwen Myers introduced herself as the Hillsborough County Commissioner for District 3.
- Heem Baisden, West Tampa Alliance, asked for the progress of the West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Strategic Action Plan and requested to know where the monies have been spent so far.
 - Mr. Robinson let Mr. Baisden know to submit a Public Records request to Mr. Niño for this information.

IV. Reports

The Tampa Police Department was not in attendance, so not update was provided.

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative, Carlos Rios, joined virtually to provide the following update:

- Last quarter there were 400 new cases in the CRA, including environmental, zoning, solid waste, and transportation issues.
 - Stats include North and South of I-275.
- Actively working on alley clean-ups working with Staff and the Infrastructure Subcommittee.

V. Staff Reports

The Tampa Police Department was not in attendance, so not update was provided.

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative, Carlos Rios, joined virtually to provide the following update:

- Last quarter there were 400 new cases in the CRA, including environmental, zoning, solid waste, and transportation issues.
 - Stats include North and South of I-275.
- Actively working on alley clean-ups working with Staff and the Infrastructure Subcommittee.

Mr. Niño provided the following updates:

- There is one last opening on the CAC board and there is an application that will go to the Community Redevelopment Agency board on March 11, 2021. Mr. Smith's new ex-officio organization will also go to the Community Redevelopment Agency for approval at that time.
- February 25, 2021 at 10 a.m. is the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser and Tax Collector free virtual presentation on Homestead and Other Homeowner Exemptions.
- New CAC member orientation coming up after the last CAC appointments at the March 11 Community Redevelopment Agency board meeting.
- Three virtual trainings with a Parliamentarian will be held towards the end of March on a Tuesday afternoon and on a Friday and Saturday mornings to provide the CAC members with the training for running the CAC meetings.
 - Mr. Niño will provide the CAC board members with the latest policy for governing the boards, along with a copy of the Roberts Rules of Order.

V. Historic Preservation Presentation

- Dennis Fernandez with the City's Historic Preservation department presented on a couple of programs that the West Tampa CRA may benefit from.
 - The Interstate Historic Preservation Trust Fund includes both a loan program and a grant program.
 - To be eligible, the property must be on the National Historic Register, and be located within the boundaries designated in the West Tampa CRA.
 - Upcoming application deadlines for the loan program is May 5, 2021 and for the grant program is May 19, 2021.
 - A copy of this presentation will be uploaded to the Department's website after the meeting.
 - Historic preservation does not keep a list of all the historic locations in West Tampa that are currently vacant.
 - The City has worked with heired properties, but for the loan programs there must be a corporation to tie the lien to. The property also must be homesteaded

- for the grant program.
- Structures do not have to be contributing but does have to be at least 75 years old.
- Mr. Fernandez is on a review board that looks at condemnations and properties being reviewed for demolition.
- Historic Preservation does have tax credit programs as well, but they require local historic designations, not just national designations.
- The loan fund is revolving, and no new money is added, only the interest from the funds already available.

VI. Budget Discussion for Programs

- Michelle Van Loan, Community Redevelopment Department Director, was present on the virtual meeting to provide an update of the budget.
 - Board interested in where there is money for potential grant programs presented at the last meeting.
 - Money is in the budget for the 20 senior homes that the CAC wants to partner with the City's Housing department on exterior renovations, along with rental rehab and down payment assistance programs.
 - Upcoming budget year will be addressed again at the April or May CAC meetings for Fiscal Year 2022.
 - Grant programs previously discussed can be put on a planning budget, but until the Community Redevelopment Agency board approves the program and reprograms the money it will not show on the actual budget sheet.
 - Next month staff will show more detail on what each line item includes and what money has already been put in reserves.
 - Leftover funds from the previous year go into the Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements line item until it is ready to be reprogrammed.
 - To allocate money for a consultant to look into Form-Based Code changes for the residential section of the West Tampa Overlay it will need to be reprogrammed.
 - The CAC wanted to fund a radio show in the past, but the Community Redevelopment Agency board tabled that discussion until the new marketing position for the department has been filled.

VII. General Discussion and Questions

- Ms. Sanchez requested that the CAC consider funding for improvements to Rey Park, to include removal and replacement of the fence, trimming trees, adding lighting below the tree level, adding tables, and refreshing the painted mural.
 - Ms. Sanchez wants to have more community involvement, which could occur at neighborhood meetings held at Rey Park in the future.
 - Public safety is an issue in the CRA, and if the community gets more involved, they will work to keep it safer hopefully.
 - The Parks and Recreation Department starts working on their budget in March, so Ms. Sanchez suggested proposing a fifty-fifty arrangement with Parks and Recreation to fund these improvements.
 - Mr. Robinson also recommended discussing with Parks and Recreation their plans for all the City-owned parks in the CRA.
 - Mr. Niño will request Parks and Recreation to speak at the March CAC meeting to discuss their plans for all the parks in the CRA.
 - Ms. Sanchez made a motion to direct the Infrastructure subcommittee to develop a proposed plan for improvements to Rey Park to present to Parks and

Recreation prior to them speaking at the March CAC meeting. Mr. Wilson seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.

- The Arts Subcommittee was established at the January CAC meeting, with Ms. Sanchez agreeing to Chair the committee.
 - Lynn Dingfelder, Janice Katz, Ms. Jones, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Jackson have all volunteered to participate on this committee.
 - Ms. Sanchez has a vision of the CAC purchasing a former Cigar Factory to turn into a West Tampa Arts and Cultural Center.
 - Mr. Niño will work with Mr. Fernandez and the Arts Subcommittee to identify all buildings in the CRA that are historically significant, not just those that are designated.

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- No update was provided.

Special Events:

- Mr. Niño let the CAC know that the Special Projects application is currently being reviewed by City Staff before it goes to the legal department. After that, the application will come before the Special Events subcommittee for review, before coming back to the CAC for approval.
- Mr. Niño will also provide the CAC with a description of every subcommittee and its role to be added to the website.

Infrastructure:

- Mr. Ramirez gave the following updates for Infrastructure:
 - The West Tampa Overlay amendment passed, but the subcommittee will now begin looking at areas that did not make it into this proposed amendment.
 - This includes Form-Based Code for residential areas and preservation of historic brick buildings and graffiti removal.
 - Met today with Code Enforcement to discuss alley clean-up.
 - CAC to send the worst alleyways to Mr. Niño to compile a list of the top ten. These will be forwarded to Code Enforcement to help clear and then it will be the property owners' responsibility to maintain their alleys.
 - Met with the Tampa Electric Company (TECO) and the Tampa Police Department (TPD) to discuss camera placement at Freemont Linear Park.
 - Two cameras will be added to existing poles that will have TPD monitoring them.
 - With new construction, TECO is placing wooden poles in the front of properties. Mr. Ramirez suggests talking to TECO about moving the poles to alleyways or the back of properties on future new construction to make it more aesthetically pleasing.
- Mr. Jackson noted a sign on the corner of Green and Albany right off Exit 42 that is facing the wrong way. Mr. Niño will work with the Florida Department of Transportation to get this corrected.

Housing:

- No update was provided.

Other General Discussion

- The Rome Yard committee has reviewed all the proposals for the site and have placed them online. The short-listing is occurring, and the final presentation will occur in two weeks.
- The Daycare on Roosevelt and Albany is having trouble with speeding and suspicious individuals. Mr. Robinson directed those concerned to contact TPD.
 - Mr. Niño previously met with a nearby church to discuss similar safety issues regarding lighting improvements in that area.

VIII. Announcements

- Wednesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. is the next West Tampa Business Development Response Team meeting at Bay Cannon Brewery.
 - Mr. Niño will provide future meeting information to the CAC to distribute to anyone who may not know about the area.
- Mr. Jackson suggested making sure all neighborhood businesses know when events are being held in the future.

The quorum was lost at 8:10 p.m., meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Additional comments tabled until the next CAC meeting in March.

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

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2021

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

Attendees

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

Unexcused: Michael Braccia; Dedrick Jackson

Staff: Jesus Niño, Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Robinson opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:34 p.m. on March 23, 2021. There was a quorum present. CAC members introduced themselves.

Mr. Robinson gave Michael Braccia and Dedrick Jackson unexcused absences.

II. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2021

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

III. Public Comment

- Michael Randolph, CEO of the West Tampa CDC, provided an update on the Rome Yard project that the Tampa Housing Authority and the West Tampa CDC are working on. The West Tampa CDC will put together a custom workforce package focusing on home-based businesses, e-commerce, etc. There will be 50-120 resident owned businesses over the next three to five years, and the CDC will work on providing microloans.
- Eve Jones, West Tampa resident, asked that staff update the website and provided minutes, agendas, meeting dates, and other potential information for residents to easily access and know what is going on in the community.
 - Staff will work to add agendas, minutes, meeting dates, and subcommittee overview information to the website for easy access.

IV. Reports

The Tampa Police Department update was provided by Captain Fernandez.

- The shooting on Main Street, outside of Bay Cannon, is still an active case, but the suspect has not been identified. There is a video of the vehicle though.
- In February, North of the Interstate 275, the following data was provided:
 - 1 shooting
 - 8 felony possession arrests
 - 91 disturbance calls

- 6 fight calls
- 8 hang-ups
- 316 crime prevention events were held
- 106 arrests were made
- 265 traffic stops
- 477 building checks
- 28 field interrogations
- 4 bike stops
- 17 attempt-to-pickups
- Mr. Niño is going to provide a map of the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) to Captain Fernandez so that the data will be for the CRA only at the next meeting.
- Year-to-date for last year and this year in comparison, only auto theft and burglaries are up for this year. All other data is down for this year.
- Captain Fernandez is going to look into the University of Tampa students parking in the alleyways in the West River Crime Prevention area.
- The CRA can fund community policing innovations.
- In regard to the shooting near the Rosa Valdez Day Care, the victim did not come forward, so it has been difficult to solve that case and keep it from happening again.
- Mr. Andrew Warren will be invited to a future CAC meeting to discuss why there is a revolving door for felons charged with guns that keep getting released from prison.

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative was not present to give an update.

V. Staff Reports

Mr. Niño provided the following updates:

- The Main Street Corridor Study, being led by Frank Hall and Randy Goers, has completed the interview and data phase.
 - A draft report should be ready by May.
 - A public presentation will be held to discuss the findings within the next two to three weeks.
 - The presentations that the University of South Florida students gave presented ideas, but not final designs.
 - Many different parking options are being evaluated with this plan.
- Staff is working with Code Enforcement and Mobility, along with Mr. Ramirez, to complete an alleyway cleanup throughout West Tampa.
 - Code Enforcement already has a list of 64 alleys throughout the City that they are going to start cleaning.
 - The CAC has been asked to compile a list of the top 10-15 alleyways in West Tampa that need immediate attention to send to Code Enforcement.
 - Once the alleyways have been cleaned, the adjacent property owners will then be educated on how to maintain the cleanliness.
 - The Infrastructure Subcommittee is also discussing a Clean Team project for West Tampa.
- Jan Washington with the City and the Tampa Electric Company (TECO) are working on the paperwork for the cameras at Fremont and Linear and some additional ones along Main Street.
- The last Main Street Business Development Response Team meeting was held on March 3, 2021 at Bay Cannon brewery.
 - A list of City Points of Contact was distributed to the attendees and went out to

- the distribution list.
 - The next meeting will occur around the middle of April, and the date and points of contact will be added to the website for easy access.
- Hard copies of the West Tampa Community Redevelopment Plan (CRP) and the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) have been ordered to give to the CAC members.
 - Every CRA should follow the CRP and the SAP is designed to help implement the CRP.
 - When the state statute changes, it supersedes the CRP and the SAP.
- Staff held a CAC orientation for all new members to the CAC board on Friday, March 19.
 - 6 CAC members attended the training.
 - The orientation was recorded and can be made available to anyone who wants to watch it.

West Tampa CRA Neighborhood Group Special Projects Grant Program

- This grant program is what was originally intended to be the Special Projects grant.
 - The legal department reviewed the application and made edits to make the program be consistent with state statute.
 - Private properties were taken out of the program, and now only public properties will be considered with this grant, and neighborhood groups will be the applicants.
 - Projects on private properties will still be considered for funding on projects, but they will be on a case-by-case basis brought to the Special Events subcommittee, then to the CAC, and finally to the CRA board. These projects will not be a part of this grant program.
 - Staff recommends that this grant program be for grants up to \$10,000.
 - The Special Events subcommittee expressed concerns that the allowable projects are those that the City should do anyway; however, the CRA was created to go above and beyond what the City can afford to do.
 - Some of the projects from the original grant application were aimed towards social services, but the state statute leans more towards infrastructure-based projects.
 - While the program developed into something different than the original intent, the CAC still views this program as a useful tool for the community.
 - Even though some of the eligible neighborhood groups may not be able to come up with the funds up front, the grant is not matching, and a request can be made to receive the funds from the CRA upfront.
 - Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve this grant program and application. Ms. Sanchez seconded this motion. Mr. Ramirez amended the motion to also include continuing to research programs that can include projects on private property. The motion passed on a roll call vote unanimously with Mr. Smith being absent from the vote virtually.
- A copy of the state statute changes will be distributed to the CAC for comparison with the current CRP.

V. ArtSpace Presentation

- ArtSpace is a live, work, show complex for up to 50 artists to live under one roof to collaborate and teach.
 - Approximately 53 projects have been completed in the last three or four years and they are all successful, with none having closed so far.

- There are a few different building styles that would fit in with the culture of West Tampa, if ArtSpace was to choose this area.
 - All rents are affordable, and do not price the artists out over time.
- Cigar factories would be good aesthetically for this project, but they would need to be donated to make financial sense for the project.
- March 25 is the launch event for the virtual survey to gather community input via the artspacetampa.org website.
- Mr. Robinson asked the infrastructure and arts subcommittees to take the lead with helping get community input for this project.
 - Additional information on the project can also be sent out on the email distribution list.
- Once a property has been identified and the project is further along in the design phase, the CAC can engage in the project more.

VI. General Discussion and Questions

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- No update was provided.

Special Events:

- The West Tampa CRA newsletter will begin development soon, and the owner of Nubian Knots on Main Street has already been contacted to interview for the newsletter.

Infrastructure:

- Mr. Ramirez gave the following updates for Infrastructure:
 - The subcommittee wants to extend the business core to include all businesses between Albany and Rome.
 - This was supposed to be part of the recent West Tampa Overlay Amendment, but a letter has to be distributed to all of the businesses first.
 - Mr. Ramirez made a motion to finalize the draft letter that he sent to staff and send it to all of the businesses between Albany and Rome. Once the letter has been sent, any businesses interested in more information can join in virtually to the next infrastructure workshop. Ms. Sanchez seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Smith being absent from the vote virtually.
 - Mr. Ramirez made a second motion to move forward with developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to complete a parking assessment study for the Main Street corridor area. This study will incorporate information from the 2006 parking study and the current Main Street Corridor Study. Mr. Juarez seconded this motion. Mr. Robinson asked that the CAC have a seat on the final selection committee for the RFP along with a representative from the Minority Small Business Utilization team. Mr. Robinson also asked that the selected firm have experience with historic districts. The motion passed unanimously with these conditions, with Mr. Smith being absent from the vote.
 - The three parks in the CRA (Salcines Park, Rey Park, and Fremont Linear Park) have been identified to have issues that the subcommittee would like to be updated and addressed.

- Mr. Ramirez made a motion to have the subcommittee and CAC identify what improvements they want to be made to the parks, present the ideas to the Parks and Recreation department, and have them develop a plan and present the costs of these improvements back to the CAC for consideration. Ms. Sanchez seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Smith being absent from the vote virtually.

Housing:

- Mr. Wilson will meet with internal City staff on Wednesday, March 25 to discuss housing programs for the CRA.

Arts:

- The Rome Yard has a West Tampa Arts and Cultural Center proposed as part of the development.
 - Ms. Sanchez feels that something similar should be located in the Old West Tampa neighborhood.
- The subcommittee is going to start looking at designing a logo for the West Tampa CRA.
- A motion was made to allow staff to find out the cost of doing a feasibility study to find a historic building to locate an arts center in by Ms. Sanchez. This motion was seconded by Mr. Ramirez. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Smith being absent from the vote virtually.
 - Some CAC members were hesitant to agree with potentially locating the arts center in Centro Español, a location Ms. Sanchez proposed, due to the Hillsborough Education Foundation using that building; however, the CAC still approved of considering all historic buildings in the CRA if a feasibility study is done.

Other General Discussion

- With safety being a big concern for the area, it will now be part of the Infrastructure Subcommittee to discuss.
- The oak tree canopy near the Rosa Valdez Day Care needs to be trimmed because it is blocking the lights.
 - Mr. Niño is going to look into that, and also talk to legal about whether or not the CRA can provide a grant to the day care to update the lighting and add a camera for safety improvements.
- A time clock will be retrieved for the next CAC meeting.

VII. Announcements

- Wednesday, March 24 at 11:30 a.m. at Old City Hall is the meeting to finalize the documents and notes from the final selection committee and the Mayor's recommendations for the Rome Yard project.
- There is a Special Use Public Hearing scheduled for April 22nd at 6 p.m. for a small venue with beer and wine to be consumed on premises at 1701 W. Gray Street, which is currently zoned PD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2021

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

Attendees

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

Excused: Matthew Juaire; Dedrick Jackson

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury; Michelle Van Loan

I. Welcome / Introductions

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

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

II. Recognition of Past Members

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

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

III. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2021

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

IV. Public Comment

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

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

V. Reports

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

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

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

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

VI. Staff Reports

Mr. Niño provided the following updates:

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

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

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

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

Ms. Van Loan provided the following additional updates:

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

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

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

V. Arts & Cultural Affairs Presentation

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

VI. Parks and Recreation Discussion

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

VII. Urban Progress Alliance Unity Garden Presentation

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

VIII. General Discussion and Questions

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

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

program by Mr. Smith, with a second by Mr. Wilson.

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

Special Events:

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

Infrastructure:

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

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

Housing:

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

Arts:

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

Other General Discussion

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

IX. Announcements

There were no announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021

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

Attendees

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

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

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

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

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

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

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Staff Reports

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Discussion:

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

Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) earned its own interest on its own funds.

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

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- carried over, but Rental Rehabilitation added \$300,000.
 - The CAC reached a consensus on the Capital Improvements line items.
 - Street repaving added \$300,000, which can be used to repave the alleyways.
 - The City has funded some street repaving projects in the CRA already.
 - Main Street revitalization added \$400,000. More funds can be added to this once the Main Street Corridor Study has been completed.
 - This study is being done with City funds but will require CRA funds to complete many projects.
 - Park improvements added \$400,000. Staff and subcommittees are currently working with the Parks Department to get cost estimates for improvements to three parks in the CRA.
 - Arts funding was not included in this proposed budget, because funds would likely be reprogrammed in this fiscal year.
 - The CAC reached a consensus to add a line item for Public Art and moved \$17,387 into that line item that staff had recommended be placed in the Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements line item.
 - If new revenues are over 5 percent, the CAC would like those additional funds to be placed into the Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements line item to be reprogrammed for specific projects at a later date.
- The CAC reached a consensus on the entire proposed budget with the slight changes included above.

V. General Discussion and Questions

- The Clock Tower Cigar Factory will be turned into a wine production facility, along with development of the remainder of the building for other uses, such as a tasting room.
- Other buildings in West Tampa are also being redeveloped including the Sicilian Club, several building along Main Street, and a new CBD shop right outside of the Community Redevelopment Area's boundaries.

VI. Announcements

On Saturday, June 19, 2021 there will be a walking event hosted by the community garden in honor of Juneteenth. The event will also include a love feast.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2021

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

Attendees

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

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

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury;

I. Welcome / Introductions

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

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

II. Public Comment

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

III. Action Items

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

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

FY22 Budget Approval

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

FY21 Budget Reprogramming of Funds

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

unanimously with Mr. Smith absent from the vote.

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

Phase I of Alley Clean-Up

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

Urban Progress Alliance – Unity Community Garden

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

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

Letter of Support – Metropolitan Ministries

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

IV. Reports

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

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

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative was not present.

V. Presentations

Parks and Recreation Discussion

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

Park, and Fremont Linear Park, the focus for today was on Rey Park.

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

Rosa Valdez Daycare

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

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

Community Building Block by Block

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

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

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

Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2021

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

Attendees

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

Excused: Dedrick (Dee) Jackson

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury; Michelle Van Loan

I. Welcome / Introductions

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

Mr. Robinson gave Dedrick Jackson an excused absence.

II. Public Comment

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

III. African American Art Museum

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

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

IV. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for May 25, 2021 minutes

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

West Tampa Grant Programs

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

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

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

Reprogramming of Funds for Grant Programs

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

V. Reports

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

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

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative was not present.

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

VI. Presentations

Mobility Department Project Updates

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

phase to be added.

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

VII. Staff Reports

Mr. Niño provided the following updates:

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

V. General Discussion and Questions

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

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

Special Events:

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

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

Infrastructure:

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

Housing:

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

Arts:

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

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

Other General Discussion

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

VI. Election of Officers

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

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

VII. Announcements

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2021

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

Attendees

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

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

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury; Brad Suder

I. Welcome / Introductions

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

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

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Parks & Recreation Department Discussion

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

their input.

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

IV. West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area Parks Revitalization

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

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

V. Announcements

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2021

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

Attendees

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

Excused: Dedrick (Dee) Jackson; Walter Smith II

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Ramirez opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:33 p.m. on July 27, 2021. There was a quorum present. A roll call was held to introduce each CAC member.

Mr. Ramirez gave Dedrick Jackson and Walter Smith excused absences.

II. Public Comment

- City Councilman Orlando Gudes with District 5 was present at the meeting. He wanted to commend the CAC on the work there are doing for the community and believes that a lot of the projects being worked on currently will really benefit the West Tampa community.

III. African American Art Museum

- County Commissioner from District 3, Ms. Gwen Myers, and Deputy County Administrator, Mr. Gregor Horwedel, were both present to provide the CAC an update on the proposed African American Art Museum.
 - When Commissioner Myers campaigned originally, she asked the community what was missing, and they told her it was an African American Art Museum.
 - To make this happen, Commissioner Myers toured all of the County-owned assets to see what properties were available.
 - At the June 16, 2021 Commissioner Myers presented the 2103 N. Rome Ave property to the board for the museum and they approved the proposal and site unanimously.
 - The County Commission also committed \$500,000 to the project for site planning.
 - The County has not met with the community yet, as they want to have a rendering to show first to take to donors for additional funding.
- The CAC sent a letter to Hillsborough County, signed by Mr. Robinson, in January 2021, requesting that an African American Art Museum be located in West Tampa, but the County never responded.

- The CAC wanted the museum to potentially go on the site closer to Main Street that is owned by the Tampa Housing Authority (THA).
- 2103 N. Rome Ave was originally owned by the City and when it was deeded, it had a reverter clause that if it was not used for the intended purpose for a year it would revert back to the City.
- While the CAC supports the additional of an African American Art Museum, they do not want to lose the headstart and neighborhood services center currently on the 2103 N. Rome Ave site.
- The County will keep the headstart on the site and will make some kind of accommodations for the services center in the proposed 45,000 square foot signature building planned for the site.
- The City is also currently using a site next to this proposed site with a reverter clause to the County, so hopefully neither site will need to be reverted.
- The County agreed to reengage discussions with THA, and Commissioner Myers will come back to the CAC with more information once a rendering has been developed.
- This project will not impact the Martin Luther King Center.

IV. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for June 22 and July 19, 2021 meetings

- A motion to approve the minutes from the June 22 meeting and the July 19 special workshop was made by Mr. Wilson, with a second by Mr. Juarez. The motion passed unanimously.

West Tampa CRA Housing Grant Programs

- Staff felt that the Resident Exterior Improvements Grant Program and the Upstairs Residential Conversion Grant Program were ready to go to the CAC for a vote, as the Residential Exterior Improvements Grant Program has already went to the Housing subcommittee for comments twice and the community is really pushing for the program.
- Housing subcommittee chair, Mr. Wilson, does not believe that these programs are ready for a vote by the CAC.
- Staff did incorporate comments received from the CAC on the Residential Exterior program, and the legal department felt that the CAC shouldn't include heired properties in this program.
- It was the consensus of the CAC to go back to the subcommittee for further review before the CAC takes a vote at the August CAC meeting.
 - It was also recommended that the Economic Development subcommittee combine with the Housing subcommittee to discuss the Upstairs Residential Conversion Grant program.
- Mr. Wilson also wants to know the detailed process for heired properties from the legal department prior to approving the grant programs.
- Legal has reviewed the grant programs as is currently and does not have any issues.

West Tampa CRA Newsletter

- Staff made the corrections received by the CAC members and will forward to Valerin to begin production once approved.
- A motion was made to approve the newsletter with the CAC corrections mentioned by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Young. The vote passed unanimously.

Phase II Alleyway Clean-up (Old West Tampa Area)

- For the next phase of cleanup, staff recommends focusing on the Old West Tampa neighborhood, but is still accepting alleyway requests from the CAC.
 - With a request to clean up all alleyways in the area, whether open or vacated, there is a three-step process.
 - For open alleys, they can be cleaned as normal.
 - For vacated alleys with a utility easement, staff will have to get with the utility department to gain access.
 - For vacated alleys with no easement, staff will have to get with all property owners to get a hold harmless agreement signed by everyone.
 - Each phase of the cleanup has to stay under \$25,000.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Wilson, with a second by Mr. Robinson, to process with Phase II of the alleyway cleanup in the Old West Tampa neighborhood for both open alleys and vacated ones with an easement. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Ocana-Hendrick no longer on the virtual call.
 - A second motion was made to proceed with cleaning the vacated alleys without an easement once the other alleyways have been cleaned by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Young. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Ocana-Hendrick being absent from the virtual call.
 - Cleanup includes tree trimming, debris removal, and herbicide.
 - The infrastructure subcommittee will discuss future alleyway paving projects.

Park Improvements CAC Recommendations to Parks Department

- A motion was made to submit the park improvements as discussed in the July 19 special workshop for the three West Tampa parks, Salcines, Rey, and Fremont Linear, to the parks department for cost estimates by Ms. Jones. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.
 - Since the Infrastructure subcommittee was canceled this month, the Martin Luther King Community Center improvements were not discussed and will be addressed next month.
 - The motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Ocana-Hendrick no longer present on the virtual call.
- A second motion was made to have staff draft a letter to Mayor Jane Castor to address the issues at Rey Park and help expedite the effort of improvements by Ms. Jones with a second by Mr. Robinson.
 - An amendment was made by Mr. Wilson to include Salcines and Fremont Linear in that letter as well, and Ms. Jones accepted the amendment to the motion.
 - The motion passed unanimously to have staff draft a letter to the Mayor addressing all three West Tampa parks.

V. Reports

The Tampa Police Department (TPD) representative Tierra Thompson was online to answer any questions from the CAC.

- Ms. Thompson is going to look into the shooting that occurred 1-2 weeks ago in the area that sent out a ring alert requesting video footage from residents in the Union Street area.
- Certain residents in the West Riverfront area have been experiencing bullying from other members of the neighborhood, and Ms. Thompson requested that the residents call TPD when this happens so that it can be properly addressed.
- TPD is working closely with the Old West Tampa Neighborhood Association to address the issues near Salcines Park of drugs and prostitutions, along with having undercover

officers in the area.

- Cameras along Main Street are not monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The CAC requested that TPD monitor the cameras more closely to take a proactive approach to stopping crime, instead of solely reactionary.
- Ms. Thompson will come back at the next CAC meeting to provide crime data and trends for the area.
- Staff has also started engaging with community leaders and homeless liaisons in the area to address this issue.

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative was not present.

- The homeless encampment uncovered during a neighborhood cleanup on top of one of the buildings on Main Street is still present, despite notifying Code Enforcement and TPD.
 - Mr. Niño will follow-up on this matter.

VI. Presentations

Urban Progress Alliance

- Ms. Brenda Allen and Mr. Andre Hill, Sr. were both present to present on a proposal on behalf of the Urban Progress Alliance (UPA).
- The proposal is for a West Tampa Main Street/Gateway to Africa and Caribbean Project.
 - The goal is to close the racial and ethnic wealth gap through a proposed trust that will be created to fund and support predevelopment phase of cultural business owners in the Main Street Business Corridor.
 - This will assist 15 black commercial/residential and existing property owners operating in the Main Street area.
 - The project will also include a Main Street Market, a 30,000 square foot grocery store, cultural foot court, and pharmacy; a Gateway to Africa and the Caribbean cultural tourism attraction; and the Tampa Heritage Initiative Community Garden, that the CAC has already agreed to help with some funding.
- The predevelopment budget is estimated to be \$1,261,781 and the UPA is asking the CAC for a commitment to fund the project at the industry average.
- This proposal has already been reviewed by the Economic Development subcommittee.
- The photos provided in the proposal are just for ideas, not finalized properties.
- This model came from another City, and once prefunding has been gained, the UPA will look for other experienced partners, such as the Bedford Group for development, and other marketing partners, etc.
 - These partners will help with the process, but not with funding.
- The UPA needs the CAC's commitment in order to also go to the City, State, and Federal level to request more funding, along with private investors.
- A motion was made to have City staff take this proposal to the City's legal department to see how the CAC can best assist the UPA and what funding might be eligible with Community Redevelopment Area funds by Mr. Wilson. A second was made by Mr. Robinson. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Ocana-Hendrick no longer on the virtual call.
- Once legal determines the legality of funding a portion of this project, then the CAC would like to see more financial statements and a more concrete funding strategy from the UPA for further consideration.

Environmental Crimes

- Detective Curtis Williams was unable to be present and attempted to present virtually; however, it was very hard to understand what he was saying.
 - Currently working in East Tampa and looking to expand in a shared partnership between Ybor City and West Tampa.
 - Addresses issues of illegal dumping, prostitution, homelessness, etc.
 - This is not a security guard position, instead it involves a lot of research and outreach to address the root of the problem.
- Due to not being able to fully hear the presentation, the CAC requested that Detective Williams present again at the August CAC meeting, and that the presentation slides be disseminated to the CAC prior to the meeting for review.
 - The CAC would also like to have funding numbers for this project at the next CAC meeting.

VII. Staff Reports

There were no additional items for staff to report on.

V. General Discussion and Questions

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- Mr. Smith was not present at this meeting to provide an update.

Special Events and Projects:

- Ms. Young stated that currently no new applications have been received for upcoming special events or projects.

Infrastructure:

- Mr. Ramirez gave the following updates for Infrastructure:
 - Funding for the parking study and the clean team were both approved at the July Community Redevelopment Agency meeting.
 - Park improvements are also moving forward for cost estimates.

Housing:

- Mr. Wilson mentioned that this subcommittee is still actively reviewing the housing grant programs that staff provided to them for comments.

Arts:

- Ms. Sanchez provided the following updates:
 - The subcommittee meeting for July was cancelled, but Ms. Sanchez has been communication with Ms. Robin Nigh from the City on several new art projects.
 - An arts workshop would be beneficial, possibly in September, to discuss future projects for the area.
 - Public Art in the roundabout a N. Boulevard and lighting of the under bridge at N. Boulevard were both discussed.
 - Likely cannot do the project at the roundabout because it is outside of the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) boundaries.
 - The under bridge lighting requires several CRAs coming together for this.
 - There is a local foundation that provides funding to artists that Ms. Sanchez has been in contact with.
 - Other potential art partnerships include Hillsborough Area Regional Transit

(HART) and the Related Group.

Other General Discussion

- The City's legal department determined that no more than one CAC member would be allowed to attend a subcommittee meeting unless it is properly advertised who will be attending and what topics will be discussed at that meeting.
 - This led to several of the subcommittee meetings for July being cancelled due to not being properly advertised.
 - Staff now has a draft advertisement that will be very similar to what is already done for the CAC meetings, but will include all of the CAC members on it so that whoever wants to attend can attend.
 - This will be the new process and will begin with the August subcommittee meetings.
 - Notices for all subcommittee meetings will also be sent to each CAC member regardless of whether they were originally a member of that subcommittee meeting or not.
- Staff will also make sure that all meeting cancellations go out before 4 p.m. to allow adequate time for the attendees.

VI. Announcements

No announcements were made.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2021

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

Attendees

Committee Members: Carlos Ramirez, Chair; Joe Robinson, Vice-Chair; Delphine Jones; Sandy Sanchez; Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson; Janice Williams; Tina Young; Michael Braccia; Heem Baisden; Matthew Juaire (virtual); Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick (virtual)

Excused: Walter Smith II

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Ramirez opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:35 p.m. on August 24, 2021. There was a quorum present. A roll call was held to introduce each CAC member.

Mr. Ramirez gave Walter Smith an excused absence and welcomed Heem Baisden to the committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Young to adjust the agenda to move the Parks Improvement Presentation to directly follow public comment and to add a property acquisition item to the action items after the grant programs. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

II. Public Comment

- Michael Randolph, West Tampa CDC, mentioned that he has met with Hillsborough County Commissioner, Ms. Gwen Myers, and City Councilman, Mr. Guido Maniscalco, along with participating in the District 6 Mayor's Town Hall to discuss what the West Tampa CDC has to offer. There will be a community-wide meeting on September 10, 2021 to discuss affordable housing, and Mr. Randolph has also been meeting with Mr. Niño to discuss the homeless issue in West Tampa.
 - It will not violate the sunshine law for CAC members to attend the September 10 meeting to hear what is being discussed as long as CAC business is not discussed amongst the members.

III. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for July 27, 2021 meeting

- A motion to approve the minutes from the July 27 was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Mr. Wilson. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

West Tampa CRA Housing Grant Programs

- A motion was made by Mr. Wilson, with a second by Mr. Robinson to approve the Residential Exterior Improvements Grant Program and the Upstairs Residential

Conversion Grant Program.

- Applicants will have to have their income verified to be eligible and a CAC member will be part of the selection committee for the Residential Exterior grant program.
- Prioritization will be given to elderly and low-income applicants for the Residential Exterior grant program.
- Wording for market rate apartments will be readded to the Upstairs Conversion grant program.
- The motion was amended to approve the Residential Exterior Improvement Grant Program as is, and to approve the Upstairs Residential Conversion Grant Program with the modified “market rate” wording and was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.
- The motion itself passed unanimously with a roll call vote.
- Staff recommended that \$300,000 be reprogrammed from the Neighborhood Infrastructure line item for the Residential Exterior Improvement Grant Program.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Robinson to reprogram the \$300,000 from the Neighborhood Infrastructure line item for this program. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.
- Staff recommended that \$100,000 be reprogrammed from the Neighborhood Infrastructure line item for the Upstairs Residential Conversion Grant Program.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Robinson to reprogram the \$100,000 from the Neighborhood Infrastructure line item for this program. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Land Acquisition: 2101 W. Main Street

- Staff was requested to look at potential properties in West Tampa for acquisition, and one of those properties was the park located at 2101 W. Main Street, currently owned by Mr. Joe Redner.
 - After some negotiations, Mr. Redner counteroffered at the appraised value of \$200,000.
 - Mr. Redner did state that he would like the property to remain a park but did not put any restrictions on the purchase yet.
 - A motion was made to allow staff to move forward with purchasing the property at 2101 W. Main Street by Mr. Wilson, with a second by Mr. Robinson.
 - The property is currently zoned commercial intensive.
 - Any festivals or events hosted on the site would have to go through the City’s normal process.
 - An amendment was made to the original motion to ask that in addition, any events hosted by the CAC on the property be free to the CAC.
 - The motion amendment and the motion itself passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

IV. Reports

The Tampa Police Department (TPD) representative, Corporal Tim Gaddis, Supervisor for Sector A, was present at the meeting to answer any questions.

- The issue at Salcines Park approximately two weeks ago with a man found laying on the ground was medical related, and the patient was sent to the hospital.
- The CAC is looking for a proactive approach to crime in West Tampa, which includes:
 - Installing the rest of the cameras on Main Street
 - Making sure Salcines Park is cleared at night.

- Installing a lockable fence at Salcines Park.
- The Mayor's new budget mentions police presence on Howard in District 5, but the budget deployment for what that will look like has not been developed yet
- When private property is involved, it is harder for the Police to make people leave.

Tampa Code Enforcement Department representative was not present.

- Staff is going to reach out to the Department to make sure a representative can be present at the next CAC meeting.
 - Mr. Robinson has concerns about code violation reporting and making sure all names are part of the public record even if they come through a supervisor.

V. Presentations

Parks Improvements Presentation

- Mr. Brad Suder was present at the meeting, with Ms. Sherisha Hills virtual for the beginning, from the City's Parks and Recreation department to provide some improvement concepts for Rey Park, Salcines Park, and Freemont Linear Park, as requested by the CAC.
- Mr. Suder and other staff incorporated matching architectural elements from the area into all three parks.
- Rey Park:
 - Remove bars on the windows of the community center and replace doors and windows.
 - Add solar panels on the roof of the center to power pedestrian lighting and provide a resiliency hub if the electricity goes out in the neighborhood.
 - Update the traditional entrance and make it Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.
 - Add new canopies, pedestrian walkways, sunshades, and upgraded perimeter fencing.
 - New playground equipment to match the upgraded design, and additional seating throughout.
 - Limbs over the current four-square court will be looked at again as some want them removed and some want them to stay.
 - There will be four entrances to the park.
 - CAC would like to see the addition of game tables under the shade tree and more lighting internally since it gets dark earlier during Daylight Savings Time, along with an additional water fountain.
 - The open play field will be grass and will allow green space for kids to play.
 - \$1.3 million estimated cost currently for these improvements presented.
 - Mr. Ramirez requests that all three proposed park improvements go back before the Infrastructure subcommittee meeting to work through before giving additional feedback to Parks Staff, and it is requested that Mr. Suder also provide a breakdown of the cost estimates for the parks.
- Salcines Park:
 - Two concepts designed for consideration.
 - The bus stop currently there is not owned by Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) and is instead owned by the City and can be removed.
 - Concept 1:
 - Open plaza, extended to curb line.
 - Utilizes oak trees for shading and includes seating areas without shading.

- Concept 2:
 - Courtyard style with fencing and gates.
 - Perimeter trees, with open pergolas for shading internally.
 - Game tables in the middle and with the ability to host markets on weekends.
 - Does include lighting of the mural in both concepts.
- Concept 1 is estimated to cost \$725,000, and concept 2 is estimated to cost \$800,000.
- With the Main Street Corridor Study completed, but not being implemented immediately, concept 2 allows for a better standalone project without having to wait on a design firm to be selected to implement the Corridor Study.
- CAC recommends a potential water feature and more shading for concept 2.
- Freemont Linear Park:
 - Will require more discussions with TPD, Fire, and Mobility to determine whether the through roads will remain closed or be opened back up. This will affect the design.
 - If the road remains closed, proposed improvements include getting rid of the jersey barriers, adding a dog park, playground, and more seating areas, a half court basketball court, and open playfield.
 - If the road is reopened, add advanced crosswalks, and only focus on the primary park area instead of the connecting areas.
 - An estimated cost for this has not been calculated since more discussions need to be had.
- The Martin Luther King Community Center will also be part of the parks improvement discussions, but proposed improvements will be discussed at the next Infrastructure subcommittee meeting before coming to the CAC and then being presented to the Parks Department.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment

- Mr. Randy Goers with the City was present to provide information on a text amendment to a plan category that was already approved by City Council at their meeting in July.
 - This is a citywide amendment, but the type is only found in the West River area currently and can only be used in the Central Tampa District.
 - The proposed action is to change the neighborhood mixed-use (NMU) land use planning category to modify the floor area ratio (FAR) for non-residential from 1.0 to 1.5.
 - This will establish a consistent FAR across residential and non-residential uses.
 - While this affects the plan category, specific projects will still have to go through the normal approval process.
 - This NMU plan category does have its own zoning.
 - Mr. Goers presented on this to the Infrastructure subcommittee at their last meeting and the members were in consensus on agreement of the amendment.
- Mr. Goers has also finished up the Main Street Corridor Study, and staff would like to set up a virtual community meeting to have Mr. Goers and his staff present the findings.
 - Mr. Niño will set up this virtual meeting to happen in about two weeks.
 - Mr. Goers will make the change to the study wording to reflect that Mr. Robinson is the Vice Chair of the West Tampa CDC, not the Chair, as currently listed.

Environmental Crimes

- Detective Curtis Williams was not present at the meeting.

VI. Staff Reports

Mr. Niño provided the following updates:

- Staff is working on developing a rental rehabilitation program and will work closely with the Housing subcommittee on this.
- Staff has been working with several nonprofits to address the homeless issue near Howard and Main.
 - There will be a mobile hotspot outreach unit deployed to that area soon to offer services to the individuals there.
- Bay Cannon will host the next West Tampa Main Street Business Response Team meeting, which is tentatively set for September 15, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
 - Staff will continue to work with the City departments to address issues in the meantime.
- Staff and procurement are working on developing a temporary Clean Team for Main Street and solicited bids to be submitted by last week.
 - No bids were submitted as it is a busy season currently for a lot of companies.
 - Procurement is going out to more companies for bids now.
- Procurement is currently working on getting bids for Phase II of the alleyway cleanup.
 - There is no word yet on whether the City can have multiple contracts at once for this cleanup.

V. General Discussion and Questions

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- Mr. Smith was not present at this meeting to provide an update.

Special Events and Projects:

- Ms. Young stated that the subcommittee meeting had been postponed so she did not have any updates at this time.

Infrastructure:

- Mr. Ramirez gave the following updates for Infrastructure:
 - As mentioned, Mr. Goers presented on the comprehensive plan amendment at the last subcommittee meeting.
 - Staff and Mr. Ramirez are working with the City's Contract Management team to find a firm for the parking study.

Housing:

- Mr. Wilson did not have any updates to provide.

Arts:

- Ms. Sanchez provided the following updates:
 - The subcommittee has only met once in the last two months, and turnout has been very low.
 - Not sure what direction the subcommittee is going and would like more involvement from the CAC members.
 - Projects discussed have been a logo contest, street art, and lighting of the N. Boulevard bridge, but nothing has been moved forward yet.
 - On March 23rd, Ms. Sanchez made a motion to allow staff to find out the cost of

doing a feasibility study to find a historic building to locate an arts center.

- With other arts and cultural centers being currently proposed in West Tampa, Ms. Sanchez would like to amend her original motion to focus on the cost of a feasibility study to restore the Centro Español as a historic building in the area.
- The CAC does have concerns since the Hillsborough Education Foundation currently occupies that building but does agree that the building needs to be restored and maintained.
- Staff will find the lease agreement between the City and the Foundation to see who is responsible for the upkeep and restoration of the building and will send that out to the CAC members.
- Once the CAC knows who is responsible for the building, more discussion can be had to address restoration.

Other General Discussion

There was no additional discussion.

VI. Announcements

No announcements were made.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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

Special Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2021

**Rey Park Community Center
2301 N. Howard Avenue**

Attendees

Committee Members: Carlos Ramirez, Chair; Joe Robinson, Vice-Chair; Delphine Jones; Sandy Sanchez; Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson; Tina Young; Heem Baisden; Matthew Juare; Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick

Excused: Janice Williams; Michael Braccia; Walter Smith II

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury

I. Welcome / Introductions

Vice Chair Robinson opened the special meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:35 p.m. on October 18, 2021. There was a quorum present. A roll call was held to introduce each CAC member.

Mr. Robinson gave Walter Smith, Janice Williams, and Michael Braccia excused absences.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment made.

III. Park Concepts Community Discussion

- The CAC has discussed their recommendations for Salcines Park already, and Freemont Linear Park will be contingent on whether or not the street stays closed or is opened back up. This meeting is to focus on Rey Park recommendations.
- The proposed design plans for the building include new windows, new side door with windows, and new solar panels on the roof.
 - The Wi-Fi to the building has been improved some but still needs a lot of work.
 - The closets are full of equipment and the building is not able to be properly utilized.
 - The bathrooms need to be updated.
 - The men's bathroom does not have a door on the stall.
- The CAC believes that the users of the park, along with the park facility staff, need to be surveyed to determine what should be improved in the building and outside in the main park before any design plans are decided on.
 - Interior building designs would need to be hired out instead of having the City Park's staff do the designs like what was completed for the exterior area of the park.
 - Potential interior improvements also include new lighting, adding game tables, a bottle filling water fountain, a working vent and lighting over the stove in the kitchen, better Wi-Fi, and a better layout for the building.
- Staff is still working on a letter to the Mayor addressing the issue of improvements at Rey Park that have been needed for a long time.
- Facility staff believes that addressing the safety of the park is a big issue, and multiple

access points to the building is seen as a problem for them.

- The proposed exterior design plans include a fenced in area beside the building door for the trash receptacles.
 - This largely blocks the view from the building to the main park area.
 - The HVAC systems that are currently in that area may be better located on the roof of the building.
- A motion was made by Mr. Robinson to have City Parks staff, along with an architect, to look at a conceptual design for the interior of the building at Rey Park with input from the users of the park, the community, and facility staff that is in line with the designs for the exterior areas of the park. This motion was seconded by Ms. Young. The motion passed unanimously.
- The CAC moved outside to look at the design plans for the exterior area with what was already present at the park.
 - It is important to make sure that a non-skid type of paint is used for the proposed painting of the basketball court.
 - The current plan has a cost estimate of \$100,000 to reroof the equipment building.
 - The CAC believes it would be better to tear the equipment building down and rebuild it instead of just reroofing it.
 - Some additional items for the Parks staff to consider in the exterior design plans are under tree lighting since it gets dark very early during day light savings; newer exterior bathrooms with timing locks; trimming back the trees with very low branches; outdoor water fountains; better fencing and locks on the gates; and potentially expanding the interior building as well.
 - There are also some low-lying areas of the park that flood (specifically where the current playground equipment is located) that needs to be addressed.
- A motion was made by Ms. Sanchez to ask Parks staff to look at these recommendations by the CAC and come back with the final recommendations incorporated into their design plan, including having an arborist look at the trees throughout the park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Discussion was had about potentially having to do a Request for Proposals to have a consultant redesign the entire park if the City's Parks staff cannot accommodate all of these requests.
- The Martin Luther King Center and Park improvements are being discussed as part of the Rome Yard development.
 - Plans include moving the center to the front of Rome Ave.
 - There is a presentation on this that Mr. Niño will distribute to the CAC.
- A motion was made by Mr. Wilson to move forward with the Salcines Park design plans, along with incorporating the recommendations from the last Infrastructure Subcommittee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson and passed unanimously.
- Freedom Park, the property owned currently by Mr. Joe Redner that the Community Redevelopment Agency is working to purchase, has not closed yet as the Environment Site Assessment Phase I is still underway.
 - Mr. Juaire hosts the monthly market on this property, and the one scheduled for November will likely have its permit denied by the City since it will exceed the maximum of four special permanent events on one property per year.
 - In order to get past this, a waiver would be needed, but that cannot be

- done until after the permit has been denied, which would set the event back a whole month.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Robinson to have staff look into the special events permit rules and requirements to see what can be done about this issue. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - An update on this will be provided at the next CAC meeting.
- A motion was made by Mr. Wilson to have staff set up a meeting within the next thirty days with the Tampa Police Department, the Tampa Fire Department, and any other necessary entities to discuss Freemont Linear Park and whether or not those streets with remain closed or be opened. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson and passed unanimously.

V. Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- On October 19, 2021 at 9 am the Mobile Hotspot Unit will meet for the second time on Main Street, near Salcines Park to offer services to the homeless in the area.
 - At the first meeting, unit staff spoke with over 20 individuals to offer services.
- Nelson's Tree Farm will start phase II of the alleyway cleanup project this week, and staff will go ahead and start the bidding process for the next phase of alleys.
- Mr. Morris Massey has once again been appointed to be the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) attorney at the City level.
- Jazz on the Lawn event is scheduled for March 12, 2022, and Mr. Niño will distribute the information to the CAC and community.
- Mr. Robinson received several rezoning requests in the mail and passed those over to the Chair, Mr. Ramirez.
 - A request has been made to change the recipient of future mailings to Mr. Ramirez.
- The first community benefits agreement meeting for the Rome Yard took place last week, and Mr. Ramirez encouraged CAC members to talk to their neighborhood groups for input to bring to future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2021

**David M. Barksdale Active Older Adult Center
1801 N. Lincoln Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607**

Attendees

Committee Members: Carlos Ramirez, Chair; Joe Robinson, Vice-Chair; Sandy Sanchez; Emanuel (Bobby) Wilson; Tina Young; Michael Braccia; Heem Baisden

Excused: Delphine Jones; Janice Williams; Kandfry Ocana-Hendrick; Walter Smith II; Matthew Juairé

Staff: Jesus Niño; Ashlyn Shrewsbury; Michelle Van Loan; Rob Rosner

I. Welcome / Introductions

Mr. Ramirez opened the regular meeting of the West Tampa Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at 5:34 p.m. on November 30, 2021. There was a quorum present. A roll call was held to introduce each CAC member.

Mr. Ramirez gave Ms. Jones, Ms. Williams, Ms. Ocana-Hendrick, and Mr. Smith excused absences.

II. Public Comment

- Brian Seel, a resident of the Tampa Heights neighborhood, came on his own behalf to discuss the planned Publix grocery store at the West River Development.
 - Mr. Seel has concerns with the pedestrian safety based on the proposed plans for the site.
 - Mr. Seel provided comments in early summer on the site and the challenges with the planned crossings and entrances.
 - In response, Mr. Seel also developed a proposal for the developer that addresses his own concerns by moving the location of the entrance and exit doors of the store to line up better with the crossings.
 - Mr. Robinson would like to request that the designer of the planned grocery store development come to the CAC to explain their design and address Mr. Seel's concerns. Mr. Robinson made a motion for this and Mr. Baisden seconded the motion.
 - Currently this plan is in the incremental review stage and has already been rezoned.
 - Mr. Eric Cotton with the City let Mr. Niño know that this proposal will be administratively reviewed and does not require a public hearing.
 - The developer is willing to speak on the issues and has even reached out to certain CAC members already.
 - Mr. Wilson would like to have a special meeting in December to have the developer and designer come to talk to the CAC.
 - The motion passed unanimously.
 - Ms. Sanchez expressed concern that the City didn't let the CAC know about the Publix development ahead of time.

- Mr. Niño to look into what the City's processes are for these types of plans and developments.
- Dee Jackson would like to see a mural art piece painted in memory of Dr. Walter Smith, Sr. who recently passed away.
 - Mr. Niño stated that staff and Mr. Jackson can work with the Arts Subcommittee on this type of project.
 - Mr. Jackson also expressed interest in the grant programs to rehabilitate homes, as many residents would like information on that.
 - Mr. Niño is the point of contact for the grant programs, and he is planning to put together two community meetings (one for residential programs and one for commercial programs) to talk about the new grant programs that are available.
 - These meetings will likely be planned for January 2022.
 - Currently there is a temporary hold on the new grant programs as Mr. Morris Massey, the Community Redevelopment Area's attorney at the City, is working on an overall process for processing all grant applications.
 - Mr. Robinson mentioned that Dr. Smith, Sr. already has a library in West Tampa, and he would like to discuss with Hillsborough County about moving that library into their newly planned African American Art Museum.
- Cheryl Patterson, a property owner in West Tampa, wanted to know if there were any grants available to help her build on her vacant property.
 - At this point there are no grants for new construction, only rehabilitation of existing.
 - Ms. Patterson also inquired to see if murals can be painted on buildings that are frequently graffitied on.
 - Staff is currently working on a graffiti abatement program, and this is something to consider.
- Michael Randolph with the West Tampa CDC stated that the Community Benefit Agreement at the Rome Yard development is still underway, and that the CDC will have Mr. Peter Van Warner with the Related Group, speak on this matter at one of their upcoming meetings.
 - The CDC has been hosting community meetings to provide updates, and their next one will be in late December to talk about public safety, public health, and crime.

III. Action Items

Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2021 meeting

- A motion to approve the minutes from October 26th meeting was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Mr. Wilson.
 - The following changes were made to the minutes:
 - On page 2 change the wording from drug cooking to drug trafficking.
 - Change the address from 1705 St. John to 1709 St. John on page 3.
 - Change the public comment on page 1 speaker from Mr. Mark Chip, to Mr. Dwight Boden.
 - The motion was amended to include these changes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports

A motion was made by Mr. Braccia, with a second by Mr. Robinson to move the Tampa Police Department update up on the agenda from the 6:15 p.m. time slot. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Policing Update

- Lieutenant Felts was present at the meeting to provide the following updates:
 - This time of year, there is a rise in property crimes and vehicle burglaries.
 - There is also an increase in packages being stolen off front porches since it gets darker earlier due to the time change.
 - Lieutenant Felts also noted that there was a shooting at Columbus Court yesterday in the East Tampa area.
 - The victim had a warrant on him, and the gun has been retrieved already.
 - The suspect is known to the police, but they have not apprehended them yet.
 - The Mayor's budget included a planned police depot in West Tampa, but Lieutenant Felts could not speak on that.
 - Mr. Robinson advised everyone that it was not a police depot, but an expanded evidence room.
 - Mr. Robinson also expressed gratitude for the new cameras on Main Street, as it has been a very long process.
 - TPD does have a program that allows residents to fill out a form for the vacation registry when they are out of town.

Gamma Theta Omega Community Service Organization Presentation

- Ms. Tangela DuPree and Ms. Elaine Bryant were present to present on the Gamma Theta Omega Inc. work that they do in the community.
 - This organization has been in the community for 81 years and is a 501c(3).
 - The organization focuses on underserved individuals, but provide services to all in the community, both boys and girls.
 - The five program targets are:
 - Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 - Women's Healthcare and Wellness
 - Building Your Economic Legacy
 - The Arts
 - Global Impact
 - Some of their partnerships include:
 - Haitian Educational Project (which includes their pillowcase project)
 - Lions Eye Institute
 - Soles for Soles
 - Messages to a Soldier
 - In addition, the organization hosts food drives, school supply drives, the Computer Tots program, Growing with Google, Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful, Youth Forums, Emerging Young Leaders, and Precious Pearls.
 - There is a virtual open house every August to introduce the youth programs, and they just received a \$50,000 grant for them.
 - The organization has also given out \$35,000 in scholarships this past year.
- The organization has recently been displaced of their office space and they are looking for help finding a permanent office space, along with potential meeting spaces for their larger events.
 - Mr. Robinson would like to help the organization find an office somewhere in

the West Tampa area.

- Some suggestions include the Centro Español building that can house non-profit organizations, space at the Rome Yard development, the Tampa Housing Authority project on Willow and Rome, or having the Community Redevelopment Area purchase property and lease it out to non-profit organizations.
 - Mr. Niño is going to discuss these options with the City's legal department.
- A motion was made by Mr. Robinson, with a second by Ms. Young to have Mr. Niño discuss with City staff to see if there is something the CAC can do to help facilitate this organization locating in an office in West Tampa.
 - All of the programs discussed, and more, can be brought to the residents in West Tampa.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Rome Yard and Community Benefit Agreement

- Mr. Rosner, Director of Economic Opportunity with the City, provided the following updates on the Rome Yard project:
 - They are currently in a 3-step process:
 - 99-year lease, which allows the City to get the land back in the future for redevelopment. With some townhomes being looked at for ownership, they will have to be platted out.
 - The Development Agreement for the property.
 - The Community Benefits Agreement (CBA).
 - With the CBA, public input is required, so there have been two public meetings held already, with a third virtual meeting planned for January.
 - The first public meeting was to explain the process.
 - The second public meeting was to present the results from the first meeting.
 - The third meeting will be to pull all the results together and get any final comments. This meeting will be 100 percent virtual.
 - There is still an opportunity to provide public comment through the Rome Yard website.
 - There will be future community engagement meetings for the Rome Yard development, but they won't be part of the CBA development.
 - The plan is to have the CBA finished and ready to go to City Council in the second quarter of 2022.
 - Staff and the developer are also working with the school district to address future needs for the changing population due to the large influx of new residents coming to the area.
 - This is leading to a discussion of a school campus master plan.

Code Enforcement Update

- There was no Code Enforcement representative present for the meeting.

V. Staff Reports

Mr. Van Loan gave an update on the requested Redner Property agreement.

- At the last CAC meeting, Mr. Robinson made a motion that the City provide the Community Redevelopment Area with an agreement on how the property will be developed and governed, along with long-term maintenance and care responsibilities, once it is acquired, and that the draft document be ready in the next two weeks.
 - Ms. Van Loan was present to address this request and provided the following update.
 - Currently the purchase contract is set to expire on December 13, 2021, but staff is requesting to expend the contract through December 31, 2021 to allow time to complete Phase I of the Environmental Site Assessment.
 - If the assessment doesn't show any issues, the property will be closed on by the end of the year. If there are issues, further discussion will be had with the current property owner.
 - Ms. Van Loan spoke to the City's legal department about this, as the CAC wanted a Memorandum of Understanding drafted between the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and the City.
 - With concerns that the City would dispose of the property without the CAC's consent, this request was made.
 - Ms. Van Loan assured the CAC that she would not sign off on a disposal of the property and that the City have stopgaps in place to keep this from moving forward without everyone consenting.
 - The CAC would still like an MOU but understand that it won't happen as quickly as two weeks.
 - Ms. Van Loan and the attorney will work on the MOU.
 - The other issue the CAC had was who would govern the property once acquired.
 - Ms. Van Loan stated that if the property was built as a park, then the City's Parks department would manage it. They would have to go through the City's legal process for events held at this park but could have an agreement developed with the Parks department ahead of time so that they can host events there.
 - Currently the CRA is set to expire in 2043.
- The new grant programs will only be delayed for the month of December until a formal standardized process for approving applications is discussed with the Community Redevelopment Agency board.
 - The larger grants will need a grant agreement developed, and staff will work on an adequate checklist to use for each application for standardizing the process across all grants.
- The department is hiring new personnel to fill vacant and new positions.
 - Currently no one has been hired permanently to fill the vacant Manager position in the City's Housing department.

V. General Discussion and Questions

Sub-Committees:

Economic Development:

- Mr. Smith was not present at this meeting to provide an update.

Special Events and Projects:

- Ms. Young stated that the next newsletter is currently being developed and there should be a draft ready for the CAC to review soon.

Infrastructure:

- Mr. Ramirez gave the following updates for Infrastructure:
 - The subcommittee reviewed the West River BUILD Grant trail plans at their last meeting and provided comments.
 - Mr. Ramirez took those comments to the City and they agreed with them.
 - The Martin Luther King Center and the Yellowjacket Field plans will be up to the developer.
 - The Yellowjacket Fields have moved their facility elsewhere already.
 - Hillsborough County has finally approved the funding and plans for the Howard Avenue road improvements.
 - Mr. Ramirez was on the Underwriting Committee in November for a new West Tampa Façade Grant application.
 - Ms. Shrewsbury provided the following update on the grant application.
 - The grant was for the building located at the corner of Ysolina and Main Street at 2131 W. Main.
 - The owner is doing a lot of improvements to the exterior of the building and has requested a \$50,000 façade grant that was approved by the Underwriting Committee.
 - The application went to the CRA Board at their November meeting and was also approved.
 - The tenant will also be pursuing a Vanilla Shell grant to improve the building interior for tenants, including a pharmacy.
 - Mr. Wilson requested that the CAC consider posting a sign at businesses that receive façade grants that say funded by the West Tampa Community Redevelopment Area while under construction to market the Façade Grant program.
 - Alleyway cleanup phases II and III are underway and educational fliers were handed out to property owners letting them know this was a one-time courtesy cleanup and it will be their responsibility to maintain in the future.
 - Mr. Ramirez is still scheduled to speak with Ms. Abbye Feeley at the December 16, 2021 City Council meeting regarding the West Tampa Overlay amendment and the reasoning behind those changes.
 - The Parking Study for the West Tampa is underway, and the consultant that was chosen for the study, Pond and Company, attended the last Infrastructure Subcommittee to better understand the needs and concerns of the area to better build out a scope of work for the project.
 - The goal is to address both the current needs with parking, along with the future needs.

Housing:

- Mr. Wilson stated that the Housing Subcommittee is waiting for a draft of the new Exterior Rental Rehabilitation Grant program.
 - Staff is finishing up the draft and will forward it to the subcommittee for review soon.

Arts:

- Ms. Sanchez provided the following updates:
 - Ms. Sanchez found a YouTube video about the City's new mural program that

hosted a webinar recently that the CAC was unaware of. She is going to reach out to the City for more information about that.

- As part of this new program, a mural was already created at MacFarlane Park.
- Mr. Ramirez is going to see if now that new pavement will be placed along Rome Avenue if murals can be painted there as well.
- In terms of private property versus City-owned property for murals, there is a different process.
 - On private property, there needs to be permission from the owner in order to paint a mural.
 - Once an idea has been developed and permission has been given from the owner, the idea can be taken to the City for funding, or the CAC can consider funding as well.
 - Protected historical buildings cannot have murals painted on them.
- Staff and the Infrastructure Subcommittee will look into how murals are affected by the West Tampa Overlay.

Other General Discussion

The following was also discussed:

- Mr. Robinson would like a section for Old Business and a section for New Business added to the CAC agendas for future meetings.
- Staff has already set up a meeting with the appropriate departments to discuss the future of Fremont Linear Park.
- The CAC's recommendations for Rey and Salcines Park improvements were forwarded to the Parks department for incorporation in the design plans.
 - Parks staff has not responded to these requests yet, as they are waiting for a response to the letter that was sent to the Mayor in terms of the park improvements in West Tampa.

VI. Announcements

There will be no CAC meeting for December. The next regular meeting will be January 25, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.



Gamma Theta Omega Inc.

In collaboration with

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

November 30, 2021



**Gamma Theta Omega Inc.
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated
Tangela D. DuPree, First Vice President
Elaine H. Bryant, President**

GAMMA THETA OMEGA INC.

We are a local Foundation of College Trained women who are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Our Chapter President is

Mrs. Elaine H. Bryant.

The International Organization was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D. C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college educated women pledged to provide Service to All Mankind.

Locally, we are a Chapter of 327 professional women chartered on December 7, 1940. We have an 81-year history of providing service to the Tampa Bay Community.

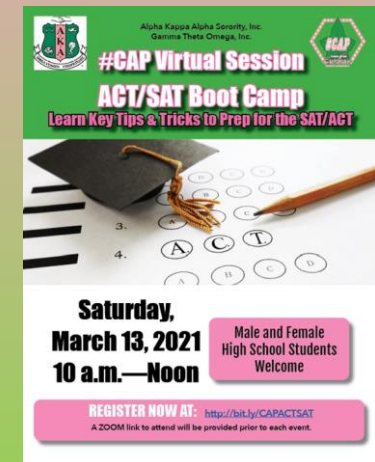
With excellence as our guide and sustainable service as our focus, mission is to provide relevant and impactful service as we help meet the needs of the Tampa Bay Community with a focus on the underserved.

Gamma Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

The program theme for 2018-2022 is Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service. The International Program includes five program targets that are designed to advance the mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha with excellence and underscore our commitment to sustainable service.

The five program targets are: HBCU for Life: A Call to Action for Historically Black Colleges

The signature project is #CAPSM which is short for College Admissions Process. It is designed to assist students in their efforts to enter college by providing a hands-on approach that includes all the steps from researching various colleges to actually completing the application process. #CAP Scored a Touchdown for the May 8th AKA International Signing Day honoring our #CAP Graduates! Guest hosts included ESPN Commentator Tiffany Green and ABC News Anchorwoman Deiah Riley! It was an electrifying program!



Women's Healthcare and Wellness - The primary focuses will be breast cancer awareness and prevention, heart health, nutrition and wellness, and care for the caregivers.



COVID-19
VACCINATION
for 65 & Older

Available: Saturday, March 13, 2021 Time: 9:00 AM until
Registration Begins: Tuesday, February 23, 2021

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: **March 9, 2021**
YOU MUST BE REGISTERED IN AVANCE.....NO WALK INS

ST. JOHN CATHEDRAL

3401 Bishop Eddie Newkirk Way, Tampa, FL 33605
Sr. Pastor **Dwight A. Newkirk** Lady **Artest Newkirk**
Tony D. Parker, Asst

Email us at to Register:
sjccovid19vaccination@aol.com
Or Call to Register:
Artest Newkirk: (727) 244-4016 Ebba Wilson at (813) 310-7154
Florence Gainer: (813) 310-2820
Or Register with one of our callers if one calls you...

The "COVID 19 VACCINATION" IS "FREE" to all Hillsborough County Residents with or without Insurance...**"ABSOLUTELY FREE!"**
You only need to Complete Section One [1] of the Application
Please share this information with **EVERYONE** you know 65 & up!



November 20, 2021
MILES FOR MOFFITT
<https://give.moffitt.org/goto/AKAGTO>
Join the team : Gamma Theta Omega, Inc
Early Registration \$25 by June 30
*The cost increases after June 30
Register for the Virtual Option
This is an event is a partnership between the Community Service Committee, Health Committee and organized and executed by the May & November Hostess Groups.

Building Your Economic Legacy – Gamma Theta Omega continues to emphasize financial planning, asset accumulation, and wealth building including savings and investment, managing debt, and credit improvement

Gamma Theta Omega, Inc.
In partnership with
**The Gamma Theta Omega Chapter of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**

presents


Building Your Economic Legacy A Tax Forum

featuring

Tracie Lowe
CPA, CGMA



*The Certified &
Internationally Accredited
Certified Public Accountant*



*"The Certified
Money-maker"*



Saturday February 13 12:00 pm EST
Virtual (ZOOM)

To RSVP contact:
Mrs. Sheila Padgett
BuildingYourEconomicLegacy@gmail.com





Tips to Get out of Debt

- Cut up your credit cards
- Stop shopping
- Sell things in your house
- Stop eating out
- Start couponing
- Get a part-time job
- Plan your grocery trips
- Find free entertainment
- Make a budget!!!!

Gamma Theta Omega, Inc.
In partnership with
**The Gamma Theta Omega Chapter
of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**

Presents

Getting Your House In Order

featuring

Charles Holloman II, Esq.
The Probate Lawyer
Saturday April 3, 2021
2pm ET

To RSVP contact:
Sheila Padgett, Chairman
BuildingYourEconomicLegacy@gmail.com
Virtual Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/7328368312>

*All workshop participants will receive a gift
upon submission of the post workshop
survey.*



B.A.M. 2.0

BLACK ARTS MATTER

HARLEM

A SPECTACULAR VIRTUAL TALENT EXTRAVAGANZA SPONSORED BY THE EAF COMMUNITY

Celebrating the Harlem Renaissance

- 4. The Arts! - Alpha Kappa Alpha will expose students to arts enrichment and culture by focusing on visual and performing arts and by showcasing talent through the exploration of writers, entertainers and various other artists.

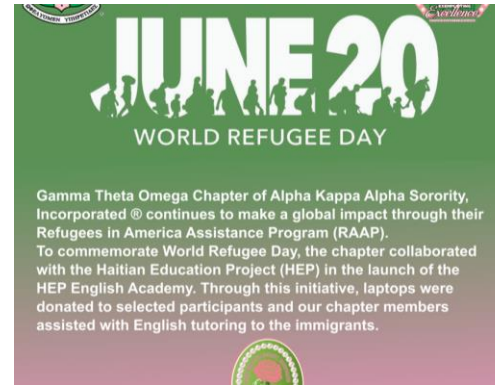
HELP US HIGHLIGHT AMAZING TALENT AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

LIVE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021 AT 7 PM

BE PREPARED TO BID ON ONE-OF-A-KIND PIECES DURING THE LIVE AUCTION

MAKE DONATIONS TO SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS AT [AKAGTO.COM](https://www.akagto.com) AND CLICK ON THE EAF DONATE BUTTON

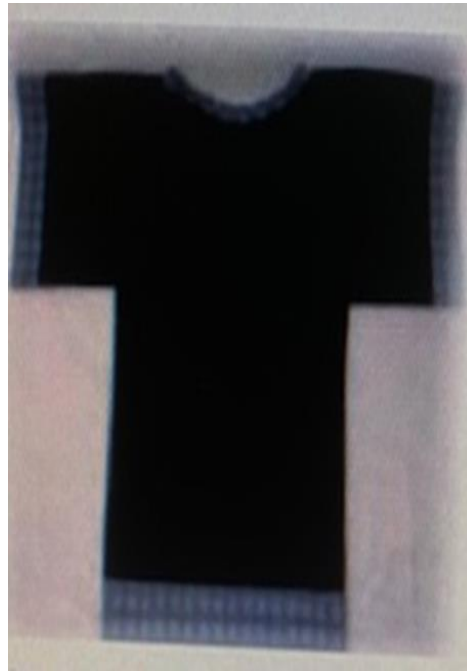




- **Global Impact - Global Assistance Activities.** Chapters will engage in global partnerships that provide assistance to the underserved in international areas populated with people of color. These partnerships include the following:

- **HAITIAN EDUCATIONAL PROJECT**
- **LIONS EYE INSTITUTE**
- **SOLES FOR SOULS**
- **MESSAGES TO A SOLDIER**

- **Pillowcase Project.** Chapters will continue to use pillowcases to make dresses for little girls. The pillowcase dresses and shirts will be sent to Haiti to provide clothing for children in need.



UNITED BY SERVICE

FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021 9AM - 11AM

All hostess groups will receive suggested food items to donate

Donations benefit students at Edison Elementary and the Beta Ministries Fellowship serving Senior Community members

Brought to you by the Community Service Committee and the March and June hostess groups.

- We provided tons of food during the holidays and summer breaks to feed families in need.



CHARITABLE GIVING PROJECT



By way of the Community Service Committee, the January and December Hostess Groups are hosting a donation drive to support local shelter, Mary & Martha House. We are aiming to primarily support African American women who utilize this shelter's services.

DONATION DRIVE DETAILS:

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2021
TIME: 9AM - 11AM
LOCATION: MARY & MARTHA HOUSE
100 S. U.S. HWY 41
DADE COUNTY, FL 33570





WE WILL BE GIVING OUT 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE PRIZES FOR THE DONORS WHO DONATE THE MOST ITEMS.

IN ALIGNMENT WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS FROM CORPORATE AND TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COMPETITION HERE IS HOW YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR DONATION:

YOUR ITEMS	TAG YOUR ITEMS	POP YOUR TRUCK
ALL DONATIONS NEED TO BE IN A BAG/CONTAINER.	ON EACH DONATION, ENCASE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER OF ITEMS WITHIN THE CONTAINER.	WHEN YOU DRIVE UP, ITEMS ARE COLLECTED FROM YOUR TRUCK. NO BORROW IS TO GET OUT OF THE CAR AT THE DROP OFF LOCATION.



COLLECTION ITEMS:

- HAND SANITIZER
- SOCKS
- AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:
 - HAIR OIL
 - SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER
 - HAIR CREAM/GEL
 - NAIL CLIPS
 - LOTION
 - HAIR SCARFS

If for any reason you are unable to attend the drive-by, please contact AKACharityDrive@gmail.com. To coordinate a non-contact pick-up from your location, please contact AKACharityDrive@gmail.com or Sister Latoya Cook 813-350-2888.

Gamma Theta Omega Chapter of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

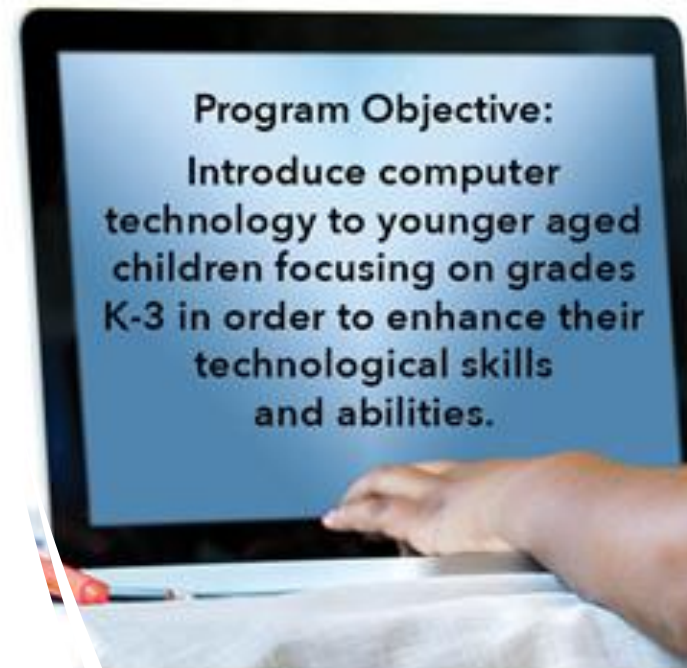
Is Proud to Present

Computer Tots

Who can Participate: K-3rd Grade

Cost: Free

- In addition, we also have a High School STEM Program which provides a high performing hands on program.



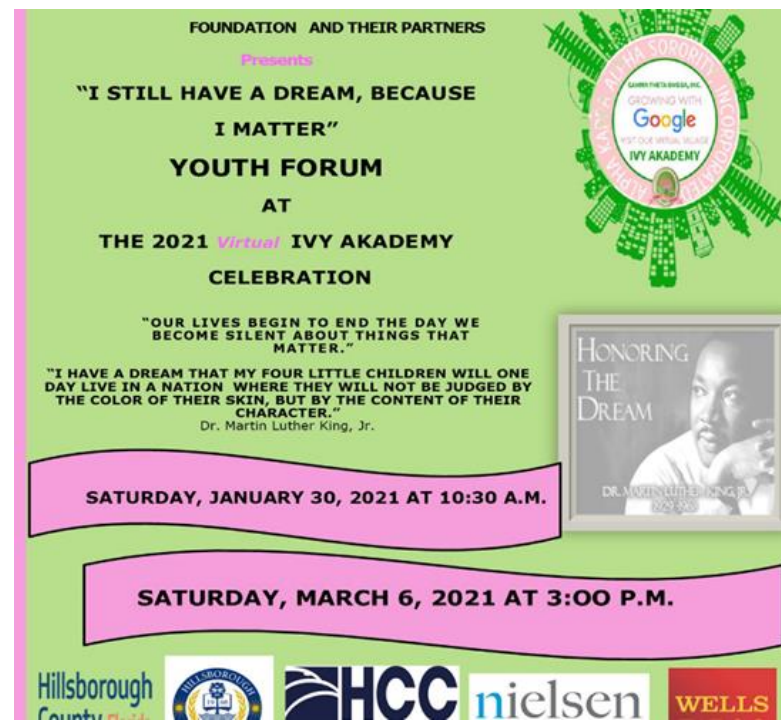
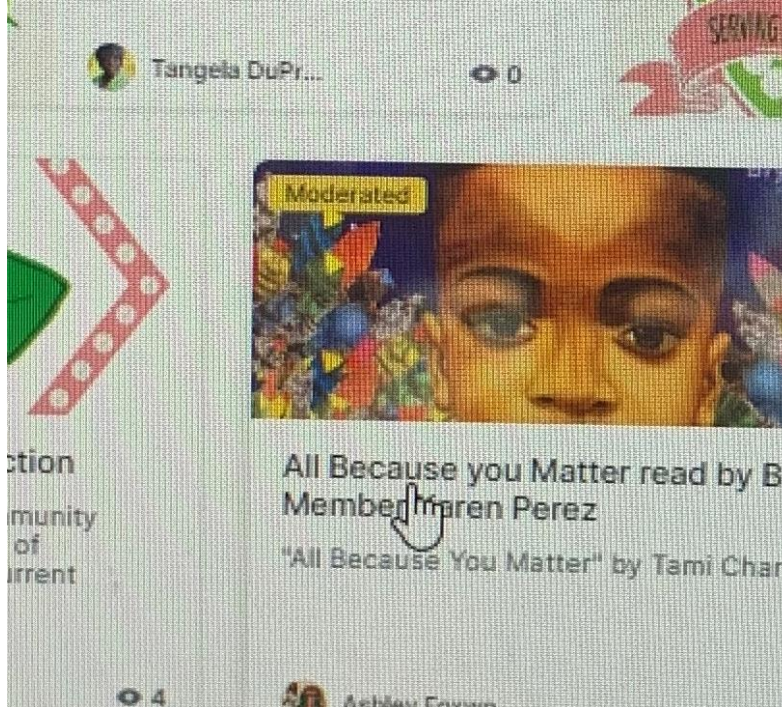
Program Objective:

Introduce computer technology to younger aged children focusing on grades K-3 in order to enhance their technological skills and abilities.

Contact



- We have partnered with Growing with Google to present google classes to help close the digital divide in Communities of Color.



Two of our Youth programs for young girls are Emerging Young Leaders for girls 11-13 years of age and the Precious Pearls program for High School Girls.

The Emerging Young Leaders program is designed to impact the lives of girls in grades 6th through 8th through innovative programs by providing leadership skills development, civic engagement, enhanced academic preparation and character building.

The Precious Pearls program is designed to create an environment of learning that enriches the lives of girls in grades 9 – 12 through enrichment programs focused on educational, cultural, philanthropic and social principles while stimulating spiritual growth and a vital understanding of basic economics. Our success will produce a strong-minded leader with the ability to stand strong in today's demanding environment.



GAMMA THETA OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GAMMA THETA OMEGA, INC
PRESENTS

AUGUST 28, 2021 3:00PM

Virtua

OPEN HOUSE

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- #CAP
- EMERGING YOUNG LEADER
- PRECIOUS PEARLS
- STEM

AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/OPENHOUSEGT](https://bit.ly/openhousegt)
LINK TO ATTEND WILL BE EMAILED PRIOR TO EVENT



The Precious Pearls program is designed to create an environment of learning that enriches the lives of girls in grades 9 – 12 through enrichment programs focused on educational, cultural, philanthropic and social principles while stimulating spiritual growth and a vital understanding of basic economics. Our success will produce a strong-minded leader with the ability to stand strong in today’s demanding environment.



Annually, we give away hundreds of backpacks,
and school supplies to children in need.



Our Commitment to keeping our Paradise Litter Free!
Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful by Adopting a Highway in honor of
Mrs. Carolyn House Stewart
our 28th International President,





GAMMA THETA OMEGA, INCORPORATED
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GAMMA THETA OMEGA
CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY,
INCORPORATED

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE
"BECAUSE I MATTER" YOUTH FORUM

SESSION 3



Saturday, March 15th, 2021

3:00-5:00pm

THE FINAL FORUM SESSION
WILL BE HELD VIA THE HOPIN
VIRTUAL PLATFORM.

**Hillsborough
County Florida**



YOUTH FORUM

- “Because I Matter Youth Forum” (January 30th, March 15th and May 15th at 3:00 pm)
- Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83272143803>

**ALL YOUTH ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE AN EDUCATIONAL
GIFT PACKAGE.**



Our Scholarship Programs





ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

For the 2021-2022 school year 12 Scholarships of a one-time award of \$2,500 will be issued to select qualified students through their college or university with proof of enrollment and full-time status.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ✓ Must be accepted to a 4-year accredited institution
- ✓ Must Complete a minimum 500-word essay
- ✓ Must be a resident of Hillsborough County
- ✓ Need based, must submit proof of income
- ✓ Minimum grade point average 2.5 (Transcript Required)
- ✓ Community Service and /or Extracurricular Activities
- ✓ SAT/ACT test scores required

APPLICATION PROCESS

OUR ASK!

**We would like to be a Community Partner in the Romeyard project and receive office and meeting space to host our programs and business meetings.
Gamma Theta Omega Incorporated is a 501-c3 Corporation**

Thank you for your consideration!