

Ybor CRA/YCDC Inc. Board and Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
 March 28, 2023, at 4 p.m.

Attendees		City Staff	
Steve Barbas, Chair	Liz Welch, Vice Chair	Courtney Orr	Captain Alex Thiel
Rich Simmons, Secretary	Chip Williams, Treasurer	Corine Linebrink	Officer Brandon Cain
Fran Costantino	Brittney Barrie	Brenda Thrower	Officer Jasmine House
David Bailey	Claire Fenlon May	Malcolm Clark	Officer Victor Vasquez
Walter Pinillos	Michael Murphy	Darius Stallworth	Jeralyn Lavender
Marcia Austin	Tee Ann Bailey		
Damon Shiver	Chris Vela	Guests	
Chris Wojtowicz	Meredith Berwick	Lee Bell	Clayton Ratledge
Arnold Trueba	Casey Gonzmart	Emilia Kalogiannis	Bennie Herring

Excused

Aislinn Stone
 Josh Frank
 Ken Jones
 Cristal Lastra
 Larissa Baia

Absent

Armando Edmiston

Steve Barbas, YCDC Chair, called the March 28, 2023, **YCDC Board of Directors’ Meeting** to order at 4:03 p.m. as an in-person/call-in meeting. Roundtable introductions were made.

Public Comment: None

YCDC Minutes of February 28, 2023: The minutes were offered for review by Rich Simmons. Barbas asked for comments on the minutes. ***There was a motion (Welch/May) to approve the February 28, 2023, YCDC minutes. Vote unanimously approved.***

YCDC Inc. Treasurer’s Report for February 2023: Chip Williams provided the Treasurer’s report for the month of February and a report was included in the packet. Barbas asked the Board if there were any comments or corrections. Hearing none he entertained a motion to approve. ***There was a motion (Simmons/Welch) to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Vote unanimously approved.***

990 Engagement Letter: Barbas reported that we found an accountant that specializes in auditing and tax prep for non-profit organizations. Its Bob Walker with King and Walker CPAs and his engagement letter is included in the packet. The estimated cost is \$750, which is half the cost of former accounting firm, Clifton Larson. ***There***

was a motion (Wojtowicz/Welch) to approve the engagement letter from Bob Walker, King and Walker CPA, to handle annual tax services for YCDC Inc. Vote unanimously approved.

Special Services District Discussion: Vice-chair Liz Welch reported on the outcomes of the first Ad Hoc Special Services District (SSD) meeting of YCDC Inc. that took place on March 13, 2023. The minutes were attached. The group discussed the process to establish an SSD and what boundaries it would entail. She shared a marked-up map but does not have a polished map with different boundary options yet. She went through a PowerPoint presentation with a flow chart. She recapped the phased steps needed to complete the final approval of the SSD. At this point, they have completed phase 1, exploratory committee phase. Now they are moving forward to Phase 2, which entails finalizing the map and creating a communications plan, one of the most important components in the approval process. Costantino asked why the proposed eastern boundary is 30th Street since its outside the CRA and historic district boundaries. Welch said that 30th Street was a line drawn in the sand. Williams elaborated that the 30th Street Connector is also a significant boundary. Simmons asked about initial startup funds to establish the SSD before the tax funds are received. How are we funding consultant services to help get established? Barbas said that his son-in-law is a land use attorney, and he thinks a consultant would cost around \$100K. The firm Kutak Rock specializes in establishing SSD's and the preferred firm to engage. Welch shared the recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee to continue to move forward.

There was a motion to approve their Ad Hoc Committee recommendation to move forward to establish a YCDC Inc. Special Services District, which will include attorney costs, consultant fees, etc. Wojtowicz amended motion to add "with any budget requests to be approved by the YCDC Inc. Board at a separate time." (Wojtowicz/Murphy). Vote was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

The Ybor CRA Community Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m. as an in-person/call-in meeting by Barbas.

PUBLIC COMMENT: See YCDC Inc. comments.

TPD District 3 Stats Grids 128 and 129 Update: Cpt. Alex Thiel addressed the CAC and presented the crime stats that were handed out to the committee. His biggest concern now is larceny, which is up. He mentioned last year's cell phone thefts and that activity is back. These crimes are difficult to solve and take place within private establishments. A public relations awareness campaign is going out to caution the public about this activity. He also mentioned a shooting that took place that involved a bouncer from one of the bars. They are actively working on this case. He said Officer Brandon Cain will be out for one week so if there are any issues during his absence, please report to non-emergency number.

TPD Business Liaison: Officer Brandon Cain was not present.

TPD Homeless Liaison Updates: Officer House reported on 10th Avenue homeless encampment that was reported last month. They trespassed the individuals and broke up the encampment. They continue to do sweeps up Nebraska Avenue regularly. She and Officer Vasquez dedicate one day a week to address solicitation, panhandling, and to target hot spots identified through complaints. She knows about Relevant Church and the feeding of the homeless on 16th Street. This activity is allowed on private property but not when there is blocking of the sidewalk and right of way. Officer House gave other examples in the city where these feedings

are taking place like St. Andrews Church in downtown and Trinity Café on Nebraska. Wright is concerned and said videos are being circulated and 16th Street is a major pedestrian pathway to 7th Avenue Ybor City. He suggested meeting with the property owner before this escalates. House said they advised the owners about other resources for food to try to deter this activity. Linebrink will help set up a meeting with Officer House, Officer Cain, and CAC members to discuss and find a better solution. House also mentioned upcoming homeless outreach efforts and the next one is scheduled for Sacred Heart Church on Florida Avenue. Wojtowicz asked about the coordination between her office and the new YES Team contractor, Block By Block and she said they have exchanged contact information.

February Ybor YES! Team Stats: Clayton Ratledge, Block By Block Regional Manager, presented the latest stats on the homeless interactions and district cleaning. A report was circulated, and he walked through the stats. The Ambassadors are focusing their patrol on the core area of Ybor (7th Avenue) where most of the homeless activity takes place. The Clean Team stats showed an increase in cleaning and landscaping services in the district. Part of the increase is due to the number of special events that have taken place. Costantino said she forwarded a picture of the YES Team taking a break and playing basketball on the courts in East Ybor Park. She was happy to see this. Bailey noticed passive panhandling was up. Wright mentioned a recent request from a visitor to call a taxi and the team member did not assist. Several compliments were made from Board members about the Team's hard work and hospitality.

Ybor CAC Chairman's Report:

- **City Council Motion: Ybor Parking Lots Subcommittee Meeting Results:** Barbas recapped Councilwoman Hurtak's prior motion to improve security in the Ybor parking lots. Wojtowicz recapped two public meetings that took place regarding this issue where the parking lot operators were present. The discussion focused on the personnel in the lots and the presence (or lack of visible) attendants in the parking lots per the code. Since the residents and lot operators weren't in agreement on the direction, another meeting will need to be set.
- **CRA Motion: Cuban Club Improvements:** Barbas reported on a meeting with Patrick Mantiaga, President of the Cuban Club, to find out what assistance he needs at the Cuban Club. This meeting was coordinated to follow up on a motion made by Councilman Bill Carlson. Manteiga identified several needs the Cuban Club would like addressed that include sidewalk improvements, statue and fence painting, better lighting along Palm Avenue, and a designated ADA parking spot on Avenida Republica de Cuba. Costantino said that we are not an ATM machine. Barbas thinks there is confusion with CRA Board about where they think the CRA has funds coming out of the bank. The group questioned staff if Carlson could be invited to a future meeting to discuss the process usually followed explain available funding through existing programs.
- **Streetcar Discussion with Mobility:** Barbas recapped a recent meeting with Mobility Department and there are plans to shift from streetcar to rubber tire trolley due to rising insurance costs. Orr said there is a presentation is scheduled on April 13 at CRA Board by the consultant to share these plans. The recommendation we aren't certain of currently.
- **Public Safety and District Operations Co-Chair Position Open:** With Jose Cayon coming off the Board, there is a vacancy with this committee.

Manager's Report

- **Additional CRA and City Council Action Items (see backside)**

- **FY24 Budget Planning:** A draft FY24 Budget was circulated to the committees and today for review and comment. She plans to meet with the officers on April 18. She highlighted some of the changes taking place with several line items. Special events co-sponsorship grant program is not funded since it's not eligible under the 2019 legislative changes. There are two CIP projects identified but not funded yet – 7th Avenue Bricking and Centennial Park Reimagined. There was a 30% affordable housing allocation earmarked for FY24. The Archway Light Project funding (\$969K) can be re-appropriated to another line item since that payment has been stretched out for 20 years. There was discussion about reallocating to the 7th Avenue bricking project and Centennial Park. Barrie thinks we need more discussion and information before allocating funding to these projects. Plus, the group wanted to learn the CRA Board's feedback after the April 13 CRA meeting consultant presentation. Orr said that the bricking project was discussed at the committee and CAC with options 1 and 6 being preferred. Williams asked if allocating some funds in FY24 will help solidify that project line. Wright said we need to ensure we have additional code enforcement and Barrie mentioned safety.
- **Centennial Park Reimagined Master Plan Update:** The committee meeting to short list the responding design firms was postponed until next Tuesday, April 4. Once the committee meets, they will schedule interviews with potential firms and request presentations.
- **7th Avenue Archway Lights Project Completion and Ribbon Cutting:** The date is set for Wednesday, April 19 at 11 a.m. at Centro Ybor.
- **7th Avenue Bricking Cost Feasibility Study CRA Presentation:** The consultant will be making a presentation to CRA Board on Thursday, April 13 at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers.
- **Historical Marker & Mural Dedication Honoring the 1937 Antifascist Women's March:** There will be a marker unveiling and mural dedication on Thursday, March 30 at 10:30 a.m., at the Ybor CRA Office. Sarah McNamara, author and historian, and Michelle Sawyer, the mural artist, will be making comments. A historic talk is planned that same evening at the Cuban Club.

Committee Reports:

Economic Growth and Mobility Committee – March 14, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. Welch was absent, so Wojtowicz gave report and summarized the highlights in the minutes.

Community Preservation and Sustainability Committee – March 21, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. Wojtowicz recapped meeting and the discussion about creating more retail spaces. Stephanie Bailey will be presenting a micro retail approach at the next meeting in May.

Public Safety and District Operations Committee – March 23 at 3:30 p.m. Bailey mentioned the co-chair position is open and to reach out if interested. Mobility provided an update on district lighting provided by Jan Washington. Public safety was discussed. Barbas cautioned the committee to not say that TPD reports are inaccurate. Wright said that some incidents/crimes are not being reported by TPD.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Next Ybor CAC/YCDC Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 4 p.m.