

**Ybor CRA/YCDC Inc. Board and Community Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Notes**

August 22, 2023, at 4 p.m.

Attendees		City Staff	
Steve Barbas, Chair	Liz Welch, Vice-chair	Courtney Orr	Erica Moody
Rich Simmons, Secretary	Chip Williams, Treasurer	Corine Linebrink	Brenda Thrower
Chris Wojtowicz	Casey Gonzmart	Off. Jasmine House	TPD Ybor Officer James Wilcher
David Bailey	Arnold Trueba	Off. Dariel Perez	TPD Det. Andrew Washington
Cristal Lastra	Michael Murphy	Eric Cotton	Darrius Stallworth
Marcia Austin	Tee Ann Bailey		
Peter Wright	Armando Edmiston	Guests	
Chris Wojtowicz	Chris Vela	Jack Smith	Jason Stewart
Walter Pinnolis		Nicole Alfonso	Lee Bell
		Ed Austin	Stephanie Harrison-Bailey
		Jennifer Epps	Caitlin Kechbach

**Excused**

- Josh Frank
- Meredith Berwick
- Fran Costantino
- Ken Jones
- Brittney Barrie

**Unexcused**

Steve Barbas, YCDC Chair, called the August 22, 2023, **YCDC Board of Directors’ Meeting** to order at 4 p.m. as an in-person/call-in meeting. Roundtable introductions were made.

**Public Comment:** None

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

**YCDC Inc. Treasurer’s Report for July 2023:** Chip Williams provided the Treasurer’s report for the month of July 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/Murphy) to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Vote unanimously approved.***

**Special Services District Initiative Update:** Vice-chair Liz Welch updated the Board on the progress of the Special Services District (SSD) since the last meeting:

- Joyce Lucas, YCDC Inc. assistant, has moved to Simmon’s office where she will continue to handle the Ybor paver program. YCDC Inc. files were relocated to that office as well.
- The YCDC Inc. Bylaws need to be amended and revisions were made for the Board to review and approve. These include removing the City of Tampa and replacing it with Ybor City SSD. She asked Courtney to distribute them to the Board and we can vote on them next month.
- Welch passed out a plan that shows where they are with SSD initiation activities. Welch and Barbas scheduled meetings on 9/5 and 9/6 with Tampa City Council to request their support for a required *Statement of No Objection*. They also will meet with the Mayor and Hillsborough County Commissioners.

So far, the response to creating an SSD has been very positive and have clarification questions that Welch is working on answers to provide.

- SSD community informational meetings will be scheduled. The first meeting will be with industrial property owners on 9/7 and hosted by JC Newman. More communication meetings to follow.
- Legal description – 80% is complete. She met with Tampa Downtown Partnership, which shared their legal description for Ybor when they were pursuing their extension.
- The Hillsborough Legislative Delegation meets on September 12. Welch will present to them the local bill. Session starts January and could be approved by or in June.
- There needs to be an interim board appointed to serve prior to the SSD election. This Board will consist of nine Ybor CAC members and they will be listed by name in the bill.
- The financial committee will meet 8/23 at 1 p.m. at the Entrepreneur Collaborative Center.

Meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

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The Ybor CRA Community Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. as an in-person/call-in meeting by Barbas. Cristal Lastra introduced herself since she arrived late.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**Ybor CAC Minutes of July 2023:** The minutes were offered for review by Simmons. Barbas asked for comments on the minutes. ***There was a motion (Murphy/Wojtowicz) to approve the July 2023, Ybor CAC minutes with that correction. Vote unanimously approved.***

**TPD District 3 Stats Grids 128 and 129 Update:** TPD Officer Wilcher reported on the TPD stats that were distributed in the agenda packet. He said that larceny is up with pick pocketing continuing to occur in the district particularly at the clubs.

**TPD Homeless Liaison Updates:** Officer Perez gave the Homeless Liaison report. They continue to work with Officer Wilcher and the YES team on addressing the homeless. They have been trespassing individuals that are camping on private property and panhandlers up on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets. Williams asked if they have seen a downtick in homeless on the streets if anything differently has been happening with their approach. He said that things seem better and there is less homeless sleeping in the doorways in the mornings. Officer House said there has been more consistent enforcement in the area and good coordination taking place. Wright praised the team stating that he has seen a difference. He asked about why traffic stops and arrests are down. Officer Wilcher said that TPD calls for service are up citywide so there is limited manpower to make arrests. Wright asked about who the nighttime officer is and Wilcher said Officer Rodriguez. Wright is impressed with the new Police Captain and knows he has been out and about in the district observing. The district still needs patrol between day and night shifts but overall good job. Bailey inquired about the traffic speeding monitoring taking place in the neighborhood. Officer Wilcher said they are monitoring it and will move it around. Wright also mentioned the code violations on the street with illegal alcoholic beverage sales and Barbas asked Orr if we could ask Code Enforcement to respond.

**Ybor Parking Lots Operator Letter and Next Steps –** CRA Director Erica Moody greeted the Board and introduced Eric Cotton to cover the technical details. He mentioned that Zoning is looking at requiring Florida Licensed Security Guards to patrol the private lots. He mentioned that 30 letters were sent out to the Ybor parking lot operators on 8/15. There will be a workshop offered on 8/30 @ 2 p.m. offered to educate parking lot

operators on code rules prior to stepping up enforcement on 10/1. Wright asked why hold a workshop? They should know the rules and should be complying. The decision to offer a workshop was made by the City Administration (Nicole Travis and Abbye Feeley). Moody listed the new requirements for security guards. There were several questions about code enforcement, the revamped regulations, and the details of the letter. Orr said that to increase our two evenings a month enhanced code enforcement coverage we will need to reprogram approximately \$20K. Wojtowicz said that we need assurances from Code Enforcement, if they can enforce the new rules before we recommend funding it.

**YES! Team Report:** Jason Stewart, Block by Block Manager, gave a report on the YES Team operation. He provided a detailed report for the Board packet showing their activity since last month. Scooters were discussed since there are so many around Ybor.

**Ybor CAC Chairman's Report:** Barbas recapped the CRA Board meeting discussion last Thursday. The CRA Board motioned to amend the CAC policy presented by staff to accommodate up to 20 CAC members, from the recommended 15, along with the two emeritus members. Councilman Carlson reached out to him for his feedback on the staff recommendation and Barbas replied in a memo. Alis Drumgo, the City's Deputy Administrator for Economic Opportunity, also reached out to him to explain the City's position. Barbas felt that 20 CAC members would be preferred and to allow the two emeritus members serve until they no longer are active. Councilman Carlson shared Barbas' memo at the CRA meeting. After discussion, a motion was made to amend the CAC policy accordingly and it was approved 4-3 with Hurtak, Clendenin and Henderson voting no.

**Manager's Report:** Courtney Orr

- **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) policy revisions:** The YCDC Inc. is a separate entity and the Ybor CAC falls in line with the revised City's CAC Policy. Orr explained the City's process with soliciting new CAC members and that applications will be provided to the City Clerk's Office. There were questions about the meetings and if they would be held together as they are now or be separate? Orr replied that they would be together until the SSD is in place. Murphy asked about the recent applications sent in for YCDC Inc. and will all be considered? Barbas said he would like to see everyone who applied be allowed to serve on the Board. He also mentioned that there is now a CAC Policy in place that if a member misses three meetings, they are removed from the CAC. The intent is to require a strong level of participation. Welch asked about the funding allocation among three CRAs for the offices. Director Moody explained the reorganization and the change from a district-focused to function/skill set-focus.
  - **Ybor Office** - Grants and Programs Team
  - **East Tampa Office** – Managers/Outreach Team
  - **Downtown Office** – CRA Director, Project Coordinators, and Communications Team
- **Ybor Resident and Worker Study Closed:** Orr reported that the survey is complete with approximately 600 responses received. HCP Associates, our marketing consultant, is conducting the data analysis and will share the results in an upcoming meeting.
- **Former 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Archway Lights Auctions:** The online auction is complete and five happy winners of the lots were notified. They will be picking up their archway light batches this week.

- **Centennial Park Reimagined Master Plan Consultant !Melk & Next Steps:** Negotiations continue with Contract Administration, our office and !melk to address increased costs with the scope of work and the deliverables. Melk is expected to respond to the City’s Contract Administration with a revised proposal.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bricking Project Update:** Orr gave project update. Welch mentioned that there is a developer doing a project facing 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and discovered that there is brick underneath the asphalt. He is willing to help restore the brick street but would like financial assistance from the CRA to remove and clean the brick, which is approximately \$300K. If not, he will repave the street as it was before. There was board discussion about assisting developers with projects like this and what policies are in place for public private partnerships. ***There was a motion (Williams/Wojtowicz) to contact City Legal Department on how a program would work for a Public Private Partnership when special requests are made by private developers. Vela offered a friendly amendment, accepted by Williams to investigate any infrastructure grants available within the City of Tampa (i.e., Mobility). Vote was unanimously approved.***
- **Pipe Drainage and Flood Mitigation Study:** This study is gearing up and we will keep you posted.
- **New Business/Announcements**
  - **Tie the Knot Ybor** – Cristal Lastra announced this event is taking place on Thursday 8/24 and encouraged everyone to attend. Several historic clubs and venues are participating and staging wedding ceremony and reception set ups in their spaces.
  - **Hotel Haya Art Show** – Peter Wright announced an art show taking place this Saturday, 8/26 at the hotel and its free to attend.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.**

**Next Ybor CAC/YCDC Monthly Meeting** Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 4 p.m.