

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

**Meeting Notes**

July 25, 2023, at 4 p.m.

Attendees		City Staff	
Steve Barbas, Chair	Liz Welch, Vice-chair	Courtney Orr	Brenda Thrower
Rich Simmons, Secretary	Chip Williams, Treasurer	Corine Linebrink	Darrius Stallworth
Fran Costantino	Casey Gonzmart	Brenda Thrower	Officer Jimmy Wilcher
David Bailey	Claire Fenlon May	CT Harris	Captain Alex Thiel
Brittney Barrie	Michael Murphy	Officer Vasquez	Officer House
Marcia Austin	Tee Ann Bailey		
Peter Wright	Joshua Frank	Guests	
Chris Wojtowicz	Meredith Berwick	Sean Coniglio	Clayton Ratledge
		Dominik Coniglio	Lee Bell
		Olivia Aye	Jimmy Adcock

**Excused**

Arnold Trueba  
 Tee Ann Bailey  
 Cristal Lastra  
 Ken Jones  
 Armando Edmiston  
 Larissa Baia  
 Chris Vela

**Unexcused**

Walter Pinillos

Steve Barbas, YCDC Chair, called the July 25, 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 June 2023:** The minutes were offered for review by Rich Simmons. Barbas asked for comments on the minutes. ***There was a motion (Murphy/Welch) to approve the June 27, 2023, YCDC minutes. Vote unanimously approved.***

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

**Special Services District Initiative Update and Funding Request:** Vice-chair Liz Welch updated the Board on the progress of the Special Services District (SSD). Since the last meeting, she had several meetings and made progress on the establishment of the SSD. They have established a Board for the SSD with nine members, six elected and three appointed. Welch said she will not hold one of the seats. She also announced that she is the anonymous donor that is helping to fund the SSD’s startup costs and wanted to disclose it since there are questions circulating about the identity of person. Darryl Shaw has been approached and asked if he is the anonymous donor. She talked to him and told him she would disclose the donor’s identity to the Board today and call him after the meeting. She thinks it's important to be transparent about this now. The reason she is making this commitment is because she feels it is the right thing to do. She asked the Board to consider remaking the motion from last month for the \$7,500 YCDC Inc. support so that her name is not associated with

it. Several board members commended Welch on her dedication and thanked her for her generous support of the effort.

***There was a motion (Wojtowicz/Murphy) for the YCDC Inc. to approve \$7,500 to assist the creation of the SSD with this money being repaid as a loan once the SSD is created. Vote was unanimously approved***

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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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: None**

**Ybor CAC Minutes of June 2023:** The minutes were offered for review by Simmons. Barbas asked for comments on the minutes. Murphy added one correction under public comment stating Justin’s last name is Peters. ***There was a motion (Murphy/Welch) to approve the June 27, 2023, Ybor CAC minutes with that correction. Vote unanimously approved.***

**TPD District 3 Stats Grids 128 and 129 Update:** Captain Thiel reported on the TPD stats that were distributed in the agenda packet. He commented on the ongoing problem with cell phone thefts in the district. In addition, car thefts are a problem. He encouraged people to lock their car doors and to please not keep the key fob in their car. Captain Thiel announced that he was promoted to Major and will be overseeing District 1. This change is already in effect and does not know who the new Captain for D3 will be yet. He said he has enjoyed his time working in D3 and Ybor City and has learned a lot. The Board thanked him and wished him well in his new role.

Officer Jimmy Wilcher also addressed the CAC. He is the new Ybor City TPD Liaison officer and has been actively working with the Homeless Liaison Officers and YES Team to better conditions in Ybor City. He gave his cell phone out but encouraged the community to report crimes to TPD Dispatch as well so the incident can be documented. Its important for reporting purposes.

**TPD Homeless Liaison Updates:** Officer Vasquez gave the Homeless Liaison report, and they are regularly working with Officer Wilcher and the YES Team on homeless issues. They are addressing homeless encampments and hot spots like the laundromat at 34<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Things are improving in Ybor City and there are less homeless on the street.

**TECO Pole Replacement Project** – TECO representative, Jimmy Adcock, introduced himself and reported on the upcoming pole replacement project that will be underway starting from Hooker’s Point through Ybor City via 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Palm Avenue. Twenty-one poles will be replaced along that corridor with tree trimming starting in September and poll replacement in October. Community information meetings are planned to take place in late August at the Cuban Club. Simmons asked if Adcock had spoken to the City’s Historic Preservation Manager, Dennis Fernandez, and he confirmed yes. He will share the community meeting information with Courtney Orr when meetings are confirmed. He entertained any questions and there were none.

**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. He was pleased to

report that the homeless numbers are down due to the strong coordination with TPD Officer Wilcher and the Homeless Liaison Officers. He entertained any questions and there were none.

**Ybor CAC Chairman's Report:** CRA Board meeting recap - Barbas recapped the CRA Board meeting that took place last Thursday, July 20. Overall, the meeting went well, and he provided a thorough report on the Ybor CRA activities. There were lots of kudos and compliments exchanged. He is glad to see that Ybor City CAC was able to influence some changes with the additional six-month extension of the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue office lease and the one-year renewal of the HCP marketing contract. However, there are still unresolved issues pending like the committee cancelations and Ybor City parking lot issue. He asked about where is the letter that was supposed to be issued to the parking lot operators? Bailey replied and said no progress has been made with City's Land Development department sending out those letters. Following Board discussion, a motion was made. ***There was a motion (Bailey/Frank) to request an update from Abbye Feeley about the Ybor City parking lot letters to the owners. Vote was unanimously approved.***

**Future Land Use Assessment Information Meetings** - He announced the flyer in the packet.

**Manager's Report:** Courtney Orr

- **Centennial Park Reimagined Master Plan Consultant !Melk & Next Steps:** Orr was hoping to have a report today but has not heard back from contract administration about contract commencement. The contract stipulates the consultant to present three designs and then the community selects the final design.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bricking** - The funding allocation was approved from Ybor CRA 1 and 2 budgets in the amount of \$1.2 million total. This funding can complete Phase 1 of the project which is 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Streets on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- **Resident and Worker Survey:** The survey has been sent out and we are just shy of 300 responses from residents and workers which was the goal. Today, we have responses from 293 residents and 210 workers. She thanked the Ybor Chamber for helping to push the survey out. She encouraged CAC members to continue distributing the survey through their distribution channels. The deadline is in one week away.
- **Office Staff Moves** – Orr announced that she and the other CRA managers will be moving to the East Tampa CRA office in August. The Ybor Office will house the economic development team members with up to five members moving here. As you can see, the office is being reconfigured with office spaces to accommodate the new staff. Ybor CAC meetings will continue to take place in this office once a month.
- **Alignment with CAC Policy** - Tampa CRA Board passed a motion on Thursday, July 20 to change the CAC Policy so that all eight CACs are consistent. This change would establish the Ybor CAC independent of the Ybor City Development Corporation Inc. Board and East Tampa CAC independent of the East Tampa Revitalization Partnership. She was told that 15 members would comprise the Ybor CAC. Interested CAC members would submit applications to the Clerk's office moving forward and CRA Board would select the members. There were lots of questions about this new model and what did it mean for the nomination process. They wanted to know if there would be recommendations entertained by the YCDC Inc. on applications received? Orr explained that she would report back to CRA Director Erica Moody on

comments and suggestions expressed by the Ybor CAC today. Wojtowicz expressed concern about losing the Ybor organizational “seats” and that we should recommend maintaining these representations in the new policy. He listed several ex-officio seats.

- **Ybor City CAC Applications Received** - Orr said we have only received three applications for the Ybor CAC to date. With the new CAC policy, she thought we could probably get to the 15 CAC members through natural attrition.
- **New Business/Announcements**
  - **YCCC Gala** - The 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Archway Lights and Streetscape Project is being recognized at the Ybor Chamber Gala. There was discussion about securing a table or two at the event for YCDC/Ybor CAC.
- **Future Land Use Assessment**– Fran Costantino stressed how important this meeting is because it will guide development in the Ybor City. Josh Frank agreed and elaborated on it mentioning ADU allowance.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:27 p.m.**

**Next Ybor CAC/YCDC Monthly Meeting** Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 4 p.m.