

Ybor CRA/YCDC Inc. Board and Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

May 23, 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		Brenda Thrower	Offc. Jasmine House
David Bailey	Claire Fenlon May	Jerylynn Lavendar	
Walter Pinillos	Michael Murphy		
Marcia Austin (phone)	Tee Ann Bailey		
Damon Shiver	Joshua Frank	Guests	
Chris Wojtowicz	Casey Gonzmart	Sean Coniglio (phone)	Clayton Ratledge
Armando Edmiston	Ken Jones	Nicky McCarthy	Jason Stewart
Brittney Barrie (phone)	Meredith Berwick	Joe Citro	Matt Savron

Excused

Chris Vela
 Cristal Lastra
 Arnold Trueba
 Peter Wright
 Larissa Baia

Unexcused

Aislinn Stone

Steve Barbas, YCDC Chair, called the May 23, 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 April 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 April 25, 2023, YCDC minutes. Vote unanimously approved.***

YCDC Inc. Treasurer’s Report for April 2023: Chip Williams provided the Treasurer’s report for the month of April 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.***

Special Services District Initiative Update: Vice-chair Liz Welch updated the Board on the progress of the Special Services District (SSD) and shared that the political climate in Tallahassee is not conducive for proceeding with an SSD at this time. She met with legislative representatives and was told that it will be a struggle to create a new SSD for approval this year. The political climate is not good right now and there is a lot of litigation with the Governor’s office. She recommended that we put things on hold and wait until next year. She also learned that all SSD’s are being looked at and evaluated and we should wait until this takes place before we move forward. She said we also need to watch what happens with the changes taking place with the CRA office reorganization. Barbas asked if YCDC Inc. Board would be able to meet at a location where the new office will be or will they have to find another location. Orr said that Welch already started meeting offsite for the SSD at the

Entrepreneur Community Center. Welch will continue to monitor the political climate and report back to the Board when the time is right to resume efforts to create an SSD. Costantino said that she received the memo from Nicole Travis about discontinuing subcommittee meetings and replied to her about her disappointment and told her about the numerous hours committee members have volunteered to assist the CRA. She recommended that all CAC members write an email or letter to the CRA Board about this disappointing decision. Wojtowicz said that there are some basic items that we can address to start transitioning the YCDC Inc. from the CAC. There is issue of the ownership of the Ybor Crest Logo, the online presence with the website and social media, revising the bylaws in preparation of the SSD. Barbas agreed with Wojtowicz that we can use this time to accomplish these tasks. Jones commented that there is always a reason to not do something due to politics. However, he mentioned that the incoming Chair of the Appropriations Committee is from Tampa and recommended to start meeting with him and others now to get their buy-in for the SSD. He said to find advocates now to get it approved next year.

There was a motion (Wojtowicz/Murphy) for the YCDC Inc. to establish a subcommittee to work on housekeeping items while we pause the effort to form a Special Services District. Vote was unanimously approved. There was discussion about several YCDC Inc. housekeeping items such as updating the Bylaws, YCDC website, brand, and social media presence. Welch asked if this is a new committee? Wojtowicz said it's more of a modification of the committee. Williams asked about the structure of the board and what changes are needed. Wojtowicz said the composition and number of board members should probably be less. These things would need to be worked out.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 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: None

Ybor CAC Minutes of April 2023: The minutes were offered for review by Simmons. Barbas asked for comments on the minutes. ***There was a motion (Welch/Murphy) to approve the April 25, 2023, YCDC minutes. Vote unanimously approved.***

TPD District 3 Stats Grids 128 and 129 Update: No TPD representative present. The stats were included in the packet under the Public Safety Committee report.

TPD Homeless Liaison Updates: Officer House reported that the Tampa HOPE facility is full. Also, she shared that she is now assigned to operate in District 3 only, not citywide as before. She has been focusing her efforts on addressing the encampments and feedings. She told the group to contact her on homeless issues.

YES! Team Report: Clayton Ratledge, Block by Block Regional Manager, reported on the current staff management for the YES Team. Jason Stewart, new manager, was in training last week so the Ybor City team had support from the operation manager from Jacksonville that shared operational best practices to help Ybor. Shiver asked about the homeless engagements and how that has been going. He mentioned that they have been monitoring the homeless situations and increasing engagements and welfare checks. There is a better coordination effort with the TPD homeless liaison.

Ybor CAC Chairman's Report: Barbas reported on the following:

- **CAC Subcommittee Discontinuation:** Barbas announced that he is meeting with Administrator Nicole Travis tomorrow for lunch and will recap the Board's discussion today. He did invite Councilman Luis Viera to attend today's CAC meeting, but he was told by Legal through Ms. Travis that he should not attend due to sunshine law. Barbas asked Joseph Citro his opinion about what is going on with this steady erosion of the Ybor CAC's with taking away our logo/brand identity, elimination of the subcommittee meetings, loss of Ybor office space, etc. Citro said that this is not the only CAC that is upset about what is happening with their CRAs. East Tampa and West Tampa are very upset too. He knows that there are people on Tampa City Council/Tampa CRA Board that would like to eradicate CRA's all together. He doesn't know what is going on either. He feels that "community" has been taken out of the CRA. He told members to attend the next CRA Board meeting to express their concerns. Welch thinks that CRA administration is pushing this centralized model. Because CRA Board has issues in one CRA, they are penalizing Ybor and aligning the masses to address isolated problems. Welch said she watches CRA Board meetings and notice Travis and Drumgo delivering a plan with little to no push back from the Tampa CRA Board. Barbas is aware that each CRA Board member was contacted and told that this plan will make operations more efficient, but they could revert their decision. Welch questioned efficient for who? Bailey pointed out that the reason we (YCDC/Ybor CAC) do not go down to CRA Board to complain is because our CRA is doing well. Barbas announced that the next CRA Board meetings this month are June 8, 2023 (Board retreat) and then Housing Workshops on June 13.

Manager's Report: Courtney Orr

- **Centennial Park Reimagined Master Plan Consultant Interviews:** Six firms responded to the Request for Qualification, and all were interviewed on May 11 by the City's CCNA Committee. The Committee ranked their top choice firm as !Melk Landscape Architecture & Urban Design. The firm is from New York City and has designed award winning projects in cities all over the world.

- **Ybor City CAC Board Nomination, Election Process and Ending Terms**

Orr mentioned that the following board member seats will be available and asked the board to consider folks for these seats and get them to apply.

- i. Professional Office (Edmiston); Two At-large (Frank, Vela); Entertainment/Events (May); Retail/Arts (Jones); Bar (Williams); and Multifamily Residential (Tee Bailey)

The following volunteers would like to serve on the Nominating Committee: Liz Welch, Michael Murphy, Rich Simmons, Steve Barbas, Chip Williams, Marcia Austin, and Meredith Berwick. Murphy asked about changing an At-large seat to an arts seat. A meeting will be set up this summer to evaluate applications.

- **Reallocations Request:** Archways Light Project CRA 1 and 2 to 7th Avenue Bricking, July 20 CRA

Replica and Reclaimed Mixture vs. Only Reclaimed - Orr said that we need a decision about replica verses both. Wojtowicz said that we should consider the most flexible decision so that we can complete the project. We all want more replica but just in case we cannot secure enough bricks, we will have the latitude to mix in some reclaimed brick. Williams said that is also a better strategy for keeping the costs of bricks down, so we are not held hostage. ***There was a motion (Wojtowicz/May) to fund the bricking***

project at the \$12 million level with reclaimed bricks and fill in with replica brick, if needed. Therefore, a mix of reclaimed bricks and replica bricks with as much reclaimed brick as possible. Vote was unanimously approved.

- **Ybor City CAC Housing Workshop:** A workshop will take place on Tuesday, June 13 at 2:30 p.m., at Seminole Garden Center (5800 N. Central Ave.). No virtual option. Barbas asked who was attending and Orr will send reminder and ask for RSVP's.

May Subcommittee Reports:

- **Economic Growth, Housing and Mobility Committee:** Chairs: Josh Frank & Liz Welch recapped the meeting.
- **Community Preservation and Sustainability Committee:** Chairs: Chris Wojtowicz & Michael Murphy
 - Wojtowicz reported that it was a good meeting and main highlight was the Bailey's presentation on Nimble Shops. The challenge is to offset the upfront infrastructure costs, which is about \$12k to help stage these spaces. To keep rents affordable, it would be great to partner with the CAC to help support this initiative through a grant program.
- **Public Safety and District Operations Committee:** Chair: David Bailey gave the report and summarized minutes. He could not speak to the TDP stats since they were not present. The Parking Department provided information about re-striping project and a parking study that was requested. Stormwater on 17th Street is being addressed, which will help the flooding in that area.
- **Parking Lot Operator Meeting:** Wojtowicz reported that City Zoning presented modified language for the code and there were not any major objections. Operators wanted to slow the process down, but the committee wanted to move forward now to address ongoing problems.

New Business/Announcements

- PRIDE month is June – Walter Pinillos announced that Pride is this month, and the Governor is trying to ban gatherings and activities.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Next Ybor CAC/YCDC Monthly Meeting Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 4 p.m.