

YCDC Inc. Board and Ybor Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Meeting Summary

September 26, 2023, at 4 p.m.

Attendees		City Staff	
Steve Barbas, Chair	Liz Welch, Vice-chair (call in)	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	Josh Frank	Off. Dariel Perez	TPD Det. Andrew Washington
Cristal Lastra	Michael Murphy	Darrius Stallworth	
Marcia Austin	Tee Ann Bailey		
Peter Wright	Armando Edmiston	Guests	
Chris Wojtowicz	Meredith Berwick	Jack Smith	Jason Stewart
Walter Pinnolis	Claire May	Sean Coniglio	Lee Bell
Fran Costantino	Brittney Barrie	Carisa Erion	Stephanie Harrison-Bailey
		Rochelle Alleyne	Anna Quinones
		East Ybor & Gary Residents- see list below	

Excused

Christopher Vela
Ken Jones
Arnold Trueba

Unexcused

East Ybor & Gary Residents: Andrea White; John & Nancy Desmond; Sydney Lewis -Picard; James Wilson; Lourdes Vinas; Annette Creary; Denise Sansar; Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes; Ken Ward; Lauren McFaul; Jose Cayon; and Mathew Saurron

Steve Barbas, YCDC Chair, called the September 26, 2023, **YCDC Board of Directors’ Meeting** to order at 4:05 p.m. as an in-person/call-in meeting. Roundtable introductions were made.

Public Comment (3 minutes): Several residents spoke during public comment and expressed their concerns about the proposed Special Services District as presented by YCDC Inc. Vice Chair, Liz Welch. They were all opposed to creating a special service district that would include East Ybor and Gary neighborhoods and did not know this proposal was moving forward until the community meeting at HCC. They were upset that they were not included in the discussions and do not think the SSD Board will be representative. Speakers included: Jose Cayon; Lourdes Vinas; Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes; James Wilson; Ken Ward; and Lauren McFaul. ABC Channel 28 was present and taped the meeting.

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

YCDC Inc. Treasurer’s Report for August 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 /May) to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Vote unanimously approved.***

Selmon Greenway Reconnecting Communities Planning Grant Presentation – Anna Quinones, THEA, presented a power point presentation on the improvements planned to the greenway trail under the Selmon Expressway and they are applying for a federal grant. They are requesting a letter of support from YCDC Inc. to include with their application. Barbas said a letter is included in the packet for Board consideration. He asked what other organizations are supporting this application and Quinones replied FDOT and the MPO. Frank commented about the project’s connectivity and recommended they coordinate with other projects and studies going on in the area. ***There was a motion (Simmons/Williams) to approve the YCDC Inc.’s letter of support for this project’s grant application. Vote was unanimously approved.***

Special Services District Initiative Update: Chair Steve Barbas recognized Vice-Chair Liz Welch who was participating remotely since she was out of town. Welch addressed the Board with an update stating that several community meetings were held along with meetings with City Council members about the SSD. As a result of feedback received from residents at the community meetings, Welch said that they decided to pause the SSD effort and reevaluate it. There was a question about how long the SSD will be paused and Welch said for a couple of years. Wright asked about the status of the money that was given towards the YCDC Inc. SSD effort in the amount of \$7,500. Barbas restated the question to Welch since she didn’t hear it at first. Welch said she will provide a financial report at the next meeting.

By Laws Revisions- Barbas said the latest update to the By Laws was included in the agenda packet and suggested that we establish a By Laws Committee to review and revise them. There are a lot of changes underway for YCDC Inc as it separates from the Ybor CAC and it’s a good time for the Board to participate in strategic planning to help define their purpose and mission. Barbas entertained a motion to create a Bylaws Committee. ***There was a motion (Simmons/Murphy) to appoint a By Laws Subcommittee to revise the bylaws and help create a strategic action plan. The vote was unanimously approved.*** Barbas solicited volunteers and the following members will serve: Steve Barbas; David Bailey; Liz Welch; Michael Murphy and Richard Simmons.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29p.m.

The Ybor CRA Community Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. as an in-person/call-in meeting by Barbas. Several new CAC arrivals were recognized to include Casey Gonzmart Jr; Larissa Baia; and Cristal Lastra.

Public Comment (3 minutes): Several individuals were in attendance to voice their concerns and opposition to the proposed Special Services District. Those individuals were Jose Cayon; Lourdes Vinas; Carolyn Cheatham Rhodes; Andrea White; Ms. Johnson (call-in); and Ken Ward.

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

TPD District 3 Stats Grids 128 and 129 Update: TPD Officer Wilcher reported on the TPD stats distributed in the agenda packet. He said larceny is up with pick pocketing continuing to occur in the district particularly at the clubs. Wright wanted to know if drug usage in the district was up. There were more marijuana arrests. Are there less traffic stops? There have been staff fluctuations and prevention strategies in play that reduce arrests. Two other officers were present. The A cycle evening shift officer commented on street closure policies and district operations. Bailey asked about the TPD Directory of Ybor officers and if that list can be circulated. He

asked about the 4th Avenue speeding issue and if TPD is monitoring it. Wilcher said he will report back. Frank mentioned statistics relating to car speed and fatalities and stated there is a need to reduce speed on that road.

TPD Parking Lot Calls for Service: Wright asked about the parking lot stats and why Hotel Haya's address was listed. Wilcher said it's probably an incident that took place in their parking lot. Overall, there have been more calls for service on private lots than public lots.

TPD Homeless Liaison Updates: Officer Perez reported on the homeless efforts. Officer House met with Tampa Hope and They have been focusing on hot spots on 22nd street.

YES! Team Report: Jason Stewart, Block by Block Manager, gave a report on the YES Team operation over the past month. He said that graffiti is up and there is tagging on private property. A question was raised about the process for getting property owners to remove stickers. These incidents can be reported to code enforcement and the owner will be notified and cited. YES Team can only handle incidents on the public rights of way. The storage container on the 1500 block next to the railway tracks has been removed. This area has been quite problematic with vagrants and drug users so removing the old storage pod has helped. YES Team cleaned the area but there were a few large business equipment items remaining that the owners eventually removed. Safety Ambassador contacts are up due to better awareness about the program. Simmons asked about welfare checks and Stewart explained that it's their effort to reach out to individuals who appear to be in need.

Ybor CAC Chairman's Report: Barbas deferred outgoing member thank you to the end of this meeting.

- **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) policy revisions:** Barbas explained the new City's process with soliciting new CAC members and that applications will now be sent to CRA Board for approval through the City Clerk's Office via the Manager and Director. There were questions about the meetings and if they would be held together as they are now or be separate? Orr replied that meetings were being held together until an SSD was in place. Currently, there are 5 applications for the Ybor CAC for CRA Board to consider.
- **Ybor CAC Chair and Vice Chair Vote-** A ballot was distributed to the CAC with a name for Chair and Vice Chair along with a write in option. Rich Simmons was nominated for Chair and Liz Welch was nominated for Vice Chair. Staff assisted the voting process. There were 19 ballots distributed to CAC members and all returned. The vote results were Chair Rich Simmons and Vice-Chair- Liz Welch. ***There was a motion (Williams/May) to accept the results of this vote with Chair Rich Simmons and Vice Chair Liz Welch. Vote passed 11-8 with 8 members (Austin, Berwick, D. Bailey, T. Bailey, Costantino, Wright, Frank, and Barrie) voting no.***
- **Upcoming Meeting Calendar-** The FY24 Ybor CAC meeting calendar was distributed. The next two meeting dates will be held on Tuesday, October 17 and Tuesday, November 28, both at 4 p.m.

Manager's Report: Courtney Orr

- **Staff Revisions:** Barbas announced that Courtney Orr has been asked to take over the role of the Downtown/Channel District/Heights/Central Park manager and Brenda Thrower was asked to assume the role of the Ybor City manager. Both were congratulated and have assumed working in these roles.

- **Centennial Park Reimagined Master Plan Consultant !Melk & Next Steps:** The consultant design plan cost has escalated to almost double so staff will be meeting with contract administration to go over options and consider rebidding this project out again.
- **7th Avenue Bricking Project Update:** Staff is working with contract administration and mobility to bid out this project. There is a supply of brick available to complete a two-block segment of 7th Avenue.
- **Pipe Drainage and Flood Mitigation Study:** A stormwater study is moving forward to assess the area in Ybor South between 15 to 17th street. Frank asked staff to advise TECO on this project to see if there is an opportunity in the future to bury the power lines in the neighborhood.
- **7th Avenue Archway Lights** - Ybor Chamber awarded the Ybor CRA and TECO the Business Impact Award for the 7th Avenue Archway Light Project at their Annual Gala on Saturday, September 23. Staff will bring the award to the next October meeting.
- **New Business/Announcements**
 - **David Bailey** – He wants to know about Code enforcement efforts for Ybor 2. Problems continue to plague the neighborhood and they need attention. He wants to ask for more code enforcement officers and is disappointed in their efforts to date. He would like to see Director Keith OConnor at these Ybor CAC meetings so they can get reports and have dialogue. ***There was a motion (Bailey/May) to ask Director Keith O'Connor, Code Enforcement to attend the next meeting. Vote was unanimous.***
 - **Ybor Viva-** Barbas announced this Museum Society's inaugural Viva event is planned for October 14 and flyers are available at front of the office.
 - **Hotel Haya Art Show** – Wright announced a special Art Show taking place this Saturday, 8/26 at the hotel and it's free to attend.
- **Outgoing CAC/YCDC Inc. Member Recognition:** Barbas recognized the following eight outgoing Board members: Tee Ann Bailey; Casey Gonzmart; Ken Jones; Claire Fenlon May; Christopher Vela; Joshua Frank, and Armando Edmiston. Each was presented with an appreciation plaque to thank them for their service to the YCDC and Ybor CAC. Incoming Chair Simmons presented a special appreciation plaque to Past Chair Steve Barbas, for his outstanding leadership and service to the YCDC/Ybor CAC for the past two years. In addition, a Walk of Fame Paver was engraved for Past Chair Barbas in front of the Ybor City State Museum in his honor and he was presented with a framed picture of the paver.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Next Ybor CAC/YCDC Monthly Meeting Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 4 p.m.