



**WEST TAMPA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary**

February 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Hillsborough Education Foundation, TECO Hall, 2306 N. Howard Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607

Meeting Called to Order by Joseph Robinson, CAC Chair at 5:32 p.m. Roll call was taken.

CAC Member	At-Large or Ex-Officio Seat	CAC Term Date	Present or Absent
Joseph Robinson, Chair	West Tampa Community Development Corp.	1/16/2027	P
Carlos Ramirez, Vice Chair	North Hyde Park Alliance	3/9/2025	P (v)
Michael Braccia	At Large	6/29/2025	P
Sandra Sanchez	At Large	6/29/2025	P
Janice Williams	At Large	6/29/2025	P
Bobby Wilson	Old West Tampa Neighborhood Association and Crimewatch	4/13/2025	P
Jeanette LaRussa Fenton	West Tampa Chamber of Commerce	9/12/2026	P
Cynthia Maloney	North Hyde Park Civic Association	9/15/2025	P
Delphine Jones	West Riverfront Crime Watch Group	1/16/2027	P
Tina Young	Project Link Inc.	1/16/2027	P
David Iloanya	Tampa Housing Authority	7/25/2026	P (v)
Vacant	Greater West Tampa Community Council		
Vacant	West Tampa Alliance		

Staff present: Brenda Thrower, Melisa Martinez, Chris Ullian.

Sign In Sheet: Andrea White

Public Comment: None

Approval of January 16, 2025, CAC Meeting Minutes – Chair Robinson asked for approval of the minutes. ***There was a motion (Sanchez/Maloney) to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimously approved.***

Chair Robinson said that based on last month's vote, the 5-minute rule for CAC member comments will be enforced at this meeting and moving forward. He asked staff to keep the timer and advise when each member's time is up.

Special Presentations

West Tampa Parking Study Implementation Plan: In response to the CAC's previous request to include the implementation of the parking study on the project tracker, Melisa Martinez presented the West Tampa Parking Study's implementation plan that was provided in the study on pages 49 to 53. This implementation plan included several recommendations for the City of Tampa as well as CRA to initiate. Ms. Martinez created a checklist for all the recommendations and suggested walking through each of these recommendations to triage who should be responsible for each one and whether it is a CRA or City of Tampa project. The CAC was provided the list of these recommendations in their packet and the matrix is attached.

Comments from CAC members included:

Ms. Fenton asked about the recommended parking deck near Main Street and Ysolina, the site that was suggested. The city owns one of those parcels and the other is privately owned. She would like to see these parking recommendations coordinated with the Main Street Revitalization Plan and then set priorities for their implementation. Thrower mentioned that since the CAC motioned to make Main Street a priority, redevelopment projects are being prioritized for that corridor. Priorities are set by the CAC each year with the budget.

Ms. Maloney had questions about paid metered parking since she was not on the CAC when the study was done. Is metered parking planned and who would administer it? The City's Parking Division would be responsible for on street parking. Her concern is that it would hurt businesses now but may make sense for the future. Thrower said that there are no plans right now to install metered parking. She also asked about upgrading the bus shelters and HART has a plan to improve these shelters in all the CRA's and they need to complete an application for a special funding request with the project's team. Ms. Martinez explained the process which is similar to the West Tampa Riverwalk Multimodal project they recently approved.

Ms. Jones inquired about the riverwalk project and how many years they are to be funded. Staff said funding will be for three consecutive fiscal years. She asked about including historical people from West Tampa in the expansion of Soul Walk in this project.

Mr. Ramirez attended virtually and wanted to clarify the availability of the parking study which is online. He also requested a PDF be sent to the CAC since there are some glitches with the online version. The parking study was a plan of attack, and that metered parking was for a future consideration once the district fully develops. He mentioned the future consideration of creating a local parking district where revenues could be reinvested in the district. He also said the study speaks to multi modal opportunities, which includes bikes, scooters, and enhanced bus shelters. He added that accommodating shade at these locations can be challenging with limited space.

Mr. Braccia cautioned about implementing metered parking since it hurts local businesses, like coffee shops because it deters customers from going. He gave an example of a shop along Franklin Street downtown. He said maybe adding loading zones/15-minute meters.

Mr. Robinson asked Ms. Martinez for the City's capital improvement projects that are planned for 2023-2027 for parking so we can see what gaps that are out there maybe CRA can fill. He also asked if the parking study is part of the Main Street Revitalization Study, and we should identify all studies. He agreed with no implementation of the meters today since it will hurt businesses and hinder the economic revitalization for the area. There would need to be parking enforcement with clear signage too. He also said the HART bus stops need to be improved and we need to address the homeless and vagrancy problem. Mr. Ramirez said that the Main Street plan came before the Parking Study so it should be included.

Staff Reports

- a. **Projects Team** – Report was included in the packet and Chair Robinson asked for comments. Fenton asked if anyone had reached out to Judge E.J. Salcines yet. He would like to learn about the final plans regarding the park since it's been more than a year since he last heard from city staff. Thrower said she would do so. Sanchez asked about the status of the purchase of the Cypress Street properties. Thrower said the environmental assessments are being completed and the closing of the property is planned for this Spring. Jones asked about the historic preservation study and the historic markers process. Staff is working on securing a consultant for the study and follow up on the historic markers process. Ramirez asked if staff could add more dates to the tracker. ***There was a motion (Ramirez/Iloanya) to ask staff to add completion dates to the tracker. Vote was unanimously approved.***
- b. **Grants Team** – Ramirez commented about the RFQ that was issued for the pre-development grant program, and supportive of this approach. Robinson said that he is investigating the grants process by experiencing it himself. He feels that it is not a customer-friendly process and is bureaucratic. He requested to have the templates that were approved by the CRA Board last week on 2/13/25 sent out to the CAC. Sanchez agreed that the grant process is difficult for the public and that not everyone is digitally astute, and it needs to be easier to apply for grants. Robinson said that the city requires a consultation first they can see if grant meets your needs. Braccia said there needs to be more efficiency in the system and suggested more staff and resources may be needed to spend that grant dollars and remedy slum and blight.
- c. **Housing Program-** Report included and to try to make larger.
- d. **Manager Report**
 - A. CAC Orientation Training scheduled for March 10, 2025, at the Entrepreneur Collaborative Center. Flyer included.
 - B. Salcines Park Groundbreaking planned for late March TBA
- e. **Unfinished Business-** Sanchez asked about more advertising for the grant programs and staff is participating in outreach events and disseminating information on social media about the program. Fenton asked if the 5-minute rule applied to staff responses to member questions. Robinson confirmed yes. Maloney suggested quarterly workshops to help the public with their grant applications. Jones asked about the missing turning lane arrow at Main Street and Howard Ave and staff will inquire.

Announcements

- Sanchez announced that Commissioner Gwen Myers will be speaking at Café Con Tampa at the Portico on February 21 at 8 am.
- Maloney said North Hyde Park Neighborhood Clean Up is on March 15th, 9am- noon at Willas.
- Jones said the Rey Park Old Fashioned Cook Off is on Saturday, March 1.
- Robinson will be participating in the West Tampa CDC Zoom Forum on February 24 at 7 pm.
- Robinson received 10 good neighborhood notices and shared with CAC and staff.
- Next CRA Board Meeting: March 13, 2025, at 9 a.m., Tampa City Hall
- Next CAC Meeting: March 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., Hillsborough Education Foundation

Meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.