



Tampa Community Redevelopment Agency
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**WEST TAMPA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Summary

January 21, 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 5:30 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
Michael Braccia	At Large	6/29/2025	A
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
Vacant	Greater West Tampa Community Council		
Vacant	West Tampa Alliance		

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

Sign In Sheet: see attached

Public Comment: Meryl Stout (Coalition of Community Gardens) along with Gakelyne Perez, Lisa King, and Tiffany Pate addressed the CAC. Michael Randolph virtually attended.

Approval of November 19, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes – Chair Robinson asked for approval of the minutes with changes. ***There was a motion (Sanchez/Ramirez) to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimously approved.***

Special Presentations

a. West Tampa Alley Plan Update: Hanna Shaffer and Nicole Galasso from Kimley Horn provided an update to the CAC for this project. The CAC asked them to keep to 5 minutes for their presentation. They presented a power point presentation highlighting the top 10 priority alleys identified by the CAC. They addressed the timeline for the project including the additional outreach requested by the CAC with West Tampa businesses and Chamber of Commerce. Concepts for all the piloted alleys include new pavement (asphalt or brick), lighting upgrades, pavement murals, and reconstruction of alleyway driveway aprons. They first showed concepts for the two alleys along Main Street between Howard and Albany. These alleys are #1720 and #1725 and on adjacent blocks in the commercial core of Main Street. The next alley shown was behind the Post Office #1830 which abuts a residential area. Cost estimates for improving each of the 10 alleys were presented which ranged from \$330K to over \$1 million. They would like the CAC to select the first alleys to start with for an alley pilot project. Fenton complimented the consultant on their hard work and thorough study. Maloney suggested paving alley, instead of bricking, to allow for public art. There was a question about who maintains the alley and Melisa Martinez said that the CRA would build the project and then would turn over the maintenance to the city. She also explained the procurement process. Sanchez asked if cars would be able to access the alley and park behind their properties and yes, they would. More discussion took place, and the CAC agreed to identify three alleys for the pilot project.

There was a motion (Ramirez/Fenton) to support starting with the commercial alleys #1720 and #1725 first and then work on adding a residential alley #1830 behind the Post Office, Vote was unanimously approved.

b. Public Art Update – Cory Robinson addressed the CAC recapping the presentation about the public art process he gave a few months back. Today, we are at step #6 Art Selection and would like to request that the CAC appoint a representative to serve on the Art Selection Committee for the West Tampa Utility Art Box Project and Intersection Ground Mural Project. This could be one person for both projects and different CAC members for each project. The CAC Art representative would serve as the liaison between the CAC and Art Selection Committee, working with staff on the project. The next item was the ground mural cost estimate which are coming in under \$50K and would like the CAC recommendation to move forward with the 3 priority intersections (2 on Main Street and one on Rome and Fig). The third request is to finalize the themes for the Utility Box Art and presented the themes already identified. There are 9 boxes and there will be different art concepts for each. He would like any additional feedback on the themes by Feb 4 and CRA manager will help coordinate any CAC communications.

There was a motion (Ramirez/Iloanya) to appoint Sandra Sanchez as the CAC Art representative for the West Tampa Utility Box Art Project and Cynthia Maloney as the CAC

Art representative for the West Tampa Ground Mural Project. Ms. Delphine Jones will serve as the Alternate for either of these committees as needed. The vote passed unanimously.

There was a motion (Ramirez/Sanchez) to move forward with the three ground mural locations. Vote was unanimously approved.

Staff will remind CAC to review the current themes and submit any additional themes for the utility box art by February 4. Fenton commented to use all four ethnicities

Gateway Monuments – Wilson said that another item the CAC wanted to see were gateway monuments in West Tampa to help define the major entrances and corridors. It was originally discussed during the strategic planning sessions, but the project hasn't been prioritized yet. ***There was a motion (Wilson/Jones) for CRA staff to research and make a recommendation for gateway monuments.***

Staff Reports

- a. **Projects Team** – Report included in packet and Chair Robinson asked for comments. Sanchez wanted to discuss on item # 4 and #5, the Freemont Linear Park and opening of the cross streets. She said this project was approved before she was on the board four years ago. She would like a current cost estimate for this project and suggested asking Mobility to come back to them with it. She said the estimate is old and needs updating. Martinez clarified that the cost estimate presented by Nick Bennett at the last meeting (11/19/24) was a current cost estimate, provided by Mobility.

She also asked about #7 Historic Properties Survey and status. Its on track and staff is working on selecting a consultant. She also asked about the Historic Marker Signs, like the one erected recently on Freedom Park and the process for new ones. The Historic Marker program and goes through a separate committee and the cost per sign is approximately \$3K. Robinson asked is someone can come to speak to the CAC about the program and process. He sees this as a separate project than the inventory study. Martinez said that her team is already starting with the inventory study. We will need to get back to you about the marker program. There was a discussion about oral histories and Fenton said that the West Tampa Strategy Group is working on this project. Robinson said that USF has been working on oral histories and it's a separate project and we need to break these items, so they don't get lost. ***There was a motion (Sanchez/Jones) for the CAC to begin working on historic markers in the West Tampa CRA and get a list of current markers. Vote was unanimously approved.***

Fenton wanted to make sure that the Parking Study Implementation Plan is added to the list. Martinez said since the study is complete, it is no longer on the project list. Fenton wanted to make sure we implement the recommendations, so we need to continue to work on it. Iloanya said it should be an action plan with timelines. Fenton just wants to make sure that the plan is active and does not fall through the cracks. ***There was a motion***

(Fenton/Wilson) to include the Implementation of the West Tampa Parking Study on the project list. Vote was unanimously approved.

b. **Grants Team – no comments**

c. **Housing Program- no comments**

d. **Manager Report –**

1. West Riverwalk Project – CRA Board supported the \$10 million over 3-year period on January 16, 2024, Board meeting for project.
2. CAC Members approved for new term 2025-2027- Joe Robinson, Tina Young and Delphine Jones.
3. Main Street Quick Build Project- Press Event scheduled for Jan. 27 at 10:30 a.m. on Main Street.

New Business

- a. **Alley Clean Up Progress-** Ramirez asked about the status and Thrower said that the contractor has finished the first cleaning and will be starting up the next cleaning soon. She said to send her any alleys that you want a status on so she can get with the program manager.
- b. **Meeting protocol for speakers –** Sanchez would like to follow CRA Board protocol to limit all speakers (including CAC members) to 5 minutes. Discussion took place. Iloanya cautioned that if there is an option to talk for 5 minutes then people will and this may extend the meeting. Williams said we used to have a time clock, and it was used. Fenton said that the 5-minute policy was passed years ago so it should already be a practice. **There was a motion (Sanchez/Ramirez) to limit CAC members to 5 minutes per topic and to implement it at the next meeting. Vote passed 8-2.**
- c. **Good Neighbor Notices –** Chair Robinson announced and submitted to file 15 notices he received regarding land development petitions from private property owners in West Tampa.

Announcements

- a. Next CRA Board Meeting: Feb 13, 2025, at 9 a.m., Tampa City Hall
- b. Next CAC Meeting: Feb 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., Hillsborough Education Foundation

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.