



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

March 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 (V)
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 (V)
David Iloanya	Tampa Housing Authority	7/25/2026	P
Vacant	Greater West Tampa Community Council		
Vacant	West Tampa Alliance		

P: present V: Virtual

**Staff present:** Brenda Thrower, Cedric McCray, Abbye Feeley, Chris Ullian.

**Sign In Sheet:** Andrea White and Jim McCarthy

Chair Robinson welcomed some special guests present tonight, Administrator Abbye Feeley and CRA Director Cedric McCray, who gave brief comments.

**Public Comment:** Jim McCarthy with Domain Homes spoke to the CAC about his concern about the alleys and the need for improvement and accessibility.

**Approval of February 18, 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 staff will keep the timer.

## Staff Reports

- a. **Projects Team** – Report was included in the packet. Manager Thrower shared that Cory Robinson followed up on the CAC's request for information regarding the historic marker program. A handout was provided in the packet outlining the process for new historic markers as well as an inventory of the existing historic markers in West Tampa. Chair Robinson asked for comments. The CAC members liked the report and thanked staff. There was a question about the funding of the markers through the TIF. Thrower said that the project needs to be identified in the community redevelopment plan, included in the current budget, and consistent with Florida State statute, to be funded. Staff will confirm with the CRA attorney to make sure its an eligible expense. Robinson said that he views an historic marker as a sign structure which is allowable. ***There was a motion (Fenton/Sanchez) to confirm with the CRA Attorney that funding an historic marker sign is an allowable expense. Vote was unanimously approved.***
- b. **Grants Team** – A tabloid size of the report was provided for easier reading which was well received by CAC members. Thrower said that staff has participated in events like Fiesta Day in Ybor and Senior Days in West Tampa to help promote the grant programs within the community. She provided all the grant flyers and encouraged the CAC members to share them with their respective organizations and neighborhoods.
- c. **Housing Program-** Report was included. Maloney asked if the outreach efforts with the community will encourage more participation. Robinson said that some people do not want to apply because of the personal financial disclosure requirements. Jones asked about the dedicated funding for West Tampa and Thrower said we have funding earmarked in the West Tampa budget for only West Tampa CRA. Director McCray explained that we continue to set aside 30% of all CRA's budgets for affordable/attainable housing. Williams asked Director McCray if the CRA department can do more to get the applications to those in most need.
- d. **Manager Report**
  - a) CAC Orientation/Training recap- A folder with inserts for the CAC binders were provided to the CAC members. Iloanya asked if another one is planned this year. Thrower said it's currently offered annually but the last orientation was recorded for anyone to view. The video is available on the CRA website and will be shared. She also shared a video by Attorney Shepard regarding Florida Sunshine Law.
  - b) House and Senate Legislative Bills- Thrower recapped the two bills (HB 991 and SB 1242) and they are making their way through the various committees. Robinson explained the process and asked about lobbying efforts. Thrower said the FRA is lobbying against the bill and Tampa CRA is a member of that organization. They have sent out several calls for actions.
- e. **Unfinished Business-** Sanchez said she attended a recent meeting with other community members regarding the overlay district and the proposed land development changes. The treatment of alleys is a challenge and participated in alley tours. She appreciates the city including the community in the meetings and keeping good communication on the land development changes taking place. Ms. Feeley mentioned the schedule for the land development changes.

Robinson reminded the CAC that West Tampa is leading the effort on the alleys with the recent study conducted and proposed action plan. Maloney asked if the city has a master calendar of the events coming up so the CAC can be aware so they can participate in outreach events. The city website has a master calendar posted on the Tampa.gov website that anyone can view. Jones asked about the new Publix and if anyone from that company can come forward to share their plans for that store. Iloanya said the Publix is part of the West River development and on Tampa Housing Authority property. Thrower will find a Publix contact and see if they can come to a future meeting. ***There was a motion (Jones/Maloney) to reach out to Publix and ask if they would attend a CAC meeting to share the new store plans. Vote was unanimously approved.***

f. **Announcements**

- Salcines Park Groundbreaking Ceremony is planned for August 9, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.
- Robinson received 5 good neighborhood notices and shared with CAC and staff.
- Fenton announced the West Tampa Chamber's Corn Hole Tournament on April 5<sup>th</sup>
- Next CRA Board Meeting: April 10, 2025, at 9 a.m., Tampa City Hall
- Next CAC Meeting: April 22, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., Hillsborough Education Foundation
- May meeting will be another location since this building is not available. CAC recommended keeping the meeting in the CRA if possible and to look at West Tampa Library, MLK Center and/or Barksdale as possible locations.
- Jones complimented the alley contractor and said they cleaned the alleys in her area.

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm**